



## A guide to successful deployment: F5's Application Ready Network

**REGARDLESS OF THE** research you do before deploying new applications—from SAP Business Suite to Microsoft Exchange Server to Oracle E-Business Suite—you're almost guaranteed to run into bottlenecks along the way. Bottlenecks cost time and money and can complicate the deployment cycle. But what if your deployment has already been tested for you, with the results documented in a comprehensive guide that would help you shorten deployment times, lower operation costs, and reduce errors? Consider F5's Application Ready Network (ARN) that guide.

Application Ready Networks offer holistic application network architecture and infrastructure designed and optimized specifically for the implementation of F5 solutions with partners such as Microsoft, SAP, and Oracle. F5's Application Ready Networks have been designed, integrated, tested, and documented to ensure successful delivery of applications. Each ARN illustrates how and why to deploy the entire F5 product portfolio.

"By taking on this responsibility on behalf of our customers, we can prevent them from making a lot of mistakes in

their application deployment," says Erik Giesa, VP of product management and product marketing for F5 Networks. "And the biggest mistake they can make is to ignore the role of the network in the application design and planning process."

### Smoothing the path

The goal of F5's ARN testing is the same across all applications—easing the process of deployment and reducing the time, money, and errors associated with new application deployment. With each application, engineers employ specific usage scenarios to ensure the most realistic result. For example, in addition to extensive testing in the F5 Technology Center, F5 conducted onsite testing at SAP and Microsoft to further understand how the applications function with F5 products in a variety of environments. Once the engineers successfully integrate F5 products and the third-party application, they then work to find the easiest, smoothest way to deploy them. And thanks to F5's strong partnerships, F5 engineers often collaborate with the applications' developers to ensure the best possible results.

The outcome of this rigorous ARN testing, the Deployment Guide, provides step-by-step procedures for configuring F5's Application Delivery Networking products with applications from SAP, Microsoft, and Oracle. In addition, F5 developers use the testing results to produce application-specific profiles for F5 devices that create optimized settings for various usage scenarios. They also use the testing results to help shape the development of the next generation of F5 products.

The results of ARN testing have been so positive that F5 has been involved in the beta cycles for many new partner products, such as Microsoft Office Communications Server and Windows Vista. That ensures that ARN Deployment Guides will be ready to help F5 customers save time and money and reduce errors during their next critical deployment. \*

**Microsoft and SAP ARN deployment guides are available at [www.f5world.com](http://www.f5world.com). Testing for the Application Ready Network for Oracle is currently under way at F5.**