



# MICROSOFT LIVE COMMUNICATIONS SERVER

## Providing Intelligent Traffic Management for Microsoft Live Communications Server 2005

### Executive Summary

Microsoft® and F5 have collaborated on a highly effective way to intelligently direct traffic for Microsoft Office Live Communications Server 2005 Enterprise Edition with the F5 BIG-IP application traffic management device. Microsoft and F5 have conducted extensive interoperability testing between the BIG-IP system and Microsoft Live Communications Server 2005. The resulting solution enables customers to achieve higher uptime and better scalability, while increasing the return on investment of their infrastructure.

Microsoft Live Communications Server 2005 enables organizations to extend the benefits of enterprise instant messaging and presence awareness to remote business partners, customers, co-workers and suppliers, empowering them to quickly find and communicate with each other and ultimately make better decisions more quickly. Organizations using the BIG-IP system benefit from mission-critical availability, intelligent traffic management, simple scalability, and enhanced security for Live Communications Server 2005 deployments.

### Challenges

Deployment of real-time collaboration, presence and instant messaging (IM) solutions are on the rise as enterprises strive to communicate more effectively, efficiently, and provide better tools to make good business decisions, as corporations move to the next level of productivity improvements.

As more employees, partners, and customers rely on these solutions, ensuring their availability, security, scalability, and performance are critical to the success of the business. Organizations are searching for solutions that allow them to add and remove servers on-the-fly, even automatically, as network traffic increases or decreases. These organizations also require a solution that is able to grow as their requirements do, allowing intelligent traffic direction based on a set of sophisticated metrics, enabling virtualization, and much more.

### Solution

Tight collaboration between F5 and Microsoft included successful interoperability, scalability, reliability, and performance testing as well as joint documentation of the BIG-IP and Live Communications Server product deployments, which gives customers a prescriptive solution with the assurance of lower cost and risk. The BIG-IP product's unique capabilities, including its "application fluency" applied toward SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) enabled networks, have been proven and documented.

The BIG-IP product enhances the Microsoft solution by providing the ability to add and remove servers on-the-fly, implement health monitoring of servers, enable virtualization, and direct client traffic based on a set of sophisticated metrics, features that ease corporate data center deployments of Microsoft's Live Communications Server 2005 product.

The Live Communications Server 2005 Enterprise Edition uses Pools, which are multiple Live Communications Server 2005 servers communicating with a single back-end SQL Server. Users are now homed to a pool as opposed to an individual Live Communications Server 2005 server, allowing users to login using any Live Communications Server 2005 server in a pool. Failure of one or more Live Communications Server 2005 server has a minimal effect on service availability, as the load is balanced between the remaining Live Communications Server 2005 servers. With multiple Live Communications Server 2005 servers in a Pool there is a need for distributing the incoming session requests among the Live Communications Server 2005 servers using a BIG-IP system.

The BIG-IP system can also be deployed to intelligently direct traffic to Live Communications Server 2005 Access Proxy and Director devices. The Access Proxy is the entry point into the enterprise Live Communications Server 2005 deployment, and their main role is to secure the internal network. The Director authenticates and authorizes external SIP traffic coming from the Access Proxy to prevent unauthenticated traffic from reaching the internal Live Communications Server 2005 servers.

### About Microsoft LCS

Microsoft® Office Live Communications Server 2005 delivers instant messaging and presence as part of a scalable, enterprise-grade solution offering enhanced security, seamless integration with other Microsoft products, and an extensible, industry-standard development platform. Organizations can realize cost savings and improved business efficiencies, increased individual productivity and enhanced intellectual property protection with this easy-to-manage, highly available solution.