

# F5WORLD

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F5 World is published by Network World, an IDG Company, 118 Turnpike Road, Southborough, MA 01772 (phone: 508 490-6579).

The information contained in this publication represents the current view of F5 Networks on the issues discussed as of the date of publication.

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PRINTED IN THE USA

Cover photograph by  
Christopher T. Martin

# Bringing applications and the network closer together

**WELCOME TO THE WINTER ISSUE** of *F5 World*, providing you with the tools, news, and information you need to deliver your business-critical applications quickly, securely, and reliably.

This issue focuses on the importance and challenges of getting application developers and the network side of the house to work together, and how F5 solutions can help. As an example, our iControl API/SDK and application vendor partnerships are already proving the value of automating interactions for routine application and server maintenance, upgrades, and provisioning. The openness of

F5 solutions is key in allowing application vendors and application developers to instrument their applications to communicate with the network—influencing how to best manage traffic to that application.

Accordingly, in this quarter's issue of *F5 World* there's an article on how tightly integrated programming tools from our partner Microsoft (Visual Studio) and from F5 (iControl) are helping developers create application-aware networks more easily than ever before.

There's a case study on HR solutions provider Ceridian Corporation that I think you'll find quite interesting. Also, be sure to check out the article on F5's new Technology Center. This state-of-the-art facility, located on F5's campus, provides a real-world, comprehensive environment to showcase, evaluate, and test F5 solutions in the Application Delivery Networking industry's first proof-of-concept lab. I hope you or

your team will consider a visit to F5 headquarters—and the Technology Center—soon.

Once again, for developers, there's a section in *F5 World* for iRules and iControl tips and code samples to help you better control and manage network traffic.

I encourage you to visit <http://devcentral.f5.com> often.

Thank you for your interest in *F5 World*. As always, let us know what topics you would like us

to cover in future issues, and please don't hesitate to share with others your solution to a particularly challenging network problem. *F5 World* is here for you.

Sincerely,  
John McAdam

**INSIDE: Gartner's Joe Skorupa looks at the interplay between networks and applications, p. 11.**



**WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.** Tell us what you think of the magazine, or give us some suggestions for the kinds of articles you'd like to see from us in future issues. Drop us a line at [f5world@f5.com](mailto:f5world@f5.com).