F5 and VMware offerings

· F5 BIG-IQ Cloud

· VMware Connector
  for BIG-IQ Cloud

· VMware NSX

F5 and VMware Integration Streamlines the App Provisioning Process

Many organizations have taken advantage of the operational efficiencies that come from server virtualization. These efficiencies have reduced the time to deploy new applications from weeks to days. Until now, however, the process for provisioning the necessary infrastructure services to run those enterprise applications has remained a mostly manual and time-consuming process. This can diminish the gains initially achieved by server virtualization and can hinder the adoption of cloud computing.

The integration of F5 and VMware products helps solve these challenges. VMware NSX transforms network operations and economics in the data center by enabling never-before-possible service delivery speed, increasing agility, and dramatically reducing both the capital and operational costs associated with networking and security improvements. With F5® BIG-IQ™ Cloud, IT administrators can provide the full suite of services offered by BIG-IP® products—such as BIG-IP® Local Traffic Manager™ (LTM), BIG-IP Global Traffic Manager™, BIG-IP Access Policy Manager®, and others—directly from within NSX Manager as part of the normal virtual machine deployment sequence. This shortens the all-inclusive application provisioning process from days to just minutes.

Pre-Definition Speeds App Provisioning and Reduces Risk

Enterprise applications don't run in a vacuum. In addition to the virtualized components on the server, these applications usually require local and global load balancing as well as SSL offload, optimization, acceleration, secure access, and security services. Typically, provisioning these services for a new application instance requires submitting a request to IT and enduring a process of back-and-forth clarification to define exactly what is needed. Once defined,the request enters the IT queue. This process can take anywhere from days to weeks for the application to be delivered as a service. Every change, no matter how minor, goes through a similar process.

Learn more

For more information about F5 and VMware, use the search function on f5.com to find these resources.

White paper

Operationalizing Elastic Applications

Video

Automating Operations F5 and VMware

The combined F5 and VMware solution modernizes this repetitive and time-consuming process by allowing IT to pre-define BIG-IP policies for different service level agreement tiers and applications. This is accomplished using F5 iApps®, which provides a wizard-like deployment questionnaire that allows for rapid configuration of BIG-IP platform services and the associated policies for any application.

For example, an administrator could create gold, silver, and bronze iApps Templates for Microsoft Exchange. The API integration between NSX Manager and BIG-IQ Cloud further enables VMware vSphere administrators to provision the necessary BIG-IP platform services (packaged as iApps) for the application's virtual machines (VMs) without leaving the NSX Manager console. The combination of a unifyed deployment workflow of VMs and services, along with the abstraction of complex configuration through iApps Templates, simplifies and shortens the application deployment process.
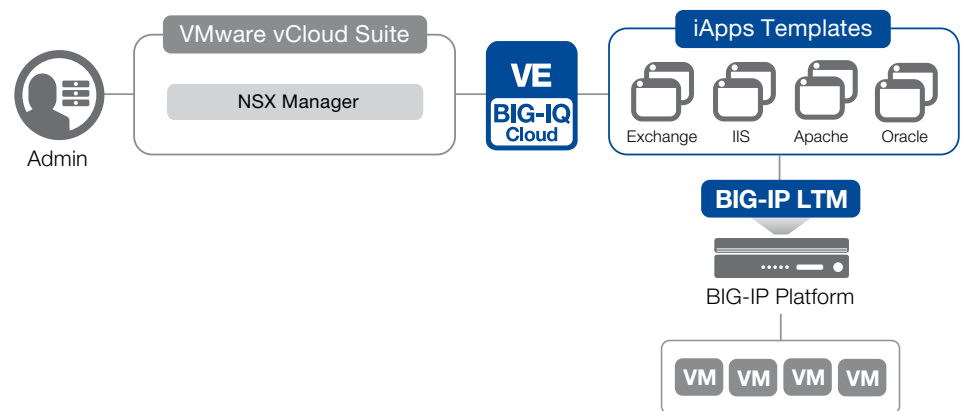
Using iApps, IT can maintain control over policies and provide self-service options for application owners to meet business needs faster.

To find out how F5 and VMware joint solutions support your cloud computing initiatives, contact VMwarePartnership@f5.com or visit the VMware solutions page on f5.com.

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