



AMBERPOINT

AmberPoint and F5 Deliver Enterprise SOA through Policy-Level Integration

Executive Summary

AmberPoint and F5 Networks have integrated AmberPoint's leading service oriented architecture (SOA) runtime governance software with BIG-IP® Application Delivery Networking solutions. As a result of this integration, organizations can implement a multi-tiered approach to SOA policy management and enforcement, bringing greater agility, performance and control to evolving services-based systems. The integration was done using F5's iControl® API, a unique open standards-based SOAP/XML API, which is part of BIG-IP's underlying TMOS architecture.

SOA brings new challenges to ensuring system performance, availability and security. In order to sustain the agility and reliability of their services-based networks, organizations must use policies that reflect real-time conditions and meet defined business objectives. The streamlined integration of AmberPoint and F5 products underscores the power of F5's iControl API. BIG-IP delivers real value in SOA environments through its ability to quickly process any application or Web service.

Challenges

Services-based networks must meet defined business objectives while also dealing with real-time conditions. They must ensure quick response times, reliable sessions, easy scalability and application-level security. By leveraging the AmberPoint-F5 integration to implement a multi-tiered approach to SOA policy management and enforcement, organizations can bring agility, performance and control to evolving services-based systems.

Solution

AmberPoint's industry-leading SOA runtime governance software simplifies real-time visibility and control at each stage of the SOA lifecycle—from development and QA through production use. AmberPoint is the industry's first and only SOA runtime governance software to decouple the enforcement of SOA runtime governance policies from the execution of those policies. In addition to leveraging its existing agent-based mechanisms, AmberPoint delegates runtime policy execution to the SOA infrastructure whenever policy-capable infrastructure is in place, leveraging as much of the native policy execution capabilities of the runtime infrastructure as possible. For example, AmberPoint's agentless capabilities for BIG-IP Application Delivery Networking solutions bring new efficiencies to enforcement of policies for load balancing, routing and failover.

As a result, enterprises realize greater returns on their investments in SOA platforms and runtime frameworks, while fully utilizing their SOA infrastructure. The following are some of the capabilities of the combined solution:

- **Comprehensive Policy Enforcement:** F5's BIG-IP enforces policies for performance and availability, while AmberPoint focuses on enforcing such things as services level agreements and exception management policies.
- **Policy Discovery and Visibility:** AmberPoint auto-discovers policies and provides visibility into routing and load balancing policies that are enforced by F5, thus enabling users to understand the impact these policies have on the SOA system.
- **Bidirectional Policy Exchange:** AmberPoint allows SOA managers to tailor the system policies executed by F5 so that they best meet SOA performance objectives, based on the real-time behavior of the system. Users have the flexibility to specify policy changes in either interface—F5 or AmberPoint.
- **Policy Delegation:** AmberPoint's runtime governance enables administrators to provision and assign runtime policies to be enforced by the SOA infrastructure, leveraging F5 Big-IP for load balancing, performance and availability
- **Unified SOA Management:** Companies can manage the entirety of their SOA environments with a single set of runtime governance policies, rather than using individualized policies for each component type (application server, router, enterprise service bus, and so on.)

Benefits

High Availability: The combined solution immediately identifies system errors and performance issues through its advanced monitoring capabilities, including detection of Web service response time, throughput and faults, as well as CPU utilization, RAM, disc space utilization, etc.

Optimal Performance: Automated load balancing maintains system performance and compliance with service level agreements.

Usage and Trend Analysis: AmberPoint enforces service level agreements and logs complete system data for historical analysis, enabling organizations to fine-tune their systems accordingly.

About AmberPoint

AmberPoint is the industry's leading provider of SOA visibility, management and security solutions. Customers such as British Telecommunications, H&R Block, Motorola and the U.S. Department of Defense have chosen AmberPoint for its comprehensive capabilities, its non-invasive approach and its native support for Java and .NET. For more information, contact AmberPoint at 510.663.6300 or info@amberpoint.com