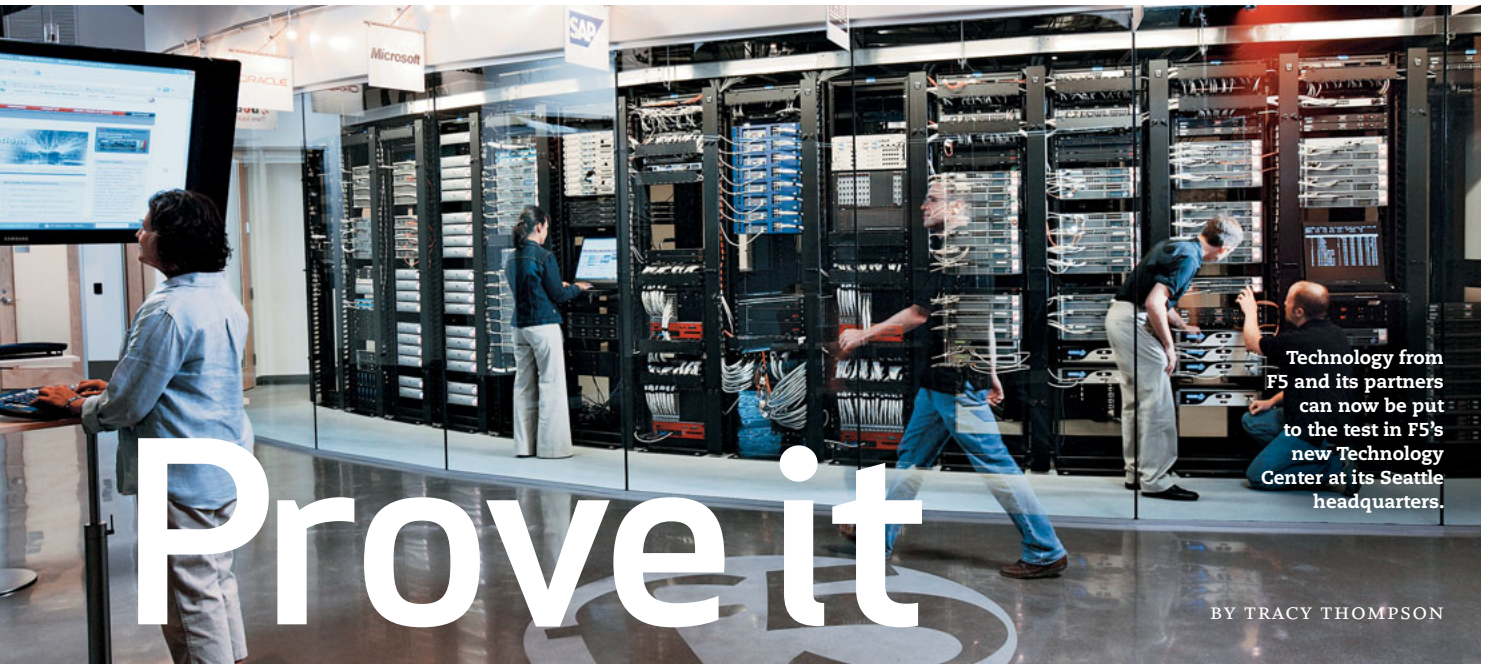




++++proof points+++++



IN THE FALL ISSUE of *F5 World*, CJ Murzyn, manager of infrastructure operations for Classified Ventures LLC, spoke of the importance of providing hard ROI numbers to secure funding for new equipment. Nothing, he said, strengthens an IT manager's case more than objective, irrefutable performance metrics.

"As tough as they are to get, that's the type of information management is going to ask you about," Murzyn said.

Today, getting that information just got a little easier, thanks to a new testing and technology center on the main campus of F5 Networks.

The Technology Center provides new and existing customers with the opportunity to evaluate, test, and validate the value F5 products provide for applications developed by F5 partners Microsoft, SAP, HP, RSA Security, Oracle, and many others.

Test strategies, minimize risk
According to Karen Jester, director of product management solutions engineering at F5, the Technology Center gives F5 customers a unique chance to put their proof of concepts and architectural design strategies to the test.

"Customers can see for themselves how they can reduce costs and improve application performance, security, and

State-of-the-art Technology Center for Application Delivery Networking lets you look before you leap.

availability by utilizing F5 technology as well as partner solutions developed specifically for F5 products," Jester says.

The concept is simple. Visiting customers' technical and design staff can actively take part in or observe activities such as performance testing, network and application simulations, and proof-of-concept designs. The facility includes a state-of-the-art data center, executive briefing center, and private design and development suites available for use by visiting developers and engineers.

During customer visits, F5 solution engineers examine the customer's business objectives and provide demonstrations customized to the customer's specific IT and application environment. The infor-

mation and advice the solution engineers provide, plus access to a recreated IT environment, can help minimize the risks associated with network and application deployment.

"Through the real-world testing of combined HP-F5 solutions, customers can further validate our unique ability to deliver optimal performance and availability for all types of enterprise applications," says Robb Rasmussen, vice president of C&I worldwide practices at HP, Palo Alto, Calif.

Milan Thanawala, director of platform products at Oracle Corp., Redwood Shores, Calif., also sees the value of this facility. "Our product management groups and go-to-market teams are excited to leverage this world-class facility to work collaboratively with F5 to build joint SOA, identity management, and security offerings based on Oracle® Fusion Middleware and the Oracle Database," Thanawala says.

The center opened in August and is available now for site visits by customer and partner representatives. Visits and accompanying services are free of charge for qualified candidates. Visits can be reserved by contacting an F5 account executive or business development manager. More information is available at www.f5.com/solutions/techcenter/index.html. *