

A SOLID FINANCIAL FOUNDATION

F5 Solutions for Financial Services



courtesy of
F5 NETWORKS

THE F5 SOLUTION FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES IS BUILT ON A UNIFIED PRODUCT PLATFORM—TMOS™—THAT IS UNIQUE IN THE NETWORKING INDUSTRY. BECAUSE OF TMOS, THE F5 SOLUTION FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES REQUIRES FEWER DEVICES, PROVIDES GREATER FLEXIBILITY, AND IS FAR EASIER TO MANAGE AND CONTROL.

In the financial industry, the delivery of business applications is critical. Applications don't just run your business—in financial services, they *are* your business. They handle every transaction, from customers transferring funds to brokers executing trades to insurance agents requesting quotes.

Keeping those applications secure, responsive, and reliable—in the face of emerging security threats, mounting regulatory pressures, and interconnected global networks—is incredibly complex. Only F5 offers a unified architecture that handles the full scope of application delivery challenges faced by financial institutions.

With its unified architecture, F5 can handle all the challenges of delivering financial services applications across networks—right now, and in the future.

PROTECT APPLICATIONS FROM INTRUSIONS AND DATA LOSS

Easy-to-access web applications are no longer a value-added service—they are an expectation. But the same properties that make web applications fast and available for your customers also leave your systems highly vulnerable to attack.

Conventional firewalls treat application attacks as standard web traffic and pass them through. But the F5 application security solution recognizes and stops them before they can burrow into your applications. By enforcing a positive security model that allows only “known-good” transactions, F5 safeguards against unauthorized access and malicious traffic of every kind. In fact, F5 participates in the Payment Card Industry's Security Standards Council, which helps banks adhere to all six core areas of the PCI data security standard.

Protecting your institution from these vulnerabilities can prevent significant financial exposure and the loss of customers. A recent NIST survey estimated that security holes cost financial institutions more than \$3 billion per year. A 2006 Privacy Trust Study for Retail Banking from the Ponemon Institute revealed that 34 percent of customers would transfer their funds after a single security breach.

ENSURE REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Safeguarding investments, stopping fraud, and protecting identities are not just obligations to your customers. They are your responsibilities under the law. Regulations such as Gramm-Leach-Bliley, Sarbanes-Oxley, and Basel II place rigorous demands on financial institutions to safeguard data. Commercial insurers and capital markets impose their own penalties for poor security, in the form of higher rates and lower valuations, in addition to stiff fines from regulators.

An F5 application security solution is one of the strongest compliance measures you can implement. In some cases, the mere presence of an F5 solution has been enough to satisfy security auditors.

MAKE APPLICATIONS RESPONSIVE AND RELIABLE FOR YOUR CUSTOMERS

With global markets and the growth in online banking, customers expect applications to be available at all times. Poor reliability and availability translate into poor customer service, which can result in the loss of customers.

F5 TECHNOLOGY IS DEPLOYED BY ALL OF THE WORLD'S TOP 10 BANKS, AND BY 9 OF THE 10 FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANIES LISTED IN THE FORTUNE 50.

F5 Application Delivery Networking solutions improve responsiveness and availability by:

- Executing automatic failover to secondary data centers when primary servers become overloaded or unavailable
- Balancing connections across redundant servers
- Speeding up replication of data among data centers for failover capability or disaster recovery
- Accelerating server response times by handling SSL processing, caching redundant web page elements, and compressing traffic

PROVIDE SECURE REMOTE ACCESS TO BROKERS AND AGENTS

Brokerages and insurance companies must often conduct business in remote offices and at customer locations. This involves accessing sensitive internal applications such as transaction or contact-management systems. The F5 remote access solution provides secure but convenient remote access using a standard web browser. To protect the corporate network, the client software ensures the accessing device is virus-protected and secure before allowing the connection.

LOWER YOUR TOTAL COST OF OPERATIONS

The unified TMOS architecture makes your entire network more cost-effective

and easier to manage, requiring fewer individual devices to configure and maintain. And because F5 Application Delivery Networking solutions can increase server and application performance by up to one-third, you can handle more connections with fewer servers.

Built-in failover to alternate servers or data centers enables you to make changes without time-consuming reconfigurations or costly downtime. And with F5's intuitive GUI, you can get started quickly, without taking business-critical applications offline.

INVEST IN A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

As financial service organizations compete more aggressively and expand internationally, they need scalable IT infrastructures that can quickly accommodate new customers and new services. F5 delivers that capability.

The unified TMOS architecture and unique iRules™ control language enable IT departments to customize device behavior and overcome very specific challenges. Several organizations have used this customization capability to avoid multimillion dollar software rewrites. The flexibility of F5 Application Delivery Networking solutions also helps financial institutions readily to adapt to new services, such as banking using mobile phones, VoIP, and new channels and initiatives yet to be imagined.



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