



Client Confidential

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F5, Inc.  
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## Introduction

F5, Inc. ("F5") engaged NCC Group to perform (i) a security assessment of critical F5 software source code, including critical software components of the BIG-IP product, as provided by F5, and (ii) a review of portions of the software development build pipeline related to the same, and designated as critical by F5 (collectively, the "In-Scope Items"). NCC Group's assessment included a source code security review by 76 consultants over a total of 551 person-days of effort.

The objective of this assessment was to identify critical and high-risk security issues that could adversely affect the security of the In-Scope Items.

## Letter of Engagement Overview

NCC Group is a global cybersecurity firm that specializes in application, mobile, network, host, and product security assessment. Security-conscious companies use NCC Group's Detailed Letters of Engagement to verify product attributes in view of current security best practices, standard security functionality, and product protection. More information about NCC Group's processes and products can be found at <https://nccgroup.com>.

It is important to note that this document represents a point-in-time evaluation of security posture. Security threats and attacker techniques evolve rapidly, and the results of this assessment are not intended to represent an endorsement of the adequacy of current security measures against future threats. This Letter of Engagement necessarily contains information in summary form and is therefore intended for general guidance only; it is not intended as a substitute for detailed research or the exercise of professional judgment. The information presented here should not be construed as professional advice or service.

## Testing Methods

Testing was performed using NCC Group's standard methodology. F5 provided NCC Group with access to source code, build pipeline, and documentation in order to improve the effectiveness of the testing. NCC Group's consultants used a combination of manual test techniques as well as commercial automated tools throughout the assessment. The following aspects of the In-Scope Items were reviewed as part of this assessment:

- Software source code security review of relevant F5 software components, focused on critical- and high-severity vulnerabilities similar to the following:
  - Appropriate implementation of security-sensitive functionality including:
    - Authentication, authorization, and session management

- Input validation mechanisms
- Output encoding mechanisms
- Use of cryptography
- Data storage and application secret protection
- Networking
- Where applicable, security weaknesses in areas including:
  - Memory management
  - Buffer/heap management
  - Integer handling
  - Format strings
  - Database calls and queries
  - Error and exception handling
  - Privilege separation
  - Language and framework specific vulnerabilities
  - Dependency analysis
  - Build and deployment settings and configurations
- Threat Hunting focused around the build pipeline, change history, and code integrity to discover potential suspicious activity including injection of malicious code, malware, or backdoors in F5 source code

## Summary of Findings

NCC Group did not find evidence that a threat actor modified or introduced any vulnerabilities into the In-Scope Items. NCC Group also did not identify any evidence of critical vulnerabilities.

Upon completion of the assessment, all findings were reported to F5 along with recommendations.

NCC Group is continuing to review the remaining code bases and build pipeline components as directed by F5.

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