



### What's inside:

- 2 Improving application performance and user experience
- 3 Enhancing application security
- 4 Providing unified security enforcement and access control
- 5 Enabling seamless business continuity and disaster recovery

## F5 creates an agile, intelligent platform for Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007

Millions of people around the world use Microsoft® SharePoint® to develop intelligent portals that seamlessly connect users, teams, and knowledge. F5 has developed a flexible and forward-looking application delivery network for Microsoft Office SharePoint 2007 that drives your business ahead. F5 tackles application delivery challenges at the core - right where your network, storage, servers, and security come together.

As network-wide optimization becomes a priority, organizations are shifting their strategy from a basic IT infrastructure that is overly complex, costly and difficult to manage, to a more dynamic infrastructure where costs are controlled, processes are fully automated, and integration and collaboration between users and applications is pervasive. F5 has a complete suite of application infrastructure technologies that can help simplify infrastructure and management, reduce costs and increase ROI, and improve security and performance for SharePoint Server, while minimizing the impact to your business. IT agility, your way.

### Key benefits

#### Dramatically increase SharePoint performance over the WAN

F5 WAN optimization technology can increase SharePoint Portal Server performance by more than 75%.

#### Gain SharePoint server capacity

Extend server capacity by offloading tasks like compression and SSL processing onto F5's unified, simple to manage platform.

#### Reduce bandwidth usage

Achieve 20 to 30 times bandwidth reduction for remote office SharePoint users.

#### Increase administrator efficiency

F5's SharePoint 2007 application templates and step-by-step configuration guidance help reduce deployment cycles by 1/3rd.

#### Secure your SharePoint application and data

From powerful network- and protocol-level security to attack filtering, F5 protects SharePoint deployments that help run your business.

## Benefits and F5 value

F5's application ready solution for Microsoft Office SharePoint 2007 ensures a secure, fast and available deployment, providing the following benefits to organizations, and their end users.

### Improving application performance and user experience

Today's IT departments are faced with the tricky challenge of maintaining application and network performance and keeping users happy and productive, while attempting to maximize business value with a very close eye on costs. F5's application ready solution for SharePoint helps substantially improve SharePoint application performance and efficiency with minimal impact, using our dynamic and adaptive technology.

F5 offers a platform for unified application delivery services that understands the context of the user, network conditions, and resources available at the time the request is made. It brings the end-to-end intelligence necessary to extend the data center out into the cloud and the branches, enabling secure, accelerated delivery of SharePoint with regard to the specific context in which the application must be delivered.

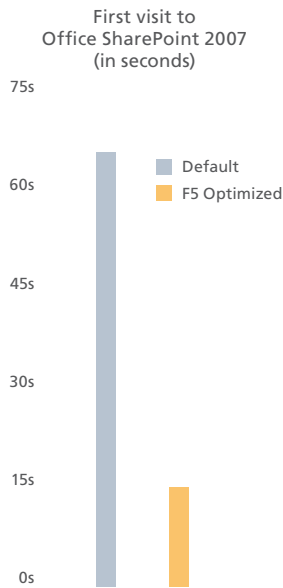
For applications like Microsoft SharePoint that are delivered over both local and wide area networks, networking conditions (such as latency and bandwidth) are often to blame for the "application problems" experienced by the end user. If an application is performing poorly because of configuration, infrastructure or network problems, end users will often abandon the application and official online processes and resort back to manual workarounds. Conversely, improving the performance of the application often leads to an increase in application adoption and user productivity.

F5's comprehensive application ready solution for SharePoint ensures that the application is optimized and users remain productive. F5 integrates intelligent application delivery with advanced WAN optimization technologies. This enables traditional acceleration technologies like SSL offloading, compression, caching, and traffic prioritizing to combine with optimization technologies like symmetric adaptive compression and application quality of service, reducing complexity in your data center and increasing performance for your end users.

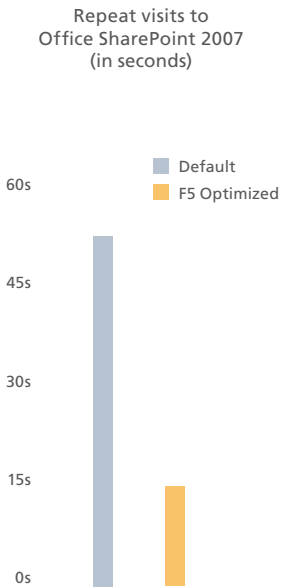
F5 devices adapt, in real time, to the latency, packet loss, and congestion characteristics of WAN links, to fully utilize available bandwidth and accelerate application traffic. For users in remote offices, F5 has been shown to improve SharePoint application performance over high latency links up to 5 times, while drastically reducing bandwidth. These optimizations are particularly effective when delivering services over congested links.

F5 can further improve the performance of SharePoint WAN traffic by optimizing application protocols, prioritizing traffic, optimizing TCP from clients to servers, and reducing the amount of data sent over the WAN, helping to prevent costly bandwidth upgrades. These technologies ensure that critical or time-sensitive applications receive priority over others to maximize performance over the WAN. They provide granular control of traffic based on enterprise needs, enabling you to manage and prioritize bandwidth per application and improve quality of service for SharePoint users over the WAN.

And not only does F5 help improve the application experience for the end user of your SharePoint deployment, but we ease the burden for the F5 administrator as well. Our deployment guides have long helped IT departments quickly and accurately configure F5 devices for applications like SharePoint. Now, F5 makes configuring, optimizing and securing our devices for SharePoint even simpler. Our Application Ready Template for SharePoint 2007



F5 WAN optimizations provide a nearly 5x increase in application performance over high latency links



For repeat visits, F5 WAN optimizations continue to significantly speed SharePoint transactions.

turns our deployment guide into a wizard-like template. This template requires minimum information from an administrator in order to rapidly and easily configure F5 devices with the appropriate parameters needed to optimize our products with Microsoft SharePoint Server 2007. Additionally, SharePoint-specific acceleration and security policies ensure an optimized, mistake-free deployment.

F5 provides advanced tools that make it easy to manage our devices while maintaining flexibility and control of your infrastructure. We help simplify system management by consolidating security, acceleration, and availability in one easy to manage platform. And F5 devices include a graphical reporting engine to display real-time historical statistics by the hour, day, week, or month. We make security compliance easy and save valuable IT time by enabling the exporting of policies for use by offsite auditors. Auditors working remotely can view, select, review, and test policies, without requiring critical time and support from the web application security administrator.

When applications are responsive, especially core applications like SharePoint, adoption rates increase and users are more satisfied and productive. This leads to the added benefit of reducing the load on call centers and helpdesks, as users are less likely to call the IT department complaining about speed issues that usually have nothing to do with the application itself. This protects the investment in the application, minimizing the initial negative impact on the ROI of a new application deployment due to lost productivity and increased call volume.

### Enhancing application security

Most organizations have a solid security infrastructure in place for their network. Firewalls and other devices do an adequate job of protecting the network from attack. But these devices were not designed to protect against attacks targeting applications. Over 50% of all new vulnerabilities being identified on a weekly basis are attributed to web applications (SANS @RISK, "The Consensus Security Vulnerability Alert"). Protecting applications becomes even more important in today's global, partnership-driven economy, where partners and consultants are often given at least partial access to applications on the internal network.

Most of today's Intrusion Detection and Protection Systems, and even many application firewalls, are limited to guarding against a limited list of known attacks. But with the influx of new attacks targeting applications, this type of negative security protection isn't nearly enough.

Unlike signature inspection methods, F5 also provides a positive security model, permitting only valid and authorized application transactions, while automatically protecting critical web applications from entire classes of HTTP and HTTPS-based threats (both known and unknown). F5 security devices report previously unknown threats (such as brute force and zero-day attacks) and mitigate web application threats, shielding the organization from data breaches. Our full inspection and event-based policies deliver a greatly enhanced ability to search for, detect, and apply numerous rules to block known L7 attacks. F5 also supports DNSSEC, which adds an additional layer of security and prevents DNS hijacking and cache poisoning.

Because SharePoint deployments often contain sensitive internal information, making sure the application is secure is not only important, it can be vital to the success of the business. Failure to keep data secure can be extremely costly, not only because of the value of the data itself, but the stiff penalties imposed for failing to meet compliance initiatives such as PCI, HIPAA, SOX, BASEL II, and other regulations.

## Application Security

F5 products allow organizations to implement comprehensive application security, providing a centralized point of enforcement, and a coordinated and unified line of defense that lowers TCO and improves ROI.

F5 enables advanced, built-in security protection and remote auditing to help your organization comply with industry security standards, including PCI DSS, HIPAA, Basel II, and SOX, in a cost effective way—without requiring multiple appliances, application changes, or rewrites. F5 provides advanced reporting on new attacks such as layer 7 denial-of-service (DoS), brute force, SQL injection and more. With PCI reporting, F5 lists security measures required by PCI DSS 1.2, determines if compliance is being met, and details steps required to become compliant if not. In addition, F5 integrates with leading security vendors for vulnerability assessment, auditing, and real-time and database reporting to provide security breach reviews, attack prevention, and compliance.

And now, all data can be symmetrically encrypted between local and remote F5 devices, providing a new way to ensure site-to-site data security. This secure connection, or tunnel, not only secures data between devices, but improves transfer rates, reduces bandwidth, and offloads applications for more efficient WAN communication.

Application security threats can disrupt business and damage the corporate brand. F5 helps you protect your brand by shielding your websites from web scraping attacks that copy and reuse valuable intellectual property and information. By differentiating between a human and a bot behind a browser, F5 protects against automated requests to obtain data. Pre-built application ready security policies for SharePoint 2007 (and 2003) can recognize an increase in request volumes and alert our devices to review whether requests are desired. Known IP addresses previously found to web scrape can be blacklisted for detection and blocking. In this way, F5 helps prevent embarrassing and costly application breaches that cost millions of dollars in declining revenue, regulatory fines, and brand value.

F5's comprehensive Endpoint Security for remote access gives your SharePoint deployment the best possible protection for (and from) remote users. F5 technology prevents infected PCs, hosts, or users from connecting to your network and the applications inside, and delivers a Secure Virtual Workspace, pre-login endpoint integrity checks, and endpoint trust management.

F5 products allow organizations to implement comprehensive application security, providing a centralized point of enforcement, and a coordinated and unified line of defense that lowers TCO and improves ROI.

## Providing unified security enforcement and access control

In today's global economy, as organizations expand into new markets and grow through mergers and acquisitions, more and more organizations outsourcing development, services or applications, and are trying to cope with the need to extend the reach of their internal applications to partners, contractors and suppliers. This means that companies are faced with more users and devices attempting to access SharePoint and other protected resources. Access control and enforcement is especially critical for SharePoint, as it is a collaboration tool and repository for shared documents. F5 supplies a complete approach to providing access control regardless of end user, client type, application, access network or network resources.

F5 provides centralized access and application availability services to users based on the context of the user and the application they are accessing. By driving application and user identity into the network, organizations have a more centralized, repeatable and cost effective way to scale up access control services. This new simplified access management system allows users to easily access approved web applications, like SharePoint, and networks without multiple authentications for greater worker productivity.

As users roam from office to remote locations, an F5 client accesses corporate networks and applications dynamically enabling mobile users to stay connected without business productivity declining. Application acceleration and security are designed together with access to scale supporting application growth and performance. With F5, corporations stay within compliance of various local and regional regulations related to access and security reducing fine payouts and protecting the organization from data loss.

F5 provides organizational efficiency and an easy way to scale management by allowing our devices themselves to be partitioned into administrative domains. This enables organizations to assign varying degrees of administrative rights and views to each device. For example, the application owner for SharePoint can be given permission to only view or modify objects that reside in the SharePoint domain.

One important aspect of F5's universal access approach is the ability to divide the network into various segments to protect and monitor access from one segment to the other. At the network level, you can use IP addresses, VLANs, MAC addresses, and packet filtering mechanisms to define practically any combination of network security policy based on any network parameter such as originating or destination VLANs, IP addresses, and protocols. You can refine this security with stricter access rules based on authentication results or application responses.

F5 simplifies policy and group management for IT departments, and provides central reporting and auditing, which reduces the overall cost of management. F5 has the most comprehensive end point security, enforcement, and auto-remediation, with no 3rd party software required.

### Enabling seamless business continuity and disaster recovery

Because every single minute an application is down or not responding properly can cost an organization thousands of dollars, deploying F5 devices with Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 is essential for providing organizations with business-critical availability. Whether planning for a natural disaster, a pandemic like swine flu, trying to achieve regulatory compliance, or just carefully planning a new application deployment, F5 can help. F5 enables virtualized data centers, VPN access, optimization and traffic management in an integrated fashion.

In a situation where employees cannot reach the office to work, but the data center is still functioning, F5 provides secure remote access to the corporate network and applications like Microsoft SharePoint that is much easier to implement and scale than traditional solutions like IPSEC – and much quicker to deploy and maintain in a disaster situation.

This comprehensive remote access solution brings together F5 access security, acceleration and application availability services. The combined offering enables context aware, policy controlled, secure access to applications providing LAN speed performance for remote users. By bringing these services together and driving user and group identity into the network, policy and service levels can be set based on identity and location. No other vendor supplies all these unique services on one device.

F5 has the industry's most comprehensive solution for site failover and business continuity. In addition to performing comprehensive site application availability checks, you can define the conditions for dynamically and transparently shifting all traffic to a backup data center, failing over an entire site, or controlling only the affected applications.

F5 ensures applications are always available with monitoring capabilities like inband monitoring. Inband monitoring helps reduce the volume of traffic on the network and the burden on servers imposed by using valuable resources to respond to health checks. By passively monitoring application exchanges, such as data flows, through F5 devices to determine status, capacity, and data pertinent to load balancing decisions on performance and availability, F5 improves server efficiency, capacity, and performance.

For organizations with multiple ISP links, F5 simplifies multi-homed deployments so you no longer need ISP cooperation, large bandwidth connections, designated IP address blocks, ASNs, or high-end routers to protect your network from ISP failures. Using DNS-based technology that removes the dependency on BGP to provide failover capabilities, the F5 eliminates multi-homed problems such as latency, high update overhead, and inferior traffic management, ensuring that users can always get to the SharePoint deployment. Organizations can benefit from guaranteed availability without delays or costly misrouting. It also gives you the ability to aggregate inexpensive links, with more granular control over which link to use based on performance, costs, and business policies.

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

## More Information

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

### Application Page

[Microsoft Office SharePoint Server](#)

### Deployment Guides

[Microsoft Office SharePoint 2007 \(BIG-IP v10.x\)](#)

[Microsoft Office SharePoint 2007 \(BIG-IP v9.x\)](#)

[Microsoft Office Sharepoint 2007 \(HP Guide for BIG-IP LTM and WebAccelerator\)](#)

[Microsoft SharePoint Portal Server 2003](#)

### Microsoft Solutions Page on DevCentral

<http://devcentral.f5.com/microsoft>

F5 Networks, Inc. 401 Elliott Avenue West, Seattle, WA 98119 888-882-4447 [www.f5.com](http://www.f5.com)

F5 Networks, Inc.  
Corporate Headquarters  
[info@f5.com](mailto:info@f5.com)

F5 Networks  
Asia-Pacific  
[info.asia@f5.com](mailto:info.asia@f5.com)

F5 Networks Ltd.  
Europe/Middle-East/Africa  
[emeainfo@f5.com](mailto:emeainfo@f5.com)

F5 Networks  
Japan K.K.  
[f5j-info@f5.com](mailto:f5j-info@f5.com)

