# Microsoft Office Communications Server

**APPLICATION READY SOLUTION GUIDE**

## F5's Application Ready Solution for Microsoft Office Communications Server

Microsoft Office Communications Server 2007 R2 delivers streamlined communications for your users so they can find and communicate with the right person, right now, from the applications they use most. F5 has worked closely with Microsoft to ensure a high level of interoperability with Microsoft Office Communications Server.

F5's Application Ready Solution enables a scalable and highly available platform for Microsoft Office Communications Server that ensures the best possible end user experience. F5 not only helps optimize performance, security, availability, and scalability for Microsoft Office Communications Server implementations, but reduces the costs associated with deployment, management, and operation.

F5 enables IT agility, your way.

### Key benefits

**Improve Performance**
F5's intelligent load balancing, combined with SSL offload, TCP optimizations, and simple scalability means a better end-user experience.

**Increase administrator efficiency**
F5's application templates, Microsoft policies, and step-by-step configuration guidance help reduce deployment cycles by 1/3rd.

**Easy Management**
Simplify management with a single control point in the data center.

## Benefits and F5 value

F5's Application Ready Solution for Microsoft Office Communications Server ensures a secure, fast and available deployment, providing the following benefits to organizations and their end users.

### Improving application performance and user experience

Microsoft Office Communications Server is an integral component in Microsoft's Unified Communications platform that makes it much easier for people to communicate, no matter where they are. F5 ensures both end users and administrators have the best possible experience.

F5 provides a number of ways to accelerate and optimize Office Communications Server 2007 R2 implementations. F5's intelligent load balancing methods guarantee optimal end user experience. By sending signaling traffic to the Office Communications Server with the least number of connections, end users are not randomly sent to a server that may be nearly overwhelmed.

Further acceleration comes in the form of TCP connection optimizations. F5 TCP optimizations combine cutting-edge TCP/IP techniques and improvements in the latest RFCs with numerous improvements and extensions developed by F5 to minimize the effects of congestion, packet loss, and recovery. F5's full proxy devices can shield and transparently optimize older or non-compliant TCP stacks that may be running on servers or clients. This enables F5 devices to adapt, in real time, to the latency, packet loss, and congestion characteristics of WAN links, and accelerate virtually all application traffic. And F5 isolates, controls, and independently optimizes user and server connections, enabling both the server and end user to maximize productivity. In this way signaling traffic is tuned for the best performance and session resilience.

**Green Infrastructure**

F5 can accelerate and secure applications while enhancing performance and availability, all on the same device. This reduces energy consumption with no additional hardware or rack space needed.

#### Advanced health monitoring and scalability

To ensure F5 devices are only sending traffic to available Office Communications Server devices, F5 has designed a TLS-based SIP monitor. This monitor provides encrypted monitoring of SIP servers which goes beyond measuring server simple up/down state to monitoring true SIP server application health – a much more accurate and realistic picture of SIP client user response and system availability.

F5 makes scaling Microsoft Office Communications Server 2007 R2 extremely easy. Simply add another server to the network, and then add the IP address to the F5 load balancing pool. The F5 device immediately begins sending traffic to the newly provisioned node.

Even a hardware failure of a single server can cause expensive downtime, until an administrator can remove the device from service. F5 makes hardware failures a complete non-issue by automatically detecting a failure, and directing traffic away from the problematic server. Once the problem has been solved, F5 devices automatically detect the server and begin resending traffic to it. This is also useful for patch management or maintenance windows. Administrators can easily remove groups of devices from the F5 load balancing pool, perform patching or other maintenance while other devices remain in service. Once the maintenance is complete, those servers go back in the pool, and the remaining servers are taken down for maintenance, all with zero downtime.

### SSL Offload

One of F5's core strengths is the ability to enhance end-user experience while increasing application and server performance. We do this in part by taking on the SSL processing duties from the Communicator Web Access (CWA) servers. If each server has to carry out SSL processing and certificate management, the amount of processing power these devices have left to perform core tasks is reduced. F5 allows the CWA servers to devote all of their resources to the tasks for which they were designed.

### Application templates and deployment guides

As part of the Application Ready Solution, F5 has configured, tested, and tuned our devices for Microsoft Office Communications Server 2007 R2 and carefully documented the procedures in our Deployment Guide. To take it one step further, F5 has taken the tested and optimized deployment guide configuration and turned it into a pre-built, application ready template for Office Communications Server 2007 R2. This template requires a minimum amount of information from an administrator to quickly, easily and accurately configure F5 devices, enabling a Microsoft-optimized F5 configuration in minutes.

And F5's developer community, DevCentral, has a section dedicated to Microsoft solutions, where you can find forums, tips and tricks, and much more.

### Global Availability

For Office Communications Server deployments in globally-dispersed data centers, F5 provides a more intelligent way to respond to DNS queries than simple load balancing among multiple data centers. F5 distributes end-user application requests based on business policies, data center conditions, network conditions, and application performance. This gives you holistic control of your global traffic to ensure high availability and maximum performance for Microsoft Office Communications Server running across multiple dispersed data centers. The result is better application performance, less downtime, and simplified management.

F5's Application Ready Solution for Microsoft Office Communications Server 2007 R2: Explore it. Deploy it. And run your business with it.

## More Information

To learn more about Microsoft Office Communications Server and F5, use the search function on F5.com to find these and other resources.

### Deployment Guide

Deploying F5 with Microsoft Office Communications Server 2007 R2

### Application Page

Microsoft Office Communications Server

### White Paper

Microsoft Office Communications Server 2007 R2 Site Resiliency

### Microsoft on F5's DevCentral

http://devcentral.f5.com/microsoft

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