



## White papers as you like them—free!

F5 Networks has a number of new white papers available:

**Disaster Recovery Planning** ([www.f5.com/solutions/technology/doubletake\\_wp.html](http://www.f5.com/solutions/technology/doubletake_wp.html)). This paper addresses the increased performance needs of a disaster recovery plan, the common barriers to achieving success, and how to overcome them.

**TMOS Secure Development and Implementation** ([www.f5.com/solutions/technology/tmos-dev\\_wp.html](http://www.f5.com/solutions/technology/tmos-dev_wp.html)). TMOS, the foundation and architecture

for F5's application delivery controllers, brings a wealth of security to existing application delivery networks. The topic of discussion is: "How is TMOS itself secured?"

**Enhanced Messaging Security** ([www.f5.com/solutions/technology/msm\\_wp.html](http://www.f5.com/solutions/technology/msm_wp.html)). The volume and sophistication of attacks that threaten business e-mail networks and systems are growing at exponential rates. Read about a new way to deal with the problem.

## FirePass Controller delivers industry's first support for Windows Vista operating system

F5 announced an enhanced version of its FirePass Controller SSL VPN software. The new release provides the SSL VPN market's first support of Microsoft's Windows Vista operating system. In addition, F5 debuted its FirePass 4300 hardware platform for large-scale deployments, delivering the best price-performance available for enterprises with up to tens of thousands of users. Read more at: [www.f5.com/communication/press](http://www.f5.com/communication/press)

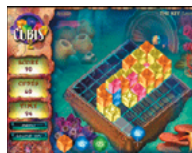
## iRules contest winners announced

F5 recently announced the winners of its second annual DevCentral iRules contest. A panel of industry experts, as well as the F5 DevCentral team of iRules experts, recognized application developers and network professionals for their BIG-IP iRules development expertise. The contestants' real-world solutions were hailed as the best of the best in application fluency and flexibility. Cash prizes were awarded for the winning entries. Visit [www.f5.com/communication/press](http://www.f5.com/communication/press) for more information, and see page 19 for a list of winners and their iRules.

## Real solutions for real companies

### Games portal wins big

Microsoft's MSN Games is one of the largest and busiest gaming portals on the Internet, bringing casual gaming to multiple devices and platforms, including MSN Games, Messenger Games, Microsoft



### Cubis 2 from MSN Games

The portal allows players from around the world to compete, collaborate, and socialize—anywhere, anytime. Read how MSN Games saved over \$600,000 in annual operating costs and capital costs using F5 Networks' BIG-IP: [www.f5.com/solutions/success/msngames\\_ss.html](http://www.f5.com/solutions/success/msngames_ss.html)

### Good government, remotely

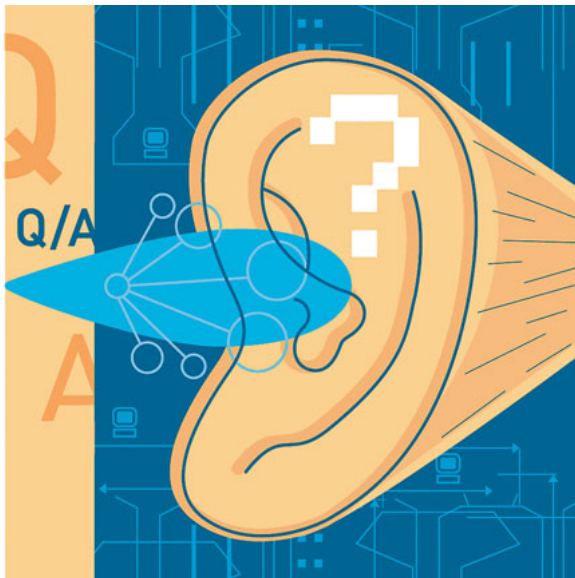
The Georgia Technology Authority's (GTA) goal is to deliver secure, reliable technology services and solutions, and provide guidance and oversight that lead to sound

decisions for Georgia government. GTA chose FirePass, a secure remote access solution from F5 that provides secure access to corporate applications and data using a standard Web browser. Learn about the many benefits GTA received using FirePass: [www.f5.com/solutions/success/gta\\_ss.html](http://www.f5.com/solutions/success/gta_ss.html)

### Website rocks

When it launched in 1993, Virgin Radio became the United Kingdom's first national commercial pop and rock music station, and 13 years later it's still the only national commercial pop and rock music station. Using F5's BIG-IP 6400 Local Traffic Manager with the Compression module, Virgin Radio gained better scalability to meet new multimedia and content types, improved its site performance, and achieved high availability and secure delivery of Windows Media Server and Audio services to Virgin Radio's listeners. Read more at: [www.f5.com/solutions/success/virginradio\\_ss.html](http://www.f5.com/solutions/success/virginradio_ss.html)

++++F5 FAQs+++++



**What are iRules?**

The TMOS operating system of F5 products has a built-in programming language called iRules that allows users to customize our products to meet their specific application requirements. For example, with iRules, you can customize how you direct traffic to the most appropriate server, or enhance security by stripping sensitive data such as credit card or Social Security numbers from outgoing transmissions. This ability to customize our products with iRules has strong appeal for our end users, because it allows them to add significant value on top of the products themselves. In conjunction with iControl (our programming interface that lets application developers customize their applications to control our products), iRules gives customers broad flexibility in managing their applications for maximum performance, security, and availability.

**How do I create an iRule?**

It's really just a simple matter of visiting F5's online developer community, DevCentral, at <http://devcentral.f5.com/>. There you'll find a variety of iRules, including sample code and tutorials.

**What are the advantages of having an open, full-proxy architecture like TMOS?**

One of our key design goals for the TMOS operating system was to create a software platform that would allow us to incorporate new features and functions as software modules. This accomplishes two things: to deliver multiple features and functions integrated on a single platform; and to streamline the process of adding new features and functions. For example, when we introduced BIG-IP v9 with TMOS in September 2004, it included modules for compression, rate shaping, SSL acceleration, and other features that

customers can purchase and activate as needed. Since then, we have added a caching feature and four new product modules.

**You recently announced the availability of the 8800 platform.**

Yes. On January 29, 2007, F5 announced a new release of its industry-leading BIG-IP software as well as a new high-performance BIG-IP 8800 platform. The new solutions allow customers to consolidate a wide range of application delivery tasks onto a single platform, while simultaneously simplifying the building, testing, and delivery of networked applications. As a result, customers enjoy lower acquisition and operations costs, which substantially lower the TCO of Application Delivery Networking.

**Why is this needed today?**

The short answer is that today, customers require application delivery devices to process traffic at layer 7. Examples of this type of processing include SSL, compression, and traffic switching based on URI header information. The new BIG-IP v9.4 software running on the BIG-IP 8800 platform is more than twice as fast as its nearest competitor across a wide range of layer 7 performance areas, including up to 8 Gbps L7 throughput, up to 6 Gbps SSL bulk throughput, up to 48,000 SSL transactions per second, and up to 6 Gbps of compression throughput.

**3 Welcome from John McAdam, F5 CEO**

*Celebrating 10 years of making your applications secure, fast, and available.*



**4 F5 in the news**

**5 F5 FAQs**

**6 Peace (of mind) corps**

*F5 and Double-Take Software are joining forces to make backing up critical data over a wide area network easier.*

BY RICH FREEMAN



**8 COVER STORY**

**The scientific method**

*F5 technology is helping Thomson Scientific and Healthcare get vital information to demanding clients faster than ever before.*

BY RICH FREEMAN



**11 You can't run your business if you don't have data**

*Forrester's Stephanie Balaouras on WAN optimization and disaster recovery.*

BY BILL LABERIS



**12 Pedal to the metal**

*WAN acceleration lies at the heart of optimizing data replication and business continuity.*

BY SANDRA GITTLEN



**16 Extra credit**

*The Payment Card Industry standard—and what it means to your business.*

BY TRACY THOMPSON



**17 At your service**

*F5's Julian Eames offers some tips for building a dynamic services and support organization.*

BY TRACY THOMPSON



**18 For developers only**

*The PDF problem ... iRule, Do You? contest winners ... About F5's iRules and iControl API ... DCTV and iTunes.*

