



F5 White Paper

# F5 and Infoblox DNS Integrated Architecture: Offering a Complete, Scalable, Secure DNS Solution

As leaders in the application delivery market and DNS, DHCP, and IP Address Management (DDI) market respectively, F5 and Infoblox have teamed up to provide customers with a complete DNS solution. This solution provides superior DNS management capabilities, flexible and intelligent global server load balancing, high-performance, scalable DNS, and complete DNSSEC signing for all zones.

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## Introduction

Many organizations are looking for a complete DNS solution that will enable best-of-breed features in DNS management, intelligent global server load balancing (GSLB), performance, and security. Traditionally, there has been a gap between the easy management features offered by DNS appliance vendors and application delivery vendors focused on GSLB. This gap is evident in the new requirements needed to provide DNSSEC features that guarantee the authenticity of DNS responses, enabling a much more secure Internet environment. No single vendor is able to offer a complete solution.

As leaders in the application delivery market and in the DNS, DHCP, and IP Address Management (DDI) market respectively, F5 and Infoblox have partnered to provide customers with a complete solution. This solution provides superior DNS management capabilities, flexible and intelligent GSLB, high-performance, scalable DNS, and complete DNSSEC signing for all zones.

F5 and Infoblox offer organizations a single point of management for all global DNS and app delivery needs. The newest release in this longstanding partnership is Infoblox Load Balancer Manager (LBM) integration control for the management of DNS services and global applications with F5® BIG-IP® Global Traffic Manager™ (GTM) devices.

From rapid deployment to adapting to an organization's requirements, Infoblox LBM is the simplest solution available for DNS and global load balancing. For example, utilizing Infoblox users and groups across all BIG-IP GTM devices allows network administrators to delegate work on a given area—for instance, a particular datacenter—to the datacenter administrator but without giving the datacenter administrator access to all DNS functionality across the network. The solution makes global traffic management and DNS services objects in BIG-IP GTM available for management from within Infoblox LBM.

"The lack of DNS security not only makes the Internet vulnerable, but is also crippling the scalability of important security technologies. DNSSEC offers the most feasible solution to a serious threat."

Dan Kaminsky, Security Researcher and Consultant

## Overview of DNS Security Extensions

Many security experts, including Dan Kaminsky, consider DNSSEC to be an essential tool in "sealing" DNS vulnerabilities and mitigating DNS cache poisoning attacks that undermine the integrity of the DNS system. DNS attackers are able to direct users to alternate sites to collect credit card information and passwords,



redirect email, and compromise any other Internet application that is dependent on DNS. DNSSEC implements an automated trust infrastructure enabling systems to verify the authenticity of DNS information.

Unfortunately, DNSSEC adoption has been hampered by concerns over the operational complexity of provisioning encryption keys and the processing overhead required to sign DNS information. Prior to F5's innovative, real-time signing capability, there were no other options for securing DNS responses from a GSLB system. Organizations had to choose between deploying highly available, intelligent DNS systems or securing their DNS infrastructure with DNSSEC.

F5 and Infoblox address these issues with complementary technologies, bringing to market a fully integrated and complete DNSSEC solution including high-performance DNS and GSLB functions, all supporting signed DNSSEC data. This provides customers with a scalable, manageable, and secure DNS infrastructure that is equipped to withstand DNS attacks.

The solution includes purpose-built Infoblox appliances that deliver highly reliable, manageable, and secure DNS services with built-in, automated DNSSEC features, and F5 BIG-IP GTM devices optimized to facilitate real-time signing of DNS responses. Infoblox DNSSEC features replace manual key generation and zone signing with a one-click process that automatically generates encryption keys, signs zone data, and distributes signed data to all Infoblox appliances that serve DNS data. F5 provides a Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS)-compliant option to satisfy FIPS 140-2 requirements. Both F5 and Infoblox systems handle the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) recommended key policies that are outlined in the **NIST Special Publication 800-81r1 Secure Domain Name System (DNS) Deployment Guide**.

## Real-time DNSSEC

The F5 implementation of DNSSEC through patent-pending, real-time signing is a crucial architectural element in the three F5 and Infoblox joint architecture solutions. Standard implementations of DNSSEC assume a fairly static zone configuration that provides the same responses to a specific DNS query, whether a start of authority (SOA), mail exchanger record (MX record), or address record (A-record). Changes to a zone's records are generally minimal. The zones are usually presigned with all the appropriate keys and hashing and are stored in the same static zone files. Signing a large zone can take longer than thirty minutes depending on the size of the zone. Infoblox supports incremental signing that reduces the overhead associated with



record information changes. Infoblox also provides market-leading, single-step DNSSEC signing and automated key management, making it easier to provide DNSSEC responses for a standard DNS zone.

The basic premise of GSLB is to provide the best answer for a particular resource based on information obtained from the requesting LDNS's IP address. There are many options and modes for deploying GSLB, including round-trip time calculations, IP geolocation, dynamic server load, ratios, and resource monitoring. Since each LDNS server can receive a different answer for a given A-record request, it is possible for the same LDNS server to receive different answers at different times. In general, GSLB services are incompatible with traditional DNSSEC implementations. DNSSEC specs were not designed with consideration of GSLB.

The F5 BIG-IP product family operates on a universal, shared product platform called TMOS®, which intercepts a DNS request as it enters the system and remembers if the request was a normal DNS request or a DNSSEC request. TMOS then sends the request to BIG-IP GTM for resolution. Assuming the request is the appropriate type, BIG-IP GTM processes the request, taking into account all the business rules, monitoring, and global load balancing features. BIG-IP GTM then passes the request back to TMOS. If the original request is for DNSSEC, TMOS signs the resource record set in real time using high-speed cryptographic hardware and sends the response back to the LDNS server. This method also works well with standard DNS queries that are passed through to an Infoblox appliance.

The cryptographic hardware and a special RAM cache of signatures enable TMOS to sign most queries in real time, at high speed. However, for extremely large, static zones containing no GSLB elements, using the traditional DNSSEC presigned method offers performance and resource utilization advantages. TMOS's intelligent architecture enables a DNS response that has already been signed to pass through, allowing for hybrid DNSSEC deployments specific to each zone. Normally, private keys are stored in a triple-encrypted key storage called the secure vault. Customers requiring military-grade security can use hardware FIPS cards found on different F5 devices for private key generation and storage. These cards share the same configuration and can synchronize FIPS keys to maintain full FIPS compliance even while being geographically separated.

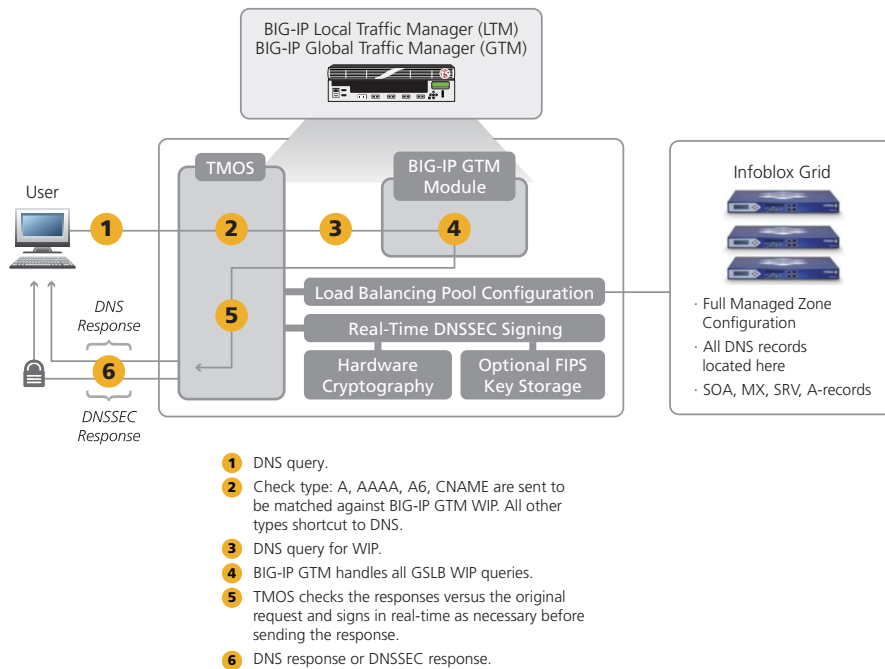


Figure 1: DNSSEC in real time with the F5 BIG-IP system and Infoblox Grid™

## Configuring real-time DNSSEC in BIG-IP GTM

It is a simple, three-step process to configure real-time DNSSEC signing:

- Create a key signing key (KSK)
- Create a zone signing key (ZSK)
- Assign those keys to the appropriate BIG-IP GTM-controlled subzones

The final step is to manually export the public KSK and register it with the next, higher-level zone authority.

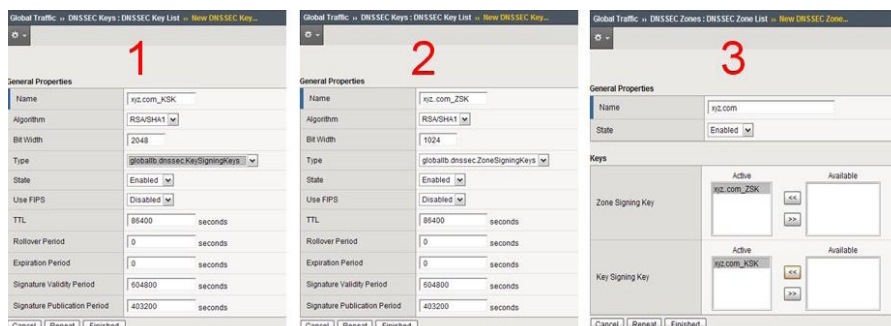


Figure 2: BIG-IP GTM configuration steps in the user interface.



## Configuring Infoblox DNSSEC

Infoblox appliances support full, standard DNSSEC features and provide a very intuitive experience for the administrator. Default settings can be configured at the global grid level, and Infoblox management tools enable an easy, one-click DNSSEC upgrade of any zone to start providing DNSSEC responses. The final, manual step is to export the public KSK and register it with the next, higher-level zone authority or independent trust anchor.

## Overview of F5 and Infoblox Architectures

There are several important points to consider when deploying a combined architecture:

- Authoritative systems
- Configuration hosting
- Zone updates
- Load balancing Infoblox appliances
- Service divisions between GSLB records and static zone records
- System aliasing using canonical name (CNAME) records
- Zone size and records types

The three architectures discussed in this document include:

- Delegation
- Authoritative Screening
- Authoritative Slave

Delegation is the most common and the simplest, and involves delegating a specific subzone that contains all the GSLB elements of the DNS architecture. In this scenario, a CNAME is used to redirect other names to one located in the delegated subzone. Authoritative Screening is more sophisticated and offers a highly integrated solution. It also offers greater scalability and protection of the Infoblox architecture. Using an Authoritative Slave architecture, DNS requests are processed on the BIG-IP GTM system, while the Infoblox appliance serves as the hidden primary for the zone.



In addition to describing the general DNS architecture in this paper, there is a section that discusses the DNSSEC-specific options and deployments of each architecture.

## Delegation

The Delegation solution is recommended for organizations seeking a simple configuration with clear assignments of zones for standard DNS and GSLB services. In this example, the Infoblox appliance completely manages the top-level zone, example.com. The Name Server (NS) records point to the names and, indirectly, to the IP address of the Infoblox appliances. BIG-IP GTM is authoritative for a subzone and handles all queries to that zone (for instance, gtm.example.com). All GSLB resources are represented by A-records in the BIG-IP GTM zone. A BIND name server running on BIG-IP GTM contains the subzone records. Host names in the top-level zone are referred to the BIG-IP GTM-controlled subzone using CNAME alias records. CNAME references can be from almost any other zone, including the subzone. More than one subzone can be delegated to and managed by the BIG-IP GTM zone.

www.example.com	CNAME	www.gtm.example.com
mail.example.com	CNAME	mail.gtm.example.com

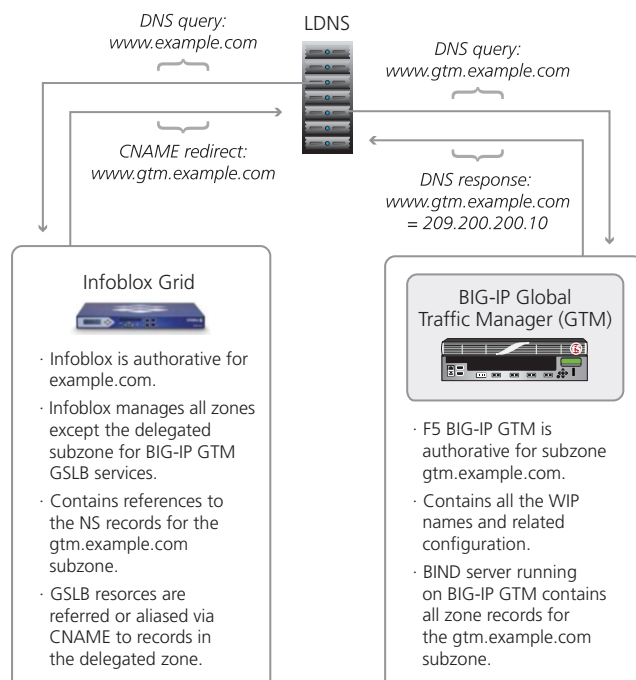


Figure 3: F5 BIG-IP GTM and Infoblox Grid manage their respective DNS zones in the Delegation architecture.





## Shortcut around using CNAME aliases

For high-profile, high-volume names (such as `www.example.com`), the use of a CNAME could cause an extra redirect and lookup, providing undesirable latency. A shortcut can be employed by creating and delegating a subzone to the BIG-IP GTM device. This shortcut only works for a single name in each subzone; however, any number of zones can be delegated in the same manner. The subzone shortcut removes the need for a CNAME redirect while still using a Delegation architecture. In this example, a subzone called `www.example.com` is created and delegated to the BIG-IP GTM device. The zone configuration on BIG-IP GTM includes the normal NS records, as will the higher-level `example.com` zone, but the zone will only contain one host record. The BIG-IP GTM WIP is configured to match that of `www.example.com` and always provides GSLB services for `www.example.com`.

## DNSSEC configuration in a delegated zone architecture

The DNSSEC configuration is very simple when using a delegated zone architecture. Top-level, standard DNS zones (such as `example.com`) are managed and signed by the Infoblox appliance. All other standard DNS zones or subzones managed by Infoblox are signed similarly. All standard DNS queries in zones managed by Infoblox can respond with DNSSEC responses. All GSLB queries which are sent to the F5 BIG-IP GTM subzone are signed in real time by TMOS after BIG-IP GTM decides which answer is the best for each specific client.

"The combination of F5's and Infoblox's appliances provide enterprise customers an opportunity to build authoritative DNS infrastructure without giving up either global server load balancing or DNSSEC—that's a clear value-add to performance and security."  
Cricket Liu, Vice President of Architecture, Infoblox

## Delegation summary

The Delegation architecture is easy to implement for DNS and DNSSEC responses. The downside is that the Delegation architecture also requires maintaining the subzone configuration on the BIG-IP GTM device itself. Some organizations find that using CNAME records is difficult to manage on a larger scale. Other organizations are sensitive to latency and, therefore, would prefer not to use CNAME records at all. The subzone shortcut provides a solution to avoid CNAME records but does not scale as a general purpose solution. The Delegation architecture is a better fit for organizations with a smaller number of zones and resources using the GSLB features, and with lower overall DNS performance requirements.



## Authoritative Screening

Authoritative Screening is the most powerful, flexible, and integrated of the three solutions. Deploying the Authoritative Screening architecture running version 10.1 of BIG-IP GTM requires that you license both F5 BIG-IP® Local Traffic Manager™ (LTM) and BIG-IP GTM. With BIG-IP GTM version 10.2, you can enable this configuration without using BIG-IP LTM. With BIG-IP GTM version 10.2, the standalone BIG-IP GTM device will also be able to use this architecture.

The Authoritative Screening architecture enables BIG-IP GTM to receive all DNS queries, managing very high-volume DNS by load balancing requests to a pool of Infoblox appliances. In addition, the Authoritative Screening architecture seamlessly provides all of the benefits of intelligent GSLB services. The BIG-IP GTM listener IP address should be configured in an NS record authoritative for the zone, not as a delegated subzone.

When a DNS query is received, TMOS will check the record type. If the type is an A, AAAA, A6, or CNAME request, it will be sent to BIG-IP GTM which will check each request and response, looking for a match against the WIP list of fully qualified domain name (FQDN) names. If there is a match, BIG-IP GTM will perform the appropriate GSLB functions and return the best IP address appropriate for the requesting client.

If the DNS request does not match the WIP list, BIG-IP GTM will pass the request to a pool of Infoblox appliances. Load balancing requests to a pool of Infoblox appliances provides an additional layer of scalability and availability, increasing the query performance and ensuring optimal uptime of DNS services.

The BIG-IP GTM unit is configured with a standard DNS listener on port 53 for both TCP and UDP, and uses the external IP address referenced in the SOA-record for ns1.example.com. In the virtual server configuration, administrators can create a pool that contains several Infoblox appliances, each with their own separate IP address. The Infoblox appliance can then be fully authoritative for the zones for internal clients. However, all external NS records for the top-level zone (such as example.com) should point only to the external IP address allocated to the BIG-IP device.



An NS record for example.com directs LDNS requests to ns1.example.com which points to the public IP address allocated to the DNS listener on F5 BIG-IP GTM.

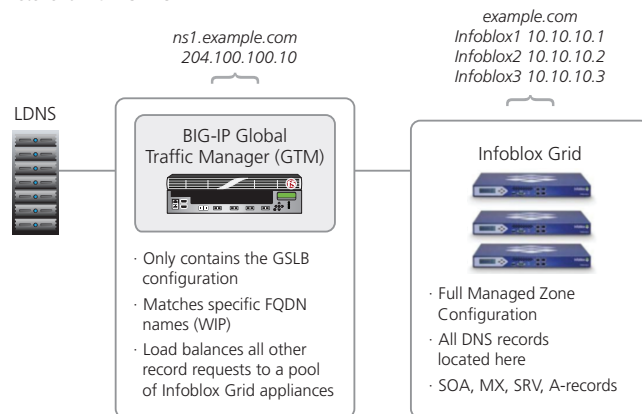


Figure 4: In the DNSSEC Authoritative Screening architecture, BIG-IP GTM load balances DNS requests to a pool of Infoblox appliances.

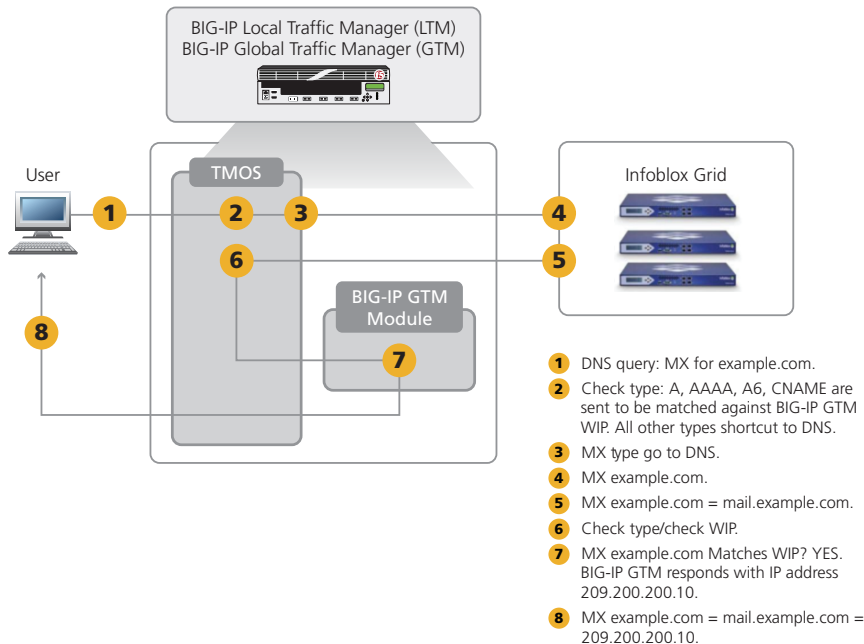


Figure 5: Authoritative Screening request flow for a mail server record.

A good illustration of the integrated capability of a BIG-IP GTM screening architecture is when an MX record is requested. BIG-IP GTM only has the VIP list and configuration for processing the VIP queries. All zone records are maintained on the Infoblox appliances. The requests flow through the system in the following steps:



1. TMOS receives the MX query for example.com. TMOS first checks the record type. Only A, AAAA, A6, or CNAME requests are sent to BIG-IP GTM. All other record types are immediately sent to DNS. Because the request in this example is for an MX record, TMOS sends the query directly to the Infoblox appliances using the configured ratio load balancing method.
2. The Infoblox appliance responds, indicating that the MX record for example.com resolves to A-record mail.example.com.
3. TMOS sends the request to BIG-IP GTM to check if there is a match for a WIP.
4. BIG-IP GTM detects a match in the WIP list for mail.example.com and processes the query according to the configuration for mail.example.com. In this case, BIG-IP GTM uses IP geolocation to find the closest mail server for the client and responds with the best IP address.
5. TMOS responds to the original MX record request—mail.example.com—and rewrites the A-record answer with the IP address that has been globally load balanced by BIG-IP GTM.
6. If DNSSEC was originally requested, the response will be signed in TMOS before it's sent to the requesting LDNS.

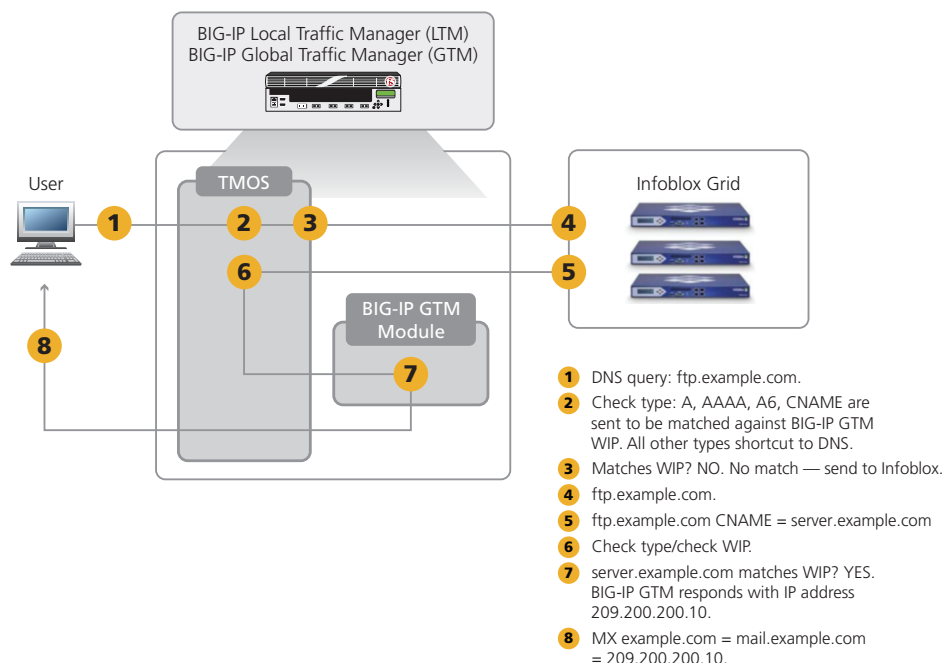


Figure 6: Authoritative Screening request flow for a CNAME record when the initial record type is an A-record.



7. The initial query is for ftp.example.com. TMOS first checks the record type and since it is an A-record, passes the request to BIG-IP GTM to see if it is a match against the WIP list.
8. If ftp.example.com is a match for a WIP, BIG-IP GTM handles the processing and sends the response back to TMOS. In this case, ftp.example.com is not a match, so the request is sent to DNS.
9. The request is load balanced and processed by the Infoblox appliance in exactly the same way as the MX record illustration.
10. When the CNAME response is returned from Infoblox containing an A-record, server.example.com, TMOS sends the response to BIG-IP GTM to check if server.example.com is a match for a WIP.
11. BIG-IP GTM then matches server.example.com as a WIP, processes the request, and sends the response back to TMOS.

## DNSSEC options for Authoritative Screening

It is possible for TMOS to do the DNSSEC signing in real time and on demand, for all zones. Any zone containing dynamic GSLB names in the BIG-IP GTM configuration must be signed by TMOS, in real time.

If there are standard DNS zones that do not contain any BIG-IP GTM-configured WIP names, it is possible to use the native Infoblox DNSSEC capabilities to sign those zones. In this hybrid configuration, BIG-IP GTM will detect a DNSSEC-signed response and pass it through to the requesting LDNS server without modification or resigning. This hybrid configuration requires different KSKs and ZSKs for Infoblox-signed zones.

## Advanced IP Anycast configuration

With this architecture, several F5 devices can be deployed at different locations around the world using the same external IP address. The technique is often referred to as IP Anycast. F5 refers to this feature as route health injection (RHI). Each F5 device advertises the same IP address(es) to the next hop routers. The routing system routes requests from LDNS servers to the closest BIG-IP GTM system. Using IP Anycast and the routing system to geographically distribute DNS queries can decrease DNS latency and provide some level of DNS DoS protection.



## Authoritative Screening summary

The screening architecture enables intelligent DNS and GSLB techniques for any record type that resolves to an A-record. Authoritative Screening offers the best of all worlds, with the ability to support and manage all DNS records on the Infoblox appliance while simultaneously providing load balancing and intelligent DNS functions for any particular service or site. This architecture avoids a designated zone for load-balanced names and eliminates the use of CNAME redirects. BIG-IP GTM screens the DNS traffic sent to the Infoblox appliances and only intercepts the requests and responses when they match a name designated in the BIG-IP GTM configuration. BIG-IP GTM only manages the GSLB-specific WIP configuration information. The Infoblox appliance maintains and manages all zone records.

Furthermore, this architecture simplifies DNSSEC and enables several ways to implement it. One easy method is to use real-time DNSSEC signing for all zones. Alternatively, an organization can choose to deploy a hybrid configuration with some zones being signed and managed by the Infoblox appliance. IP Anycast techniques can be implemented for advanced architectures providing better performance and DNS DoS protection. The Authoritative Screening architecture provides many additional advantages that balance out the slightly more complex set up.

## Authoritative Slave

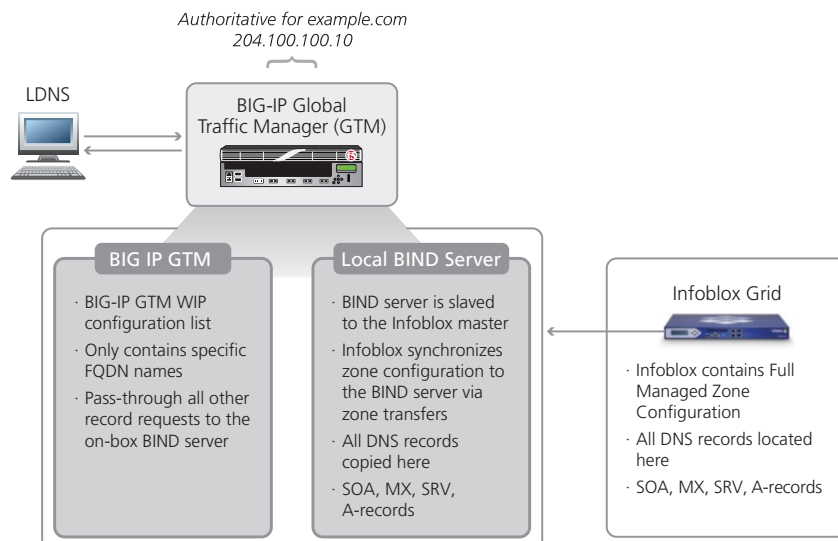


Figure 7: Authoritative Slave architecture with BIG-IP GTM as the front end but with Infoblox holding most DNS records.



The Authoritative Slave architecture is very similar to the Authoritative Screening architecture. Both architectures deploy BIG-IP GTM as the external authoritative name server. The major difference is that all DNS requests are handled by BIG-IP GTM and are not load balanced or passed to any Infoblox appliances.

There is a standard BIND name server running on BIG-IP GTM that attempts to answer any query not handled by BIG-IP GTM or load balanced to an external name server. The local BIND name server answers all standard DNS queries and acts as a slave to the Infoblox primary master server. The zone configuration is copied to the BIG-IP GTM BIND name server via standard zone transfers. The same WIP-matching occurs as in the Authoritative Screening architecture; however, any nonmatching names are simply handled by the local BIND name server instead of being passed to an Infoblox appliance.

## DNSSEC options for Authoritative Slave

TMOS can handle all DNSSEC signing in real-time, and on-demand as clients request DNSSEC authenticated responses. The setup process is exactly the same as described in the “Configuring real-time DNSSEC in BIG-IP GTM” section. Any zone that includes GSLB WIP names requires TMOS to perform the DNSSEC signing in real time.

If there are standard DNS zones that contain no WIP names configured in BIG-IP GTM, then it is possible to use the native Infoblox DNSSEC capabilities to sign those zones. In this hybrid configuration, the Infoblox presigned DNSSEC zones will be zone-transferred to BIG-IP GTM and used like a normal zone file. TMOS will detect a DNSSEC signed response and pass it through to the requesting LDNS server without modification and without resigning. This hybrid configuration requires having different KSKs and ZSKs for the zones signed by Infoblox.

## Authoritative Slave summary

The Authoritative Slave architecture is very similar to the Authoritative Screening architecture. In addition, it uses intelligent DNS and GSLB techniques for any record type that resolves to an A-record. This solution offers some of the benefits of the Authoritative Screening solution. The same DNSSEC techniques apply, including a pure, real-time DNSSEC configuration or a hybrid configuration with some zones being signed and managed by the Infoblox appliance. Since the slave configuration does not spread the DNS queries across several high-performance Infoblox appliances, it does not provide high-performance responses for standard



BIND records. This solution is ideal when the majority of DNS queries are for GSLB resources and BIND is only needed to handle the other records types and a small percentage of standard DNS queries.

## Choosing an Architecture

Ultimately, each organization's unique requirements, existing infrastructure, traffic patterns, applications, growth plans, and politics will determine which architecture offers the best starting point. There are many variations possible based on these architectures:

- Organizations that are new to GSLB and have a complex Infoblox DNS architecture with the capacity to handle the DNS request volume should start with a Delegation architecture. This is a minimally disruptive way to start using intelligent GSLB services.
- Delegation is often the only option when internal politics or policies preclude the ability to change any part of the existing authoritative architecture.
- Larger organizations with higher volumes of DNS requests, concerns about DNS DoS attacks, a need to deploy DNSSEC, and a desire to avoid using CNAMEs and subzones will likely find the Authoritative Screening architecture a better fit for their requirements.
- Smaller organizations with fewer zones and records, relatively low-performance requirements, and GSLB requirements should consider the Authoritative Slave architecture using an Infoblox appliance to consolidate and provide superior management.

## Driving Value Through DNS

- **Rapid and flexible implementation.** Whether integrating into an existing global load balancing environment or conducting a new deployment, zoning of load balancers, DNS, and DNSSEC is supported by the F5 and Infoblox solution. Autodiscovery speeds deployment in existing environments, and wizards ease the implementation burden in all environments.
- **Lifecycle IP address management.** From discovery to de-assignment, IP addresses are managed by Infoblox LBM integration control of BIG-IP GTM. Management includes critical infrastructure addresses often not covered, such as servers and virtual IPs defined on BIG-IP GTM appliances.





- **Consolidated administration.** All BIG-IP GTM and Infoblox appliances including physical, virtual, local, and remote, can be managed from the management console of Infoblox LBM. From this view, administrators can explore relationships between IP infrastructure, DNS infrastructure, and load balancing infrastructure.
- **Enhanced network administrator productivity.** Wizards, top-level, drill-down, global views, and rapid diagnosis of problems all reduce the amount of time network administrators must spend on DNS infrastructure. This leaves more time for other critical network tasks.
- **Simplified security administration.** The solution utilizes the Infoblox security framework across global load balancers to make user administration easier while tracking changes to GSLB objects for reporting and compliance purposes.
- **Delegation to local staff.** Utilizing the Infoblox security framework, administrators can assign management rights for a subset of devices to the local administrators responsible for those devices—without exposing the entire infrastructure to those delegated administrators. At the same time, authorized users can be managed from a single security source. Most major AAA services are supported out-of-the-box.

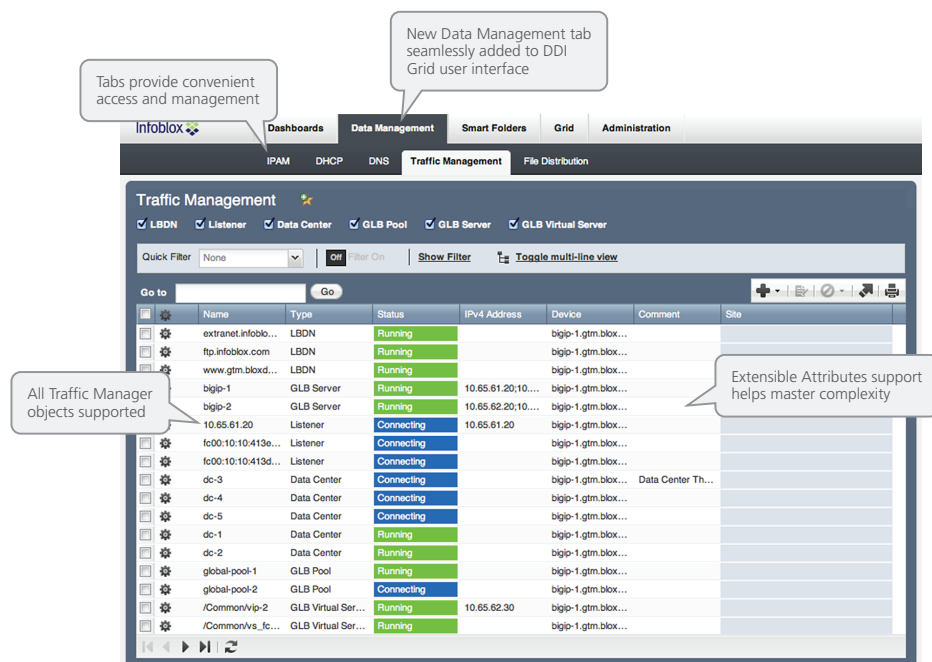


Figure 8: The Infoblox LBM management console gives administrators unprecedented insight into BIG-IP GTM network objects.



## Conclusion

Each joint F5 and Infoblox architecture provides unique advantages and functions that enable any organization to meet its requirements. Published DNS vulnerabilities and the proliferation of high-profile DNS attacks indicate that the traditional DNS system needs to adapt to become more scalable, available, secure, and trusted. While DNSSEC can solve some of the problems, it can be difficult to deploy. The capabilities provided by F5 and Infoblox remove implementation barriers and make it easy for any organization to secure its infrastructure by deploying a complete DNS solution with superior management capabilities, flexible and intelligent GSLB, high-performance, scalable DNS, and complete DNSSEC signing for all zones.

## Learn More

For more information on DNS and DNSSEC, please visit the links below.

- [DNS and BIND, 5th Edition](#), By Cricket Liu, Paul Albitz
- [Free DNS Tools at MX Toolbox](#)
- [DNSSEC Deployment Initiative](#)
- [DNSSEC News and Announcements](#)
- [National Institute of Standards and Technology](#)

## Glossary

Abbreviations, general DNS, and product-specific terms are used throughout this document.

**Address record (A-record)** – Returns a 32-bit IPv4 address, most commonly used to map host names to a host IP address.

**Canonical name record (CNAME)** – A type of resource record in the Domain Name System (DNS) that specifies that the domain name is an alias of another, canonical domain name.

**F5 BIG-IP Global Traffic Manager (GTM)** – Intelligently directs users to the best-performing data center to ensure high application performance. Scales DNS infrastructure, mitigates DDoS attacks, and delivers a complete, real-time DNSSEC solution.

## White Paper

F5 and Infoblox DNS Integrated Architecture: Offering a Complete, Scalable, Secure DNS Solution

**F5 BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager (LTM)** – An Application Delivery Networking system that provides intelligent traffic management as well as advanced application security, acceleration, and optimization.

**Fully qualified domain name (FQDN)** – Refers to a complete DNS name that includes both the host and domain (for example, [www.example.com](http://www.example.com)).

**Global server load balancing (GSLB)** – Refers to a collection of intelligent DNS techniques and methods used to provide the best possible IP address answer for a given record query.

**Infoblox Grid** – Provides resilient network services, failover, recovery, and seamless maintenance for an Infoblox deployment inside a single building, across a networked campus, or between remote locations near and far.

**Key signing key (KSK)** – Used to sign other keys including ZSKs.

**Local domain name server (LDNS)** – A client recursive DNS server. Most DNS queries originate from an LDNS server rather than a client.

**Mail exchanger record (MX record)** – Maps a domain name to a list of message transfer agents for that domain; usually returns an A-record (for example, [mail.example.com](mailto:mail.example.com)).

**Start of authority (SOA)** – Specifies authoritative information about a DNS zone, including the primary name server, the email address of the zone's administrator, the zone's serial number, and several timers related to refreshing the zone.

**Wide IP address (WIP)** – An F5 product term for a fully qualified domain name representing a resource managed by BIG-IP GTM (for example, [www.example.com](http://www.example.com) or [www.gtm.example.com](http://www.gtm.example.com)).

**Zone signing key (ZSK)** – Used to sign the zone's signature records.

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