

APPLICATION DELIVERY THAT SAVES LIVES

F5 Solutions for Healthcare



courtesy of
F5 NETWORKS

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

In healthcare, application delivery can truly be life-or-death. Healthcare systems are bringing medical records online, giving clinicians immediate access to medical information to guide their decisions. But while patients want healthcare providers to make information accessible to those who need it, government regulators require that sensitive data be protected from unauthorized access.

Only F5 offers a unified architecture that handles the complex application-delivery challenges faced by healthcare organizations—right now, and into the future.

ENSURE RELIABLE DELIVERY OF CLINICAL DATA

From admissions and scheduling to insurance information and billing, healthcare systems have always relied on applications to track both patients and finances. Applications that directly impact treatment decisions are coming online as well, from patient monitoring to pharmaceutical orders to complete medical records. The F5 healthcare solution ensures that physicians and staff have responsive, dependable access 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

PROTECT PATIENT PRIVACY

Healthcare organizations are required to keep patient medical information secure and confidential. Regulatory compliance can be a huge challenge, especially in an environment with Web-based applications, wireless connections, and access through the public Internet.

Conventional firewalls treat attacks on Web applications as standard Web traffic and pass them through. But the F5 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.

GIVE SECURE REMOTE ACCESS TO PHYSICIANS AND STAFF

Inpatient care is a 24-hour effort, and outpatient care is often performed at locations off the medical center campus. The F5 healthcare solution provides secure but convenient remote access using a standard Web browser. To protect the network, the client software ensures the accessing device is virus-protected and secure before allowing the connection. This approach is far more practical than conventional VPNs, which require specialized software installations and complex configurations that can frustrate busy practitioners.

This remote capability is especially useful for:

- Physicians who often need to review charts and write orders for hospitalized patients after hours
- Nurses, therapists, and other professionals who provide home care
- Radiologists and other physicians who need access to images from home, office, or other remote locations
- Small affiliated clinics that need access to medical records over an ordinary Internet connection

ENSURE REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

HIPAA regulations mandate that healthcare organizations take steps to enforce security, encrypt and protect patient data, guard against malicious software, maintain backups of patient data, and establish contingency plans for disasters or emergencies. The F5 solution plays a direct role in helping healthcare organizations comply with more than 30 separate sections of the HIPAA code.¹

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 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 allows you to make changes without time-consuming reconfigurations or costly downtime. The F5 solution can also be installed quickly without taking applications that are vital to patient care offline.

INVEST IN A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

Healthcare is becoming more and more connected online. The medical ranks are filling with tech-savvy physicians and staff who expect to conduct more aspects of their work electronically. The new generation of healthcare calls for scalable IT infrastructures that can quickly embrace new technologies and deliver new services. The F5 solution provides that capability.

The unified TMOS architecture and unique iRules™ control language allow IT departments to customize device behavior and overcome very specific challenges. This flexibility allows healthcare organizations to readily adapt to new services—such as access over mobile phones, interactive patient education through streaming video, robotically assisted remote surgery, and other initiatives yet to be imagined.



F5 Networks

401 Elliott Avenue West
Seattle, WA 98119

T: 206.272.5555

Toll-free: 888.88BIGIP

F: 206.272.5556

www.f5.com

¹ F5 Networks, Inc., *HIPAA Security Compliance and F5 Solutions*, October 2007