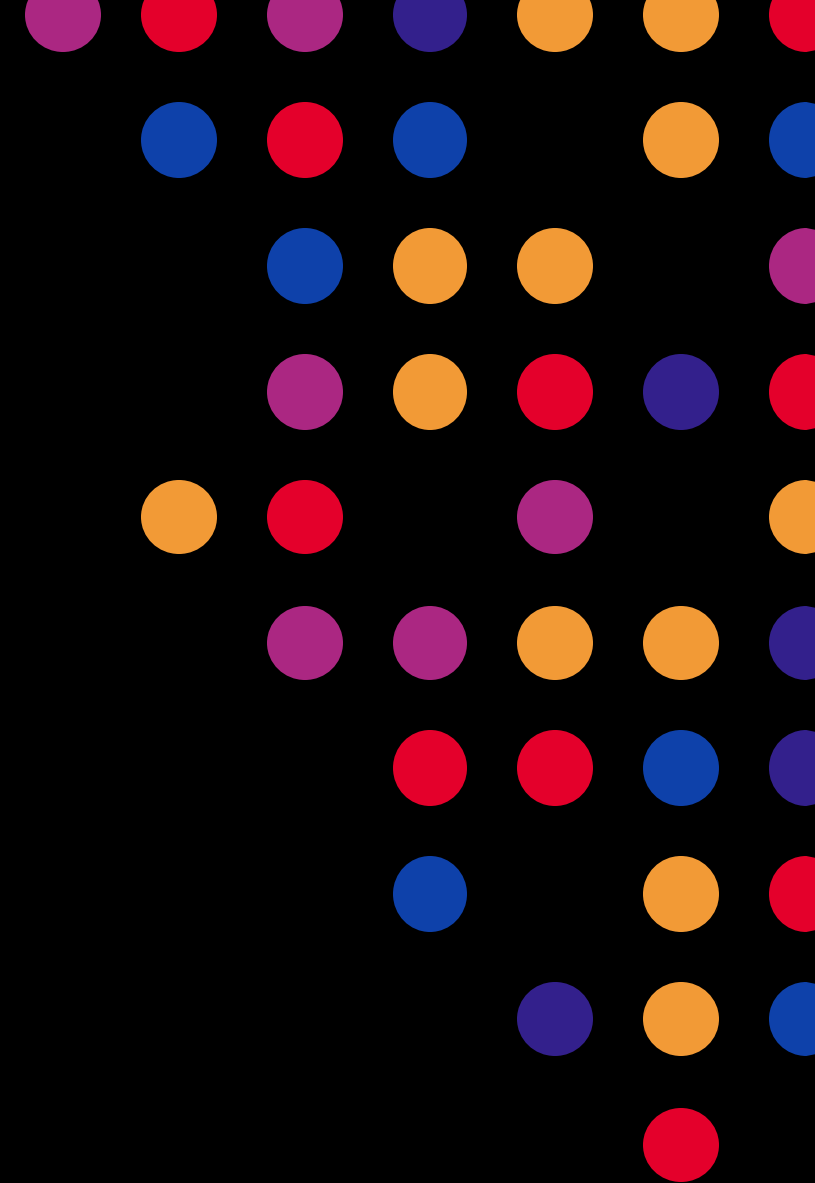




F5 301a v14.1 Certification Prep

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Systems Engineers, F5

April 2025



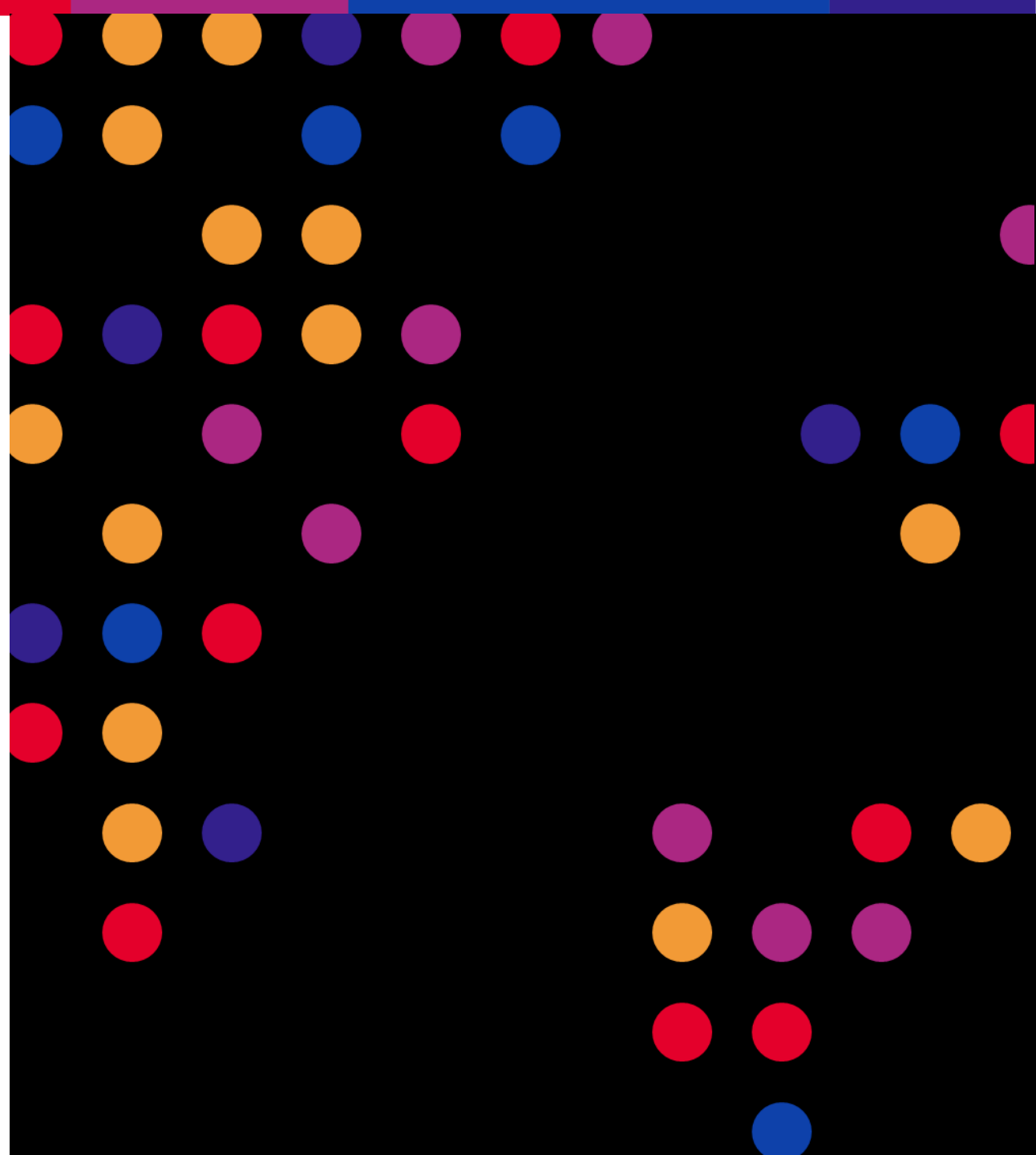
Symposium Exam Info

- Exams on **Thursday 3/21**
- Complimentary practice exam vouchers – email s.lopatin@f5.com
- 1. Register for the F5 Certified™ program – (<https://certification.f5.com/>)
 - Must **register BEFORE 3/21** – no same day registrations
- 2. Create a Certiverse account (<https://www.certiverse.com/#/store/F5>)
- 3. Prepare and **bring your own device** (email below if you don't have one)
 - <https://help.certiverse.com/portal/en/kb/articles/hardware-requirements>
 - No Chromebooks, iPads, or tablets
- 4. Send an email to the F5 Certified team (support@mail.education.f5.com)
with your Candidate ID (ex. F500001234)
 - you'll receive a follow-up email with a link to the Symposium scheduling portal.

The goal

If you are just starting your study, this prep will hopefully help you determine strengths and weaknesses.

If you are almost ready, then this prep is an opportunity for a final review and to ask questions.



Setting expectations

- This course is not designed to have you take the 301 exam after completion.
- Understand, I have no more idea what is actually on the exam than you do.
 - The material is based off the blueprint and my experience having taken prior F5 exams and practice exams.
- We will not cover every topic in depth:
 - There is simply not enough time.
 - We will focus on the topics I think you need to know more deeply.
 - There are many links to additional information.
- This isn't a course to teach you how to configure a BIG-IP
 - If you need basic Local Traffic Management training, though, that can be arranged :).

F5 Certification Exams



Solutions Expert

Security Solutions **401**

Cloud Solutions **402**

Future Enterprise

Future Exams



Technology Specialist

LTM Specialist (b) **301b**

LTM Specialist (a) **301a**

DNS Specialist **302**

ASM Specialist **303**

APM Specialist **304**

Future Exams



Administrator

TMOS Administration **201**

Future Exams

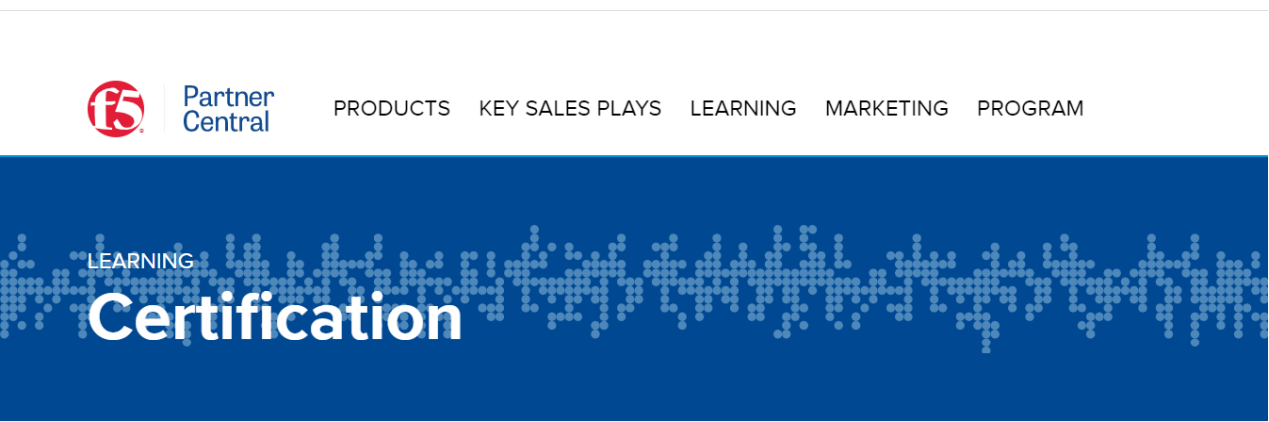
Pre-Sales Fundamentals **202**

Application Delivery Fundamentals **101**



Sales Professional

101—Application Delivery Fundamental Exam Blueprint



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101 - Application Delivery Fundamental EXAM BLUEPRINT

ABOUT THE 101-APPLICATION DELIVERY FUNDAMENTALS EXAM.
The 101-Application Delivery Fundamentals exam is the first exam required to achieve Certified F5 BIG-IP Administrator status.

Successful completion of the 101-Application Delivery Fundamentals exam acknowledges the skills and understanding necessary for day-to-day management of Application Delivery Networks (ADNs).

WHAT IS THE 101-APPLICATION DELIVERY FUNDAMENTALS EXAM BLUEPRINT?
F5 Certified! exam blueprints list all the objectives an exam has to measure, much like a syllabus for the exam itself. Blueprints provide a detailed breakdown of the skills and knowledge a candidate should have to pass the exam. Blueprints can be used to identify areas for additional study, and are best used in conjunction with the Exam Study Guides.

PREREQUISITES:
None

CREDENTIAL AWARDED:
None (prerequisite to the TMOS Administration exam)

THIS EXAM IS BASED ON V13.1





Exam Structure

F5 301a exam—LTM Architect, Setup, and Deploy

- TMOS 14.1
- Multiple choice (there are NO true/false questions!)
- Not adaptive
- 80 questions in 90 mins
 - Non-native English-speaking students can have an additional 30 minutes if they request it
- No command line engines (although you will have to know a few TMSH commands)
- View whole exhibit before you close it (attachments)
- Manage your time!
- You can flag, review, and re-answer questions (within the 90-minute test limit!)
- *Secure Sauce (exam tips) at the end of the presentation!

F5 exams: multiple-attempt rules

- ① After first failure, you must wait 15 days to re-test
- ② After second failure, you must wait 30 days to re-test
- ③ After third failure, you must wait 45 days to re-test
- ④ After fourth failure, you must wait 1 calendar year to re-test
- ⑤ 5th and subsequent failed attempts, you must wait 90 days

F5 301a v14.1 certification prep

Before you ask. Yes, the slides are available for you to review.

A PDF copy of this slide deck with notes can be found on Partner Central in the Technical Hub under Technical Certification:

[This is a direct link to the PDF](#)

K70671013: BIG-IP LTM-DNS operations guide

- The current study guide for the 301a is based on v11.4 and has not been updated, though most of the information remains the same. But I strongly recommend you review the above article. You will also see many links from the following manuals:
- Manual: BIG-IP Local Traffic Management: Basics

<https://techdocs.f5.com/en-us/bigip-14-1-0/big-ip-local-traffic-management-basics-14-1-0.html>

- Manual: BIG-IP TMOS: Routing Administration

<https://techdocs.f5.com/en-us/bigip-14-1-0/big-ip-tmos-routing-administration-14-1-0.html>

Architect and Deploy Applications

1.01

Determine which configuration objects are necessary to optimally deploy an application

- Determine least amount of configuration objects needed to deploy application
- Understand dependencies of configuration objects
- Understand needed LTM profiles to deploy an application
- Identify unnecessary configurations objects
- Understand the differences between virtual servers and virtual addresses

Topic Resources

- https://techdocs.f5.com/kb/en-us/products/big-ip_ltm/manuals/product/tmos-routing-administration-13-1-0.html
- [Manual Chapter: Interfaces](#)
- <https://clouddocs.f5.com/cli/tmsh-reference/v13/> with link to Full [TMSH Reference Guide](#) PDF
- [Manual Chapter: Trunks](#)
- [Manual Chapter: VLANs VLAN Groups and VXLAN](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Self IP Addresses](#)

1.02

Determine whether an application can be deployed with only the LTM module provisioned

- Identify the functionality of LTM configuration objects
- Identify LTM profile settings to deploy an application
- Determine capabilities of LTM configuration objects

Topic Resources

- https://techdocs.f5.com/kb/en-us/products/big-ip_ltm/manuals/product/tmos-routing-administration-13-1-0.html
- [Manual Chapter: Interfaces](#)
- <https://clouddocs.f5.com/cli/tmsh-reference/v13/> with link to Full [TMSH Reference Guide](#) PDF
- [Manual Chapter: Trunks](#)
- [Manual Chapter: VLANs VLAN Groups and VXLAN](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Self IP Addresses](#)

1.03

Identify the difference between deployments (e.g., one arm, two arm, npath, Direct Server Return (DSR))

- Identify configuration objects needed for L2/L3 nPath routing
- Determine how the IP address changes when using DSR
- Determine how IP addresses change when using a full proxy deployment
- Plan the network considerations for one arm and two arm deployments
- Understand the importance of auto last-hop

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: NATS and SNATs](#)
- [K7336: The SNAT Automap and self IP address selection](#)
- [K7820: Overview of SNAT features](#)
- [K8246: How the BIG-IP system handles SNAT port exhaustion](#)
- [K9038: The order of precedence for local traffic object listeners](#)
- [K14800: Order of precedence for virtual server matching \(11.3.0 and later\)](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Setting Connection Limits](#)
 - [-K8457: Connection limits for a CMP system are enforced per TMM instance](#)
- [Manual: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

1.04

Choose correct profiles and settings to fit application requirements

- Identify LTM profile settings to deploy OneConnect
- Determine which profiles are needed to deploy an application
- Compare and contrast different communication protocols (TCP, UDP, FastL4)
- Compare performance impact of LTM profile settings

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: NATS and SNATs](#)
- [K7336: The SNAT Automap and self IP address selection](#)
- [K7820: Overview of SNAT features](#)
- [K8246: How the BIG-IP system handles SNAT port exhaustion](#)
- [K9038: The order of precedence for local traffic object listeners](#)
- [K14800: Order of precedence for virtual server matching \(11.3.0 and later\)](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Setting Connection Limits](#)
 - [K8457: Connection limits for a CMP system are enforced per TMM instance](#)
- [Manual: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

1.05

Choose virtual server type and load balancing type to fit application requirements

- Determine the difference between L2-L3 virtual servers
- Compare and contrast standard and Fast L4 virtual server types
- Compare and contrast different load balancing methods
- Identify different load balancing method use cases

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: NATS and SNATs](#)
- [K7336: The SNAT Automap and self IP address selection](#)
- [K7820: Overview of SNAT features](#)
- [K8246: How the BIG-IP system handles SNAT port exhaustion](#)
- [K9038: The order of precedence for local traffic object listeners](#)
- [K14800: Order of precedence for virtual server matching \(11.3.0 and later\)](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Setting Connection Limits](#)
 - [K8457: Connection limits for a CMP system are enforced per TMM instance](#)
- [Manual: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

1.06

Determine how to architect and deploy multi-tier applications using LTM technology

- Understand connection-based architecture and when/how to apply SNAT/persistence/SSL settings in a multi-tiered environment
- Identify which device handles specific configuration objects in a multi-tiered deployment

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: NATS and SNATs](#)
- [K7336: The SNAT Automap and self IP address selection](#)
- [K7820: Overview of SNAT features](#)
- [K8246: How the BIG-IP system handles SNAT port exhaustion](#)
- [K9038: The order of precedence for local traffic object listeners](#)
- [K14800: Order of precedence for virtual server matching \(11.3.0 and later\)](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Setting Connection Limits](#)
 - [K8457: Connection limits for a CMP system are enforced per TMM instance](#)
- [Manual: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

1.07

Distinguish between packet-based versus connection-based load balancing

- Demonstrate when to use packet-based load balancing
- Demonstrate when to use connection-based load balancing

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: NATS and SNATs](#)
- [K7336: The SNAT Automap and self IP address selection](#)
- [K7820: Overview of SNAT features](#)
- [K8246: How the BIG-IP system handles SNAT port exhaustion](#)
- [K9038: The order of precedence for local traffic object listeners](#)
- [K14800: Order of precedence for virtual server matching \(11.3.0 and later\)](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Setting Connection Limits](#)
 - [K8457: Connection limits for a CMP system are enforced per TMM instance](#)
- [Manual: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

1.08

Determine which configuration objects are necessary for applications that need the original client IP address

- Determine when SNAT is required
- Determine the required SNAT type
- Identify functions of X-forwarded-for
- Outline the steps needed to return the traffic to LTM without SNAT

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: NATS and SNATs](#)
- [K7336: The SNAT Automap and self IP address selection](#)
- [K7820: Overview of SNAT features](#)
- [K8246: How the BIG-IP system handles SNAT port exhaustion](#)
- [K9038: The order of precedence for local traffic object listeners](#)
- [K14800: Order of precedence for virtual server matching \(11.3.0 and later\)](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Setting Connection Limits](#)
 - [K8457: Connection limits for a CMP system are enforced per TMM instance](#)
- [Manual: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

1.09

Identify the matching order of multiple virtual servers

- Identify which virtual server would process particular traffic
- Identify why the virtual server fails to receive traffic

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: NATS and SNATs](#)
- [K7336: The SNAT Automap and self IP address selection](#)
- [K7820: Overview of SNAT features](#)
- [K8246: How the BIG-IP system handles SNAT port exhaustion](#)
- [K9038: The order of precedence for local traffic object listeners](#)
- [K14800: Order of precedence for virtual server matching \(11.3.0 and later\)](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Setting Connection Limits](#)
 - [K8457: Connection limits for a CMP system are enforced per TMM instance](#)
- [Manual: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

1.10

Given a basic iRule's functionality, determine the profiles and configuration options necessary to implement the iRule

- Determine what virtual server profile is necessary
- Determine when persistence profile is necessary

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: NATS and SNATs](#)
- [K7336: The SNAT Automap and self IP address selection](#)
- [K7820: Overview of SNAT features](#)
- [K8246: How the BIG-IP system handles SNAT port exhaustion](#)
- [K9038: The order of precedence for local traffic object listeners](#)
- [K14800: Order of precedence for virtual server matching \(11.3.0 and later\)](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Setting Connection Limits](#)
 - [K8457: Connection limits for a CMP system are enforced per TMM instance](#)
- [Manual: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

1.11

Describe how to deploy applications using iApp templates

- Identify when an iApp is appropriate
- Recognize how to modify an application deployed with an iApp
- Identify objects created by an iApp

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: NATS and SNATs](#)
- [K7336: The SNAT Automap and self IP address selection](#)
- [K7820: Overview of SNAT features](#)
- [K8246: How the BIG-IP system handles SNAT port exhaustion](#)
- [K9038: The order of precedence for local traffic object listeners](#)
- [K14800: Order of precedence for virtual server matching \(11.3.0 and later\)](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Setting Connection Limits](#)
 - [K8457: Connection limits for a CMP system are enforced per TMM instance](#)
- [Manual: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

Set Up, Administer, and Secure LTM Devices

2.01

Determine how to secure Self IPs

- Identify which administrative services need to be accessible
- Identify which configurations objects are allowing accessibility
- Identify which services must be enabled for HA availability between devices

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: Virtual Servers](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

2.02

Determine how to secure virtual servers

- Determine how to limit access to virtual servers
- Compare and contrast different virtual server types
- Identify LTM profiles setting to limit access to virtual server resources

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: Virtual Servers](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

2.03

Determine how to perform basic device configuration

- Identify how to synch time/date amongst LTM devices
- Determine how to limit administrative access to LTM device (GUI/CLI)
- Identify how to restrict access to administrative partitions

3.09 Show proper configuration for: DNS, NTP, SNMP, syslog

[Manual Chapter: General Configuration Properties](#)

- DNS Lookup Server List enables users to use the following for accessing virtual servers, nodes, or other network objects:
 - IP addresses
 - host names
 - fully-qualified domain names (FQDNs)
- The DNS Search Domain List enables BIG-IP to search for local domain lookups to resolve local host names.
- Additionally, you can manually configure the BIND Forwarder Server List that provides DNS resolution for servers and other equipment load-balanced by the BIG-IP system (for the servers that the BIG-IP system uses for DNS proxy services).

The screenshot shows the 'System >> Configuration : Device : DNS' page. It features a navigation bar with tabs for 'Device', 'Local Traffic', 'AWS', 'OVSDb', and 'App IQ'. The 'Device' tab is active. Below the navigation bar, the 'Properties' section contains four main configuration areas:

- DNS Lookup Server List:** Includes an 'Address' input field, an 'Add' button, a list box containing '10.1.1.2', and buttons for 'Edit', 'Delete', 'Up', and 'Down'.
- BIND Forwarder Server List:** Includes an 'Address' input field, an 'Add' button, an empty list box, and buttons for 'Edit', 'Delete', 'Up', and 'Down'.
- DNS Search Domain List:** Includes an 'Address' input field, an 'Add' button, a list box containing 'localhost', and buttons for 'Edit', 'Delete', 'Up', and 'Down'.
- DNS Cache:** A checkbox that is currently unchecked.
- IP Version:** A dropdown menu set to 'IPv4'.

An 'Update' button is located at the bottom of the configuration area.

3.09 Show proper configuration for: DNS, NTP, SNMP, syslog

[Manual Chapter: General Configuration Properties](#)

[K13380: Configuring the BIG-IP system to use an NTP server from the command line \(11.x - 13.x\)](#)

NTP is essential for:

- Device Service Clusters
- Configsync
- Logging

The screenshot shows the F5 BIG-IP configuration interface for NTP settings. The breadcrumb trail at the top reads "System >> Configuration : Device : NTP". Below this is a navigation bar with tabs: "Device" (selected), "Local Traffic", "AWS", "OVSD", and "App IQ". The main section is titled "Properties" and contains a "Time Server List" table. To the right of the table is an "Address:" input field with an "Add" button below it. The table currently contains one entry, "pool.ntp.org". At the bottom right of the table are "Edit" and "Delete" buttons. An "Update" button is located at the bottom left of the configuration area.

Time Server List
pool.ntp.org

3.09 Show proper configuration for: DNS, NTP, SNMP, syslog

Manual Chapter: Monitoring BIG-IP System Traffic with SNMP

- BIG-IP SNMP agent configuration
 - The primary tasks in configuring the SNMP agent are configuring client access to the SNMP agent and controlling access to SNMP data
- Task Summary
 - Specify SNMP administrator contact information and system location information
 - Configure SNMP manager access to the SNMP agent on the BIG-IP system
 - Grant community access to v1 or v2c SNMP data
 - Grant user access to v3 SNMP data

The screenshot shows the 'System >> SNMP : Agent : Configuration' page. It features two tabs: 'Agent' and 'Traps'. The 'Agent' tab is active, showing a 'Global' section with 'Configuration', 'Access (v1, v2c)', and 'Access (v3)' options. The 'Traps' tab is also visible, showing 'Configuration' and 'Destination' options. Below these, there are input fields for 'Customer Name <admin@customer.com>' and 'Machine Location' (set to 'Network Closet 1'). The 'SNMP Access' section includes a 'Client Allow List' table and a form to add new entries. The form has a 'Type' dropdown set to 'Host', an 'Address' input field, and an 'Add' button. Below the input field, a list shows '127.0.0.0 / 8'. At the bottom of the list are 'Edit' and 'Delete' buttons. An 'Update' button is located at the bottom left of the page.

Client Allow List
127.0.0.0 / 8

3.09 Show proper configuration for: DNS, NTP, SNMP, syslog

[Manual Chapter: Monitoring BIG-IP System Traffic with SNMP](#)

- SNMP trap configuration
 - Configuring SNMP traps on a BIG-IP system means configuring how the BIG-IP system handles traps, as well as setting the destination to which the notifications are sent
- The BIG-IP system stores SNMP traps in two specific files:
 - /etc/alertd/alert.conf - contains default SNMP traps
 - Important: Do not add or remove traps from the /etc/alertd/alert.conf file
 - /config/user_alert.conf - contains user-defined SNMP traps
- Task Summary
 - Enabling traps for specific events
 - Setting v1 and v2c trap destinations
 - Setting v3 trap destinations

The screenshot shows the 'System >> SNMP : Agent : Configuration' page. It features a navigation menu with 'Agent' and 'Traps' tabs. Under 'Agent', there are options for 'Configuration', 'Access (v1, v2c)', and 'Access (v3)'. Under 'Traps', there are options for 'Configuration' and 'Destination'. The 'Configuration' tab is selected. The 'Global' section includes fields for 'Customer Name' (set to '<admin@customer.com>') and 'Machine Location' (set to 'Network Closet 1'). The 'SNMP Access' section has a 'Type' dropdown set to 'Host' and a 'Network' option. Below this is an 'Address' field and an 'Add' button. A list box shows '127.0.0.0 / 8'. At the bottom of the list box are 'Edit' and 'Delete' buttons. An 'Update' button is at the bottom of the page.

System >> **SNMP : Agent : Configuration**

Agent Traps

Configuration Configuration

Access (v1, v2c) Destination

Access (v3)

Customer Name <admin@customer.com>

Machine Location Network Closet 1

SNMP Access

Type: ☒ Host ☐ Network

Address:

Add

127.0.0.0 / 8

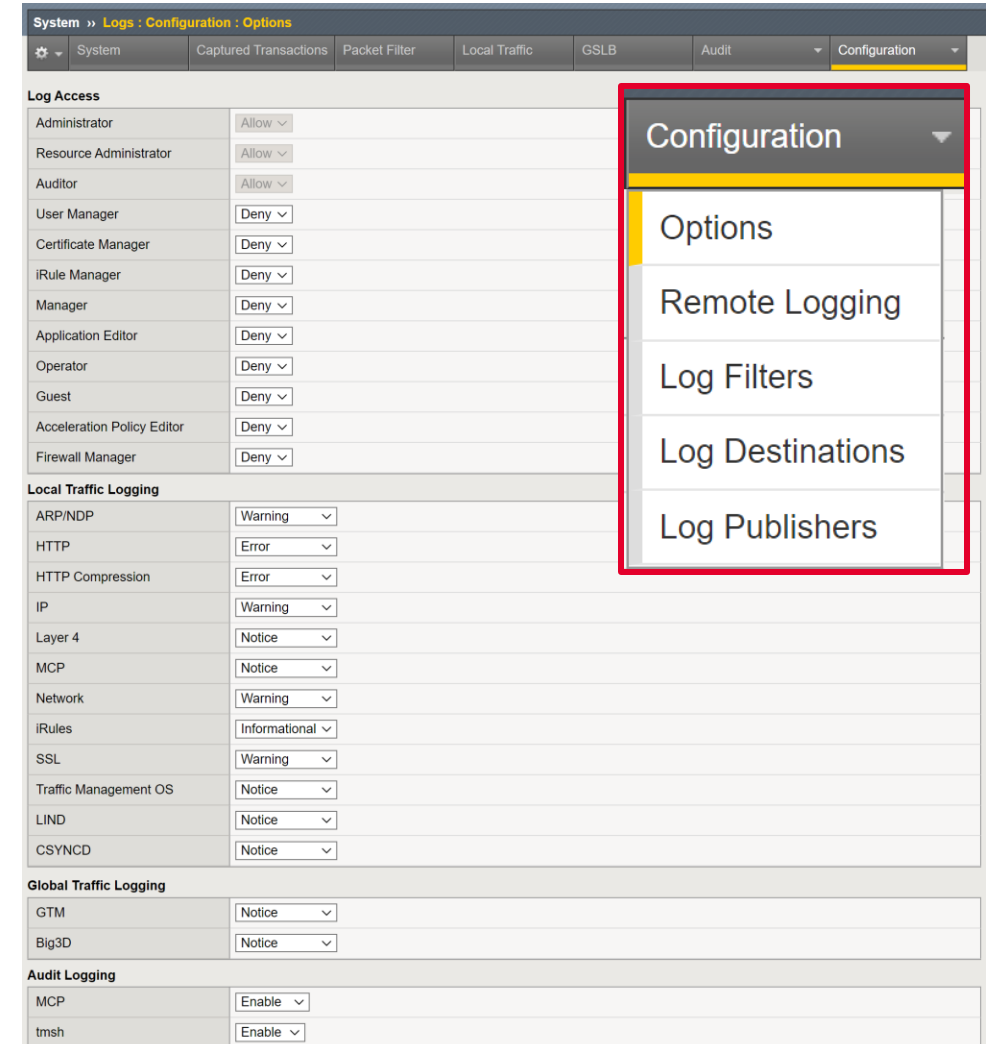
Edit Delete

Update

3.09 Show proper configuration for: DNS, NTP, SNMP, syslog

[Manual Chapter: About Logging](#)

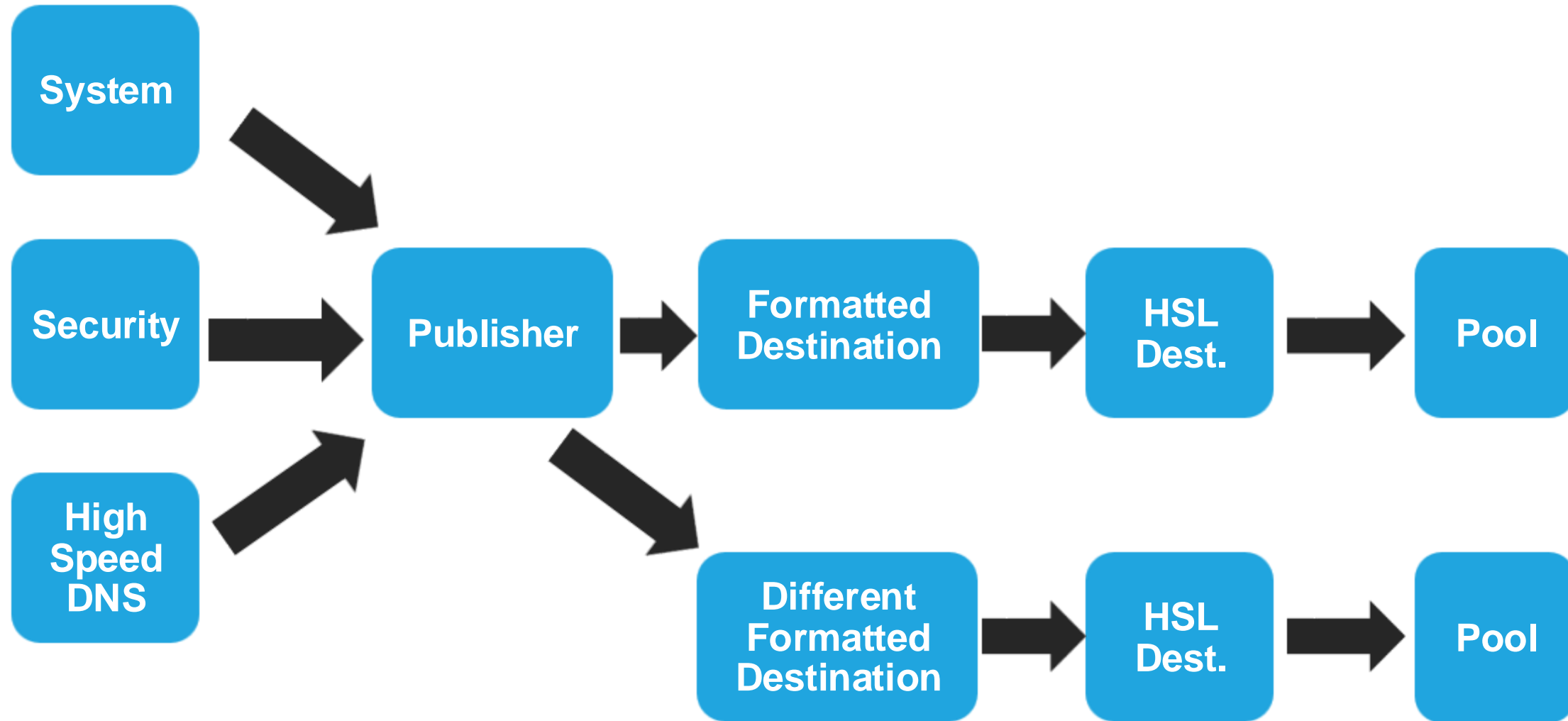
- Log Destinations
 - The High-Speed Logging (HSL) or Unformatted destination
 - Defines the protocol to use (UDP or TCP)
 - Defines the server pool the log message will go to
- The Formatted destination defines the format of the messages being sent
 - There are two parts to a Destination
 - Where a message is going: HSL Destination
 - What the message looks like: Formatted Destination
- Publisher
 - A Publisher is a collection of Formatted Destinations



Remote Logging Steps

1. Create a Pool of logging server(s)
2. Create an HSL Destination (define the protocol TCP/UDP and Pool)
3. Create a Formatted Destination (define format ie. syslog, arcsight)
4. Create a Publisher
5. Logging Application Steps (varies by application)
 - System Logging
 - Linux host daemons, etc.
 - Uses filters
 - Security Logging
 - Advanced Firewall Manager, DNS Firewall, Protocol Security Module and the Applications Security Manager
 - Uses Security Logging Profile
 - High Speed DNS Query Logging
 - Uses Security Logging Profile

Logging Overview



tmm_filter (aka System Logging filter)

- Under System > Logs > Configuration > Log Filters
- Can create custom filters
 - Name
 - Description (optional)
 - Severity
 - Default is Debug
- Source
 - List of processes
 - Defaults to all
- Message ID
- Log Publisher

System » Logs : Configuration : Log Filters » tmm_filter

Properties

General Properties

Name	tmm_filter
Partition / Path	Common
Description	

Configuration

Severity	Debug
Source	all
Message ID	
Log Publisher	None

Update Delete...

Tools for testing—DNS, NTP, SNMP, SYSLOG

DNS

- You should know to use and interpret the results of the dig utility

NTP

- [K10240: Verifying NTP peer server communications](#)

SNMP

- There is a test snmp button on the configuration page

Good old tcpdump

Show services

- tmsh show service <service> or tmsh show service (shows all services)
- From the linux prompt: bigstart status

3.03 Identify the configured management—IP address

GUI

System » Platform

Configuration

General Properties

Management Port Configuration	<input type="radio"/> Automatic (DHCP) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Manual	
Management Port	IP Address[/prefix]:	10.1.1.4
	Network Mask:	255.255.255.0 255.255.255.0 ▼
	Management Route:	10.1.1.2
Host Name	bigip01.f5demo.com	
Host IP Address	Use Management Port IP Address ▼	
Time Zone	America/Los Angeles ▼	

```
Configure IP Address
x Use automatic configuration of IP address?
x
x Current IP Address: 10.1.1.4
x Current Netmask: 255.255.255.0
x Default Route: 10.1.1.2
x
x < Yes > < No >
x
```

TMSH

```
tmos)# list sys management-ip
sys management-ip 10.1.1.4/24 {
    description configured-statically
}
```

“config” utility at the linux prompt

3.03 Identify SSH access list to management—IP address

[K13309: Restricting access to the Configuration utility by source IP address \(11.x - 16.x\)](#)

System » Platform

Configuration

General Properties

Management Port Configuration ☐ Automatic (DHCP) ☒ Manual

Management Port

IP Address[/prefix]: 10.1.1.4

Network Mask: 255.255.255.0 255.255.255.0 ▼

Management Route: 10.1.1.2

Host Name: bigip01.f5demo.com

Host IP Address: Use Management Port IP Address ▼

Time Zone: America/Los Angeles ▼

Redundant Device Properties

Root Folder Device Group: bigip-dsc (Sync-Failover)

Root Folder Traffic Group: traffic-group-1 ▼

User Administration

Root Account

☐ Disable login

Password: *****

Confirm: *****

Admin Account

Password: *****

Confirm: *****

SSH Access: ☒ Enabled

SSH IP Allow: Specify Range... ▼

* All Addresses

Specify Range...

Update

To add to the allow list:

- modify /sys sshd allow add { <IP address or IP address range> }

To replace the list

- modify /sys sshd replace-all-with {<IP address or IP address range>}

Default is:

```
(tmsh)# list sys sshd allow
sys sshd {
    allow { All }
}
```

Save the change by entering the following command:

- save /sys config

3.03 Identify HTTP access list to management—IP address

[K13309: Restricting access to the Configuration utility by source IP address \(11.x - 16.x\)](#)

To add to the allow list:

- `modify /sys httpd allow add { <IP address or IP address range> }`

To replace the list:

- `modify /sys httpd replace-all-with {<IP address or IP address range>}`

Default is:

```
(tmos)# list sys httpd
allow
sys httpd {
    allow { All }
}
```

Save the change by entering the following command:

- `save /sys config`

3.03 Show remote connectivity to the BIG-IP Management interface

You connect to the Management interface:

- GUI over HTTPS (port 443)
- Terminal via SSH (port 22)

By default, these ports are open on the OOB Manage IP.

You can also connect to the management interfaces via a self IP address:

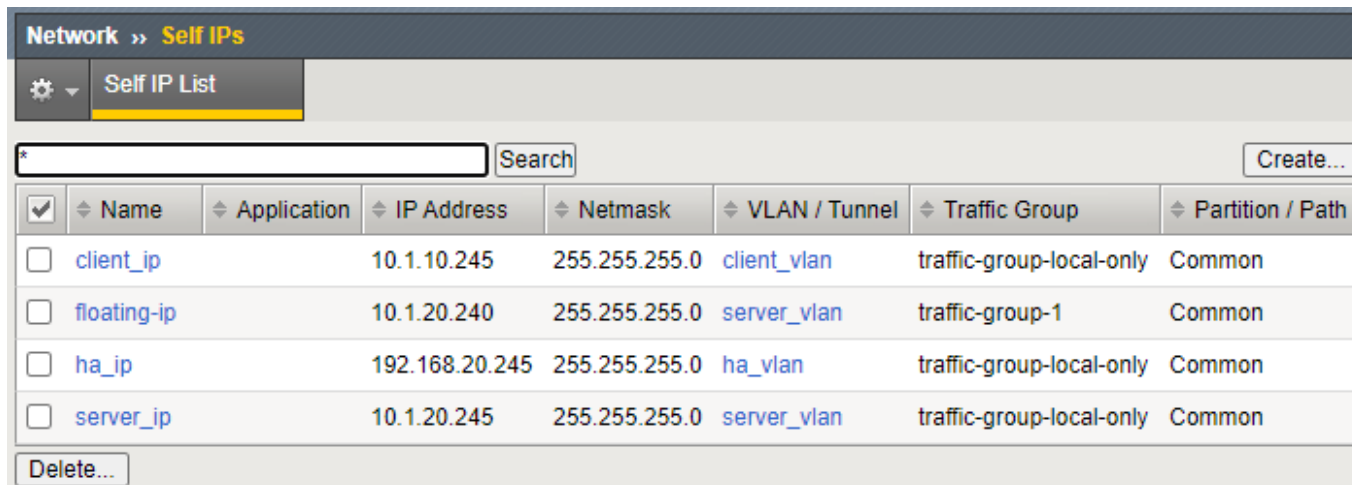
- You must modify the default port lockdown of “None”
- You should never open management interfaces to the internet

3.03 Interpret port lockdown settings to Self-IP

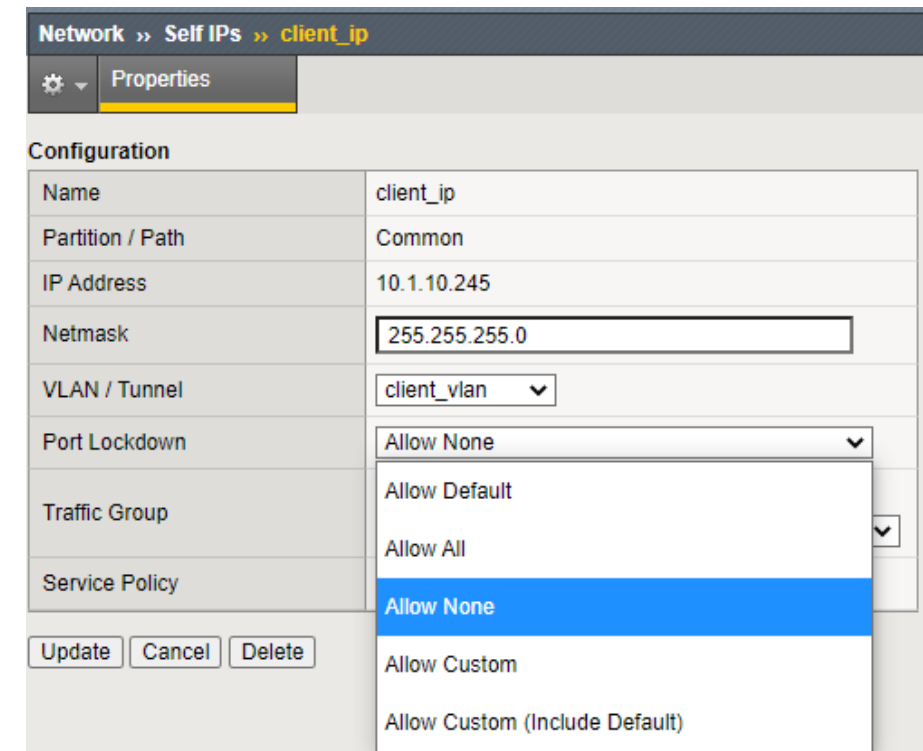
Port Lockdown determines which ports a self IP address will respond to

- By default, Port Lockdown is none, the self IP only responds to ICMP

Port Lockdown settings can be modified to allow other traffic, such as, port 443 or 22 for management



	Name	Application	IP Address	Netmask	VLAN / Tunnel	Traffic Group	Partition / Path
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	client_ip		10.1.10.245	255.255.255.0	client_vlan	traffic-group-local-only	Common
<input type="checkbox"/>	floating-ip		10.1.20.240	255.255.255.0	server_vlan	traffic-group-1	Common
<input type="checkbox"/>	ha_ip		192.168.20.245	255.255.255.0	ha_vlan	traffic-group-local-only	Common
<input type="checkbox"/>	server_ip		10.1.20.245	255.255.255.0	server_vlan	traffic-group-local-only	Common



Name	client_ip
Partition / Path	Common
IP Address	10.1.10.245
Netmask	255.255.255.0
VLAN / Tunnel	client_vlan
Port Lockdown	Allow None
Traffic Group	
Service Policy	

3.03 Interpret port lockdown settings to Self-IP

You can select “Allow Default” which opens the following:

- ospf:any
- tcp:domain (53)
- tcp:f5-iquery (4353)
- tcp:https (443)
- tcp:snmp (161)
- tcp:ssh (22)
- udp:520
- udp:cap (1026 - for network failover)
- udp:domain (53)
- udp:f5-iquery (4353)
- udp:snmp (161)

Or you can select custom ports to open

Configuration	
Name	client_ip
Partition / Path	Common
IP Address	10.1.10.245
Netmask	<input type="text" value="255.255.255.0"/>
VLAN / Tunnel	<input type="text" value="client_vlan"/>
Port Lockdown	<input type="text" value="Allow Custom"/>
Custom List	<input checked="" type="radio"/> TCP <input type="radio"/> UDP <input type="radio"/> Protocol:
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> All <input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> Port: <input type="button" value="Add"/>
	<div><div>TCP</div><div>22 443</div></div> <div><div>UDP</div><div></div></div> <div><div>Protocol</div><div></div></div>
	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
Traffic Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Inherit traffic group from current partition / path <input type="text" value="traffic-group-local-only (non-floating)"/>
Service Policy	<input type="text" value="None"/>

```
list net self
net self client_ip {
    address
    10.1.10.245/24
    allow-service {
        tcp:ssh
        tcp:https
    }
}
```

3.03 Identify SSH access list to management—IP address

[K13309: Restricting access to the Configuration utility by source IP address \(11.x - 16.x\)](#)

The screenshot shows the F5 Configuration utility interface. At the top, there's a breadcrumb 'System » Platform' and a 'Configuration' tab. Below this, the 'General Properties' section is active, showing 'Management Port Configuration' with 'Automatic (DHCP)' and 'Manual' radio buttons. The 'Manual' option is selected. Fields for 'IP Address[/prefix]:', 'Network Mask:', and 'Management Route:' are visible. Below these are fields for 'Host Name', 'Host IP Address', and 'Time Zone'. The 'Redundant Device Properties' section shows 'Root Folder Device Group' and 'Root Folder Traffic Group'. The 'User Administration' section is at the bottom, with fields for 'Root Account' and 'Admin Account' passwords, and a checkbox for 'SSH Access' which is checked. The 'SSH IP Allow' field has a dropdown menu open, showing options like '* All Addresses' and 'Specify Range...'. An 'Update' button is at the bottom left.

To add to the allow list:

- modify /sys sshd allow add { <IP address or IP address range> }
 - Range uses space ie. {10.1.1.1 10.1.1.10}

To replace the list:

- modify /sys sshd replace-all-with {<IP address or IP address range>}

Default is:

```
(tmos)# list sys sshd allow
sys sshd {
    allow { All }
}
```

Save the change by entering the following command:

- save /sys config

3.03 Identify HTTP access list to management—IP address

[K13309: Restricting access to the Configuration utility by source IP address \(11.x - 16.x\)](#)

To add to the allow list:

- modify /sys httpd allow add { <IP address or IP address range> }

To replace the list

- modify /sys httpd replace-all-with {<IP address or IP address range>}

Default is:

```
(tmos)# list sys httpd
allow
sys httpd {
    allow { All }
}
```

Save the change by entering the following command:

- save /sys config

Restricting access to management ports on Self IPs

(src host 192.168.13.139 or src net 11.1.1.0/24)

The image shows two overlapping screenshots of the F5 Network Manager interface. The background screenshot shows the 'General' tab of the 'Packet Filters' configuration for a rule named 'bad_block'. The foreground screenshot shows the 'Properties' tab of the same rule.

General Tab (Background):

- Properties:**
 - Packet Filtering: Enabled
 - Unhandled Packet Action: Accept
 - Options:
 - ☐ Filter established connections
 - ☐ Send ICMP error on packet reject
- Exemptions:**
 - Protocols:
 - ☒ Always accept ARP
 - ☒ Always accept important ICMP
 - MAC Addresses: None
 - IP Addresses: None
 - VLANs: None

Properties Tab (Foreground):

- Configuration:**
 - Name: bad_block
 - Order: Last
 - Action: Continue
 - Rate Class: None
 - Bandwidth Controller: None
 - VLAN / Tunnel: * All
 - Logging: Disabled
- Filter Expression:**

```
( src host 192.168.13.139 or src net 11.1.1.0/24 )
```

Packet Filtering

Disabled by default, but once you enable

Network » Packet Filters : General

⚙️

General

Rules

Statistics

Properties

Packet Filtering	Enabled ▾
Unhandled Packet Action	Accept ▾
Options	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Filter established connections</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Send ICMP error on packet reject</div>

Exemptions

Protocols	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Always accept ARP</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Always accept important ICMP</div>
MAC Addresses	None ▾
IP Addresses	None ▾
VLANs	None ▾

Network » Packet Filters : Rules » New Packet Filter Rule...

Configuration

Name	
Order	Select... ▾
Action	Accept ▾
Rate Class	None ▾
VLAN / Tunnel	* All ▾
Logging	Disabled ▾

Filter Expression

Filter Expression Method	Build Expression ▾
Protocols	Any ▾
Source Hosts and Networks	Any ▾
Destination Hosts and Networks	Any ▾
Destination Port	Any ▾

3.03 Explain management IP connectivity issue

- If using OOB Management:
 - Is the IP, netmask, and default gateway configured correctly
 - Is the interface up
 - At the Linux prompt: **ifconfig -a mgmt**
- If using a Self IP:
 - Is the IP and netmask configured correctly
 - Are they routable
 - Are the appropriate ports open, 22 for SSH and/or 443 for the GUI interface
 - Are there any packet filters blocking traffic

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: Virtual Servers](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

2.04

Determine how to perform a software upgrade while maintaining application availability

- Identify proper steps to avoid downtime while upgrading LTM software
- Determine necessary steps for migrating LTM configuration to new hardware
- Understand implications of stopping BIG-IP services

YouTube: Updating BIG-IP HA systems with a point release

This video walks you through the steps to upgrade a BIG-IP HA pair:

- 0:13 Part 1: Installing the point release on the first device
 - 0:40 Validating the configuration
 - 1:53 Verifying the service check date
 - 3:23 Synchronizing the configuration
 - 4:32 Creating and saving a UCS archive
 - 5:52 Importing the ISO file
 - 7:05 Verifying the MD5 checksum
 - 7:45 Disabling the "Automatic with Incremental Sync" option
 - 8:30 Installing and rebooting to the new version
 - 14:16 Verifying the new point release version is active on the newly patched system
 - 15:00 Forcing a failover
- 16:20 Part 2: Installing the point release on the next device
 - 16:25 Repeat these steps
 - 16:49 Verifying the new point release version is active on the newly patched system
 - 17:46 Forcing a failover
- 19:25 Part 3: Performing the final ConfigSync



Downloads

Downloads Overview

FAQs

Other Applications

AskF5

BIG-IP iHealth

Licensing Tools

Select a Download

Product: BIG-IP v11.x / Virtual Edition

Version: 11.4.0

Container: 11.4.0

Please select the file you wish to download, make sure you have read the appropriate [Release Notes](#) before attempting to use the file.

Filename	Description	Size
BIGIP-11.4.0.2384.0.iso	BIGIP-11.4.0.2384.0.iso	1476 MB
README-WARNING-SHELLSHOCK.txt	ShellShock vulnerability advisory	376 Bytes
BIGIP-11.4.0.2384.0.iso.md5	MD5 file for BIGIP-11.4.0.2384.0.iso	57 Bytes



3.06 Show currently configured boot location

```
(tmos)# show sys software
-----
Sys::Software Status
Volume  Product    Version  Build  Active  Status
-----
HD1.1   BIG-IP  13.1.3.4  0.0.5   yes  complete
```

```
-----
Sys::Software Update Check
-----
Check Enabled           true
Phonehome Enabled       true
Frequency                weekly
Status                   failure
Errors                   8
```

System » Software Management : Boot Locations						
<div><div>⚙️</div><div>Image List</div><div>Hotfix List</div><div>Boot Locations</div><div>Update Check</div></div>						
Boot Locations						
Status	Default	↕ Boot Location	Product	Version	Build	
Active	Yes	HD1.1	BIG-IP	13.1.3.4	0.0.5	
Inactive	No	HD1.2	BIG-IP	15.1.0.4	0.0.6	



3.06 Demonstrate creating new volume for software images

install sys software image <iso> volume <name>

System » Software Management : Image List

Image List

Hotfix List

Boot Locations

Update Check

Installed Images

Product	Version	Build	Disk	Boot Location	Active	Default Boot	Media	Install Status
BIG-IP	13.1.3.4	0.0.5	HD1	HD1.1	Yes	Yes	hd	complete
BIG-IP	15.1.0.4	0.0.6					hd	complete

Available Images

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Status	Software Image
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BIGIP-13.1.3.4-0.0.5.iso
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BIGIP-15.1.0.4-0.0.6.iso

Delete

Install...

Install Software Image

You are installing BIG-IP version 13.1.3.4 Build 0.0.5

Select Disk:
HD1 (86.2 GB free) ▼

Volume set name:

Type or select a name ▼

Type or select a name

2 (Version:15.1.0.4 Build:0.0.6)

?

Install

Cancel

3.05 Summarize the use case of a UCS backup

[K4423: Overview of UCS archives](#)

- A User Configuration Set (UCS) is a backup file that contains BIG-IP configuration data that can be used to fully restore a BIG-IP system in the event of a failure or Return Materials Authorization (RMA) replacement.
- A UCS archive is a compressed file that contains all of the configuration files that are typically required to restore your current configuration to a new system.
- Contents of the UCS archive file:
 - All BIG-IP-specific configuration files
 - BIG-IP product licenses
 - User accounts and password information
 - Domain Name System (DNS) zone files and the ZoneRunner configuration
 - Secure Socket Layer (SSL) certificates and keys
 - Startup ZebOS configuration

3.05 Summarize the use case of a UCS backup

You should create a UCS archive before operations that modify the configuration.

- You can keep archives locally and/or download/upload archives to/from external sources
- By default, UCS archives are stored in /var/local/ucs

Aside from the obvious, restoring your BIG-IP due to a corrupted/misconfigured configuration, a UCS is used to:

- Restore an RMA
- [Manual Chapter: Migration of Configurations Between Different Platforms](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Migration of Devices Running the Same Software Version](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Migration of Devices Running Different Version Software](#)

3.05 Execute UCS backup and restore procedure

[Manual Chapter: Archives](#)

You can create, delete, restore, upload, and download UCS archives from the GUI interface:

System » Archives

Archive List

Upload...

Create...

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	File Name	Date	Size (Kbytes)
<input type="checkbox"/>	200729-basic-setup.ucs	Wed Jul 29 06:17:00 PDT 2020	2844
<input type="checkbox"/>	200729-bigip01-201-setup-vmws.ucs	Wed Jul 29 08:06:59 PDT 2020	2920
<input type="checkbox"/>	cs_backup.ucs	Wed Jul 29 07:43:34 PDT 2020	2844

Delete...

System » Archives » 200729-basic-setup.ucs

General Properties

File Name	200729-basic-setup.ucs
Version	BIG-IP 13.1.3.4 Build 0.0.5
Encrypted	No
Date	Wed Jul 29 06:17:00 PDT 2020
Size	2844 Kilobytes
Archive File	<div>Download: 200729-basic-setup.ucs</div>

Restore

Delete

System » Archives » New Archive...

General Properties

File Name	<input type="text"/>
Encryption	Disabled
Private Keys	Include
Version	BIG-IP 13.1.3.4 Build 0.0.5

Cancel

Finished

Encryption

Enabled

Passphrase

Verify Passphrase

Private Keys

Include

Exclude

3.05 Execute UCS backup and restore procedure

[Manual Chapter: Archives](#)

You can also create, delete, and restore UCS backups using TMSH, but TMSH has options the GUI doesn't.

- Backup the BIG-IP: `save sys ucs <ucs filename>`
- Restore the BIG-IP: `load sys ucs <ucs filename>`

If you are restoring an RMA or migrating to a new platform you do NOT want to restore the license.

- `load sys ucs <filename> no-license`

If you are migrating platforms, you may not want to restore the base configurations as interfaces may be different.

- On the system you are restoring you would build the base first, interfaces, VLANs, self IPs, etc
- `load sys ucs platform-migrate <filename> no-license`

Other TMSH options

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| • no-platform-check | Bypass platform check. |
| • passphrase | Passphrase for (un)encrypting UCS. |
| • reset-trust | Reset device and trust domain certificates and keys when loading a UCS. |

3.05 Explain proper long-term storage of UCS backup file

Store passwords and passphrases securely

- After you encrypt configuration object passwords or passphrases on any BIG-IP system, another system can only decrypt them (during a tmsh load config operation) by using the same master key.
- F5 recommends that you retain a record of each configuration object password or passphrase in a secure location on a system other than the BIG-IP system that uses the password or passphrase.
 - Doing so makes it possible for you to restore a UCS configuration archive when the original master key is not available.

Store UCS archives securely

- Make sure that you regularly back up the BIG-IP system configuration and maintain the backup UCS archives in a secure manner.
- The preferred way to store UCS archives securely (encrypts the entire UCS file):
 - (tmos) # save sys ucs <ucs name> passphrase <passphrase>

These recommendations can be accomplished via the GUI or TMSH interfaces.

3.05 Explain the contents of the UCS file (private keys)

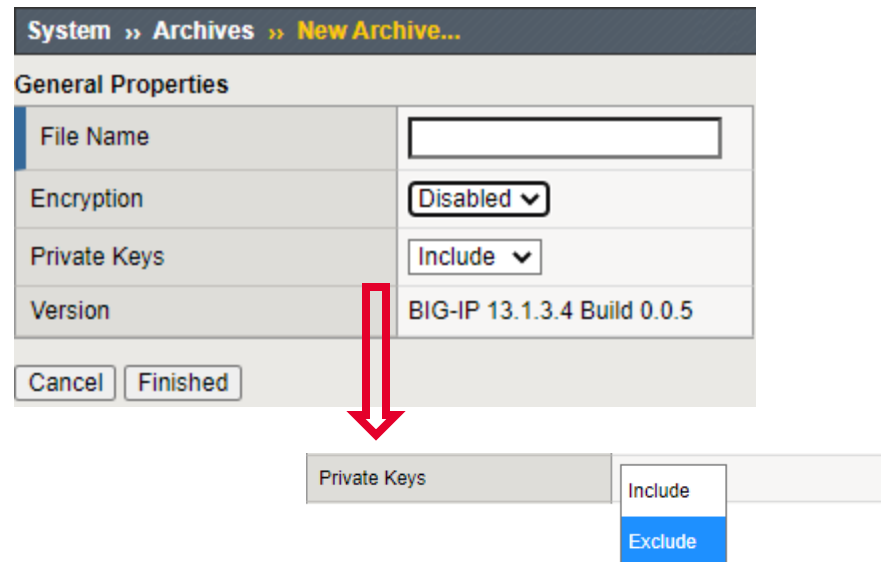
A typical UCS archive contains user accounts, passwords, critical system files, and **SSL private keys**.

- You can explicitly exclude SSL private keys from a UCS archive during the backup process.

From TMSH:

- `save sys ucs test-backup no-private-key`

From the GUI:



The screenshot shows the 'System >> Archives >> New Archive...' dialog box. The 'General Properties' section includes fields for 'File Name', 'Encryption' (set to 'Disabled'), 'Private Keys' (set to 'Include'), and 'Version' (set to 'BIG-IP 13.1.3.4 Build 0.0.5'). Below the 'Private Keys' field, a red arrow points to a secondary dropdown menu. This secondary menu has 'Private Keys' as the label and two options: 'Include' and 'Exclude', with 'Exclude' being the selected option.

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: Virtual Servers](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

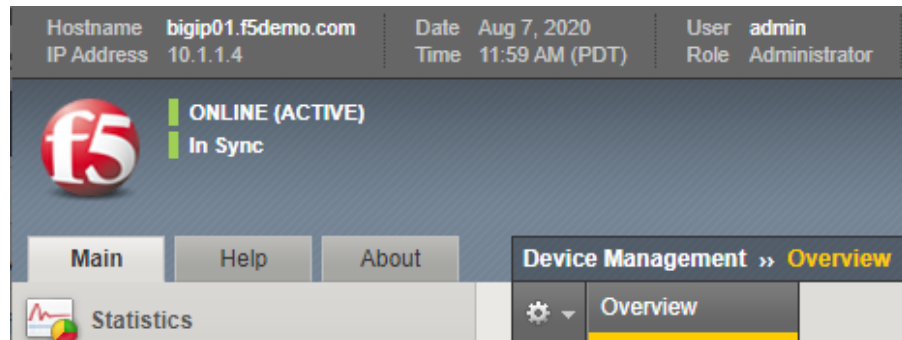
2.05

Determine how to secure Self IPs

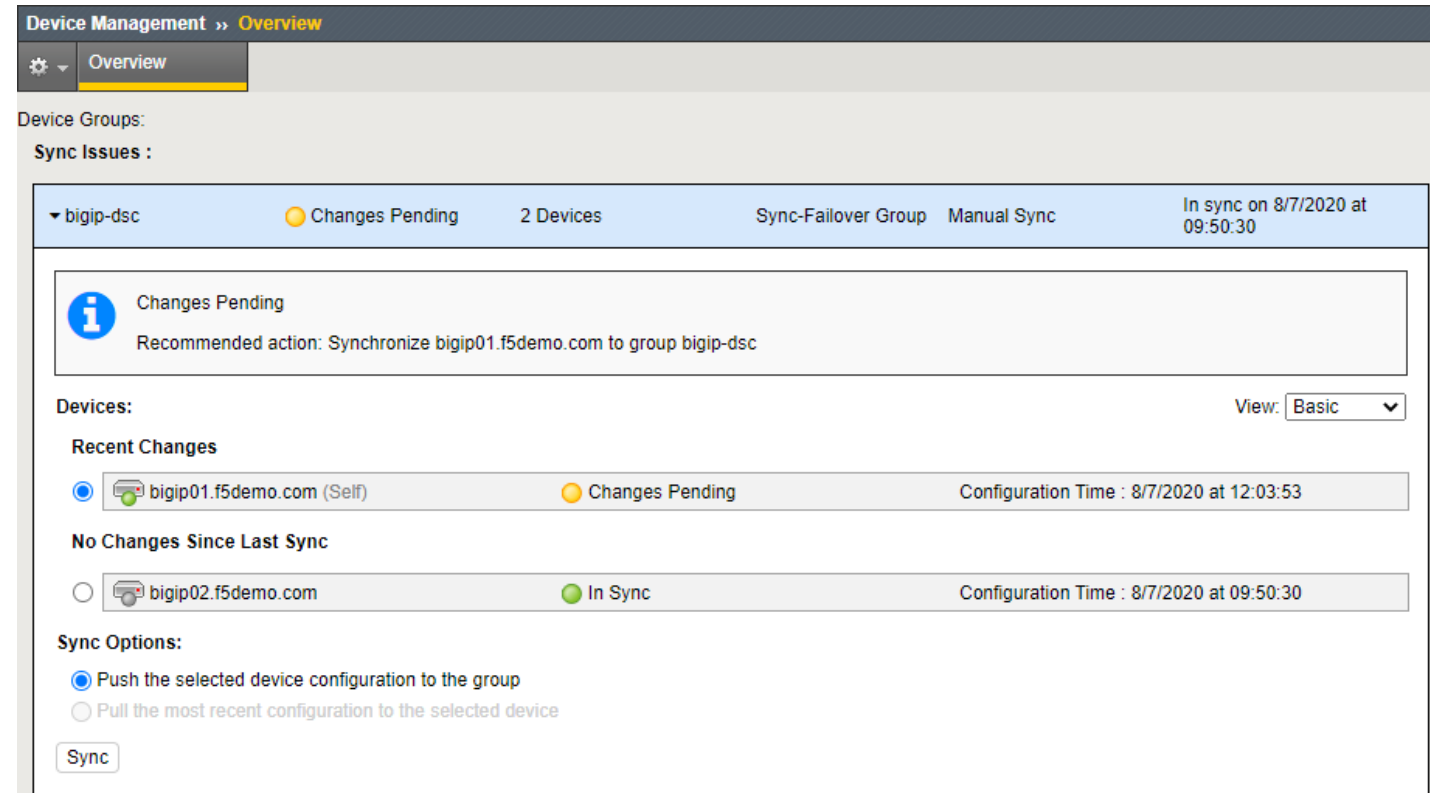
- Compare and contrast traffic groups vs. HA groups
- Determine what prevented an expected failover
- Describe the differences between network failover and hardware failover

3.10 Show config sync status

[Manual Chapter: Managing Configuration Synchronization](#)



By default, syncing a configuration is a manual process



```
[root@bigip01:Active:Changes Pending] config #
```

3.10 Explain when a config sync is necessary

[K39735803: When to perform a manual ConfigSync](#)

- When you make a change to a device in the Device Service Cluster (DSC) and automatic sync is not enabled
- Before you begin a software upgrade of a DSC to ensure all configurations are correctly synchronized
- After you complete a software upgrade for a BIG-IP device group. After all of the BIG-IP devices in the device group are upgraded to the new BIG-IP software version.
 - This recommendation applies to device groups configured to use any ConfigSync option, including the Automatic Sync option.
- You want to migrate a device group member to a new BIG-IP hardware platform.
 - Note: For more information, refer to [K15496: Migrating a device group member to a new BIG-IP hardware platform..](#)
- You want to migrate a BIG-IP configuration to new VIPRION blades.
 - Note: For more information, refer to [K63705154: Migrating a BIG-IP configuration to new VIPRION blades using ConfigSync.](#)
- You are using Automatic Sync, and you want to synchronize changes to device group members and immediately save the running configuration to the configuration files on the peer devices.

3.10 Compare configuration timestamp

[K81160517: Modifying the ConfigSync time threshold](#)

Timestamps can be checked on the status page, switching to Advance will give you more information

Devices: View: Basic ▼

Recent Changes

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	bigip01.f5demo.com (Self)	Changes Pending	Configuration Time : 8/7/2020 at 12:03:53
No Changes Since Last Sync			
<input type="radio"/>	bigip02.f5demo.com	In Sync	Configuration Time : 8/7/2020 at 09:50:30

Devices:

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	bigip01.f5demo.com (Self)	In Sync	Configuration Time : 8/7/2020 at 12:03:53
<input type="radio"/>	bigip02.f5demo.com	In Sync	Configuration Time : 8/7/2020 at 12:03:53

Each device checks the remote device's time against its own system time.

- If the time is not within the ConfigSync time threshold default value of three seconds, the command prompt changes to indicate that the time is out of sync (**Peer Time Out of Sync**), and ConfigSync operations may fail.
- You may have to increase the threshold to rectify the issue.
- This a reason configuring NTP on BIG-IP is so important.
- [K81160517: Modifying the ConfigSync time threshold](#) shows you how to check and rectify the issue.

3.10 Demonstrate config sync procedure (GUI)

[Manual Chapter: Managing Configuration Synchronization](#)

[F5 YouTube: Performing a ConfigSync using the Configuration utility](#) ~2 min

You can Push or Pull a configsync

- You may want a pull if you make changes you regret

The screenshot displays the 'Device Management >> Overview' page. At the top, there's a 'Device Groups' section with a table for 'bigip-dsc'. The table shows 'Changes Pending' for 2 devices, with a 'Manual Sync' button and a sync time of '8/7/2020 at 09:50:30'. Below this, a 'Changes Pending' alert box recommends synchronizing 'bigip01.f5demo.com' to the group. The 'Devices' section lists two devices: 'bigip01.f5demo.com (Self)' with 'Changes Pending' and 'bigip02.f5demo.com' which is 'In Sync'. The 'Sync Options' section at the bottom, highlighted with a red box, offers two choices: 'Push the selected device configuration to the group' (selected) and 'Pull the most recent configuration to the selected device'. A 'Sync' button is located at the bottom of this section.

Device Group	Status	Count	Sync-Failover Group	Manual Sync	In sync on
bigip-dsc	Changes Pending	2 Devices	Sync-Failover Group	Manual Sync	8/7/2020 at 09:50:30

Changes Pending
Recommended action: Synchronize bigip01.f5demo.com to group bigip-dsc

Devices: View: Basic

Recent Changes

Device	Status	Configuration Time
bigip01.f5demo.com (Self)	Changes Pending	8/7/2020 at 12:03:53

No Changes Since Last Sync

Device	Status	Configuration Time
bigip02.f5demo.com	In Sync	8/7/2020 at 09:50:30

Sync Options:

- ☒ Push the selected device configuration to the group
- ☐ Pull the most recent configuration to the selected device

Sync

3.10 Demonstrate config sync procedure (TMSH)

[K14856: Performing a ConfigSync using tmsh](#)

- [F5 YouTube: Performing a ConfigSync using tmsh](#) ~1min
- run /cm config-sync <sync_direction> <sync_group>
- <sync_direction>

force-full-load-push	Sync configuration to the specified device group even if the system would deem this unsafe. This may result in loss of configuration on other devices.
from-group	Sync configuration from specified device group.
recover-sync	Resets the local device configuration and restores trust domain, device, and device-group information to default settings.
to-group	Sync configuration to specified device group.

3.10 Report errors which occur during config sync

K13946: Troubleshooting ConfigSync and device service clustering issues

To troubleshoot the ConfigSync operation, perform the following procedures:

- [Verifying the required elements for ConfigSync/DSC](#)
- [Reviewing common reasons for ConfigSync failures](#) (recommended viewing)
- [Viewing the commit ID updates](#)
- [Verifying a ConfigSync operation](#)
- [Verifying the Sync status](#)
- [Understanding Sync status messages](#) (recommended viewing)
- [Reviewing the log files for ConfigSync error messages](#) (recommended viewing)

3.02

Apply procedural concepts required to manage the state of a high availability pair

- Report current active/standby failover state
- Show device trust status
- Execute force to standby procedure
- Execute force to offline procedure

Before we begin: A little more on Device Service Clusters

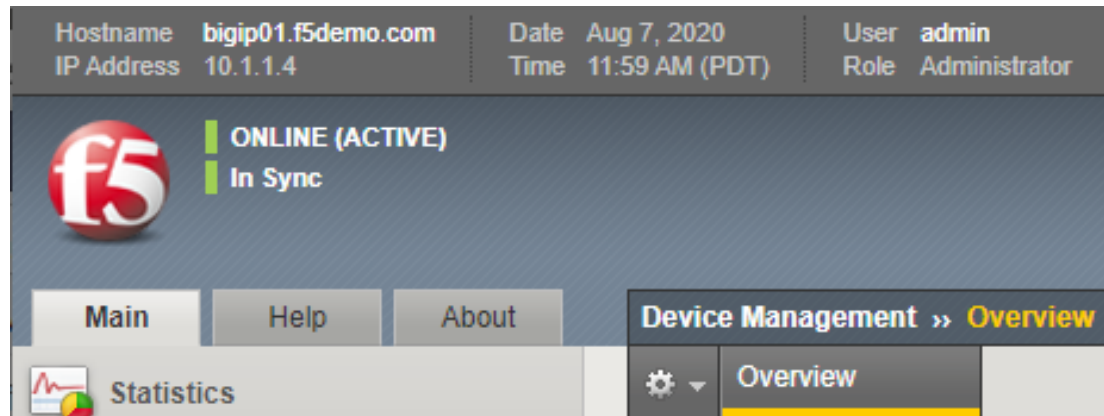
[Manual: BIG-IP Device Service Clustering: Administration](#)

For BIG-IPs to be combined into clusters for high availability, certain things must be configured:

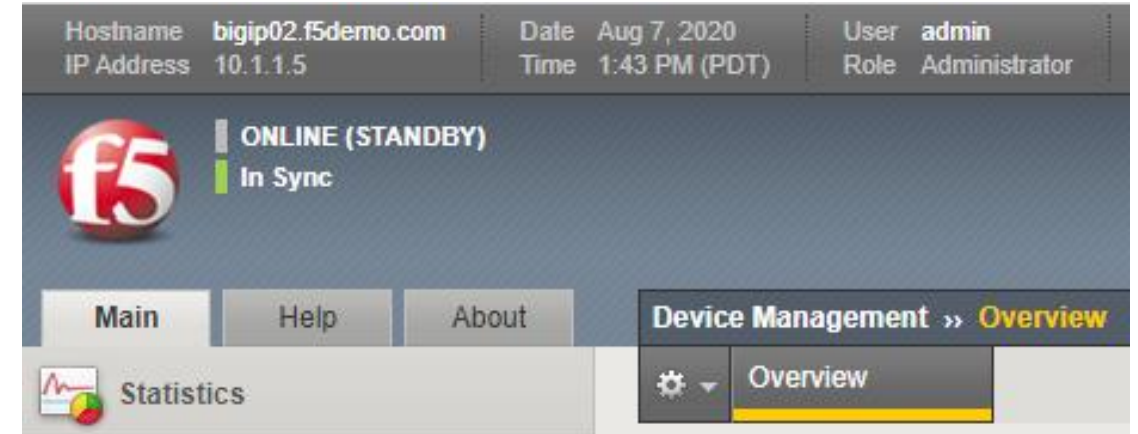
- BIG-IPs must have a valid device certificate
- On the device, IP addressing must be defined for failover
- Devices must be placed into a trust group
- Devices in a trust group and then be placed into a failover group

3.02 Report current active/standby failover state

[Manual: BIG-IP Device Service Clustering: Administration](#)



[root@bigip01:**Active**:In Sync] config #



[root@bigip02:**Standby**:In Sync] config #

Active – there are one of more active traffic groups that can failover

Standby – there are no active traffic groups that can failover

3.02 Show device trust status

Manual Chapter: Managing Device Trust

Device Management » Overview

Overview

Device Groups:

In Sync:

▼ device_trust_group

In Sync

2 Devices

Sync-Only Group

Auto Sync

In sync on 8/5/2020 at 11:53:10

In Sync

All devices are in sync. There are no changes pending.

Devices:

View: Basic

bigip01.f5demo.com (Self)

In Sync

Configuration Time : 8/5/2020 at 11:53:10

bigip02.f5demo.com

In Sync

Configuration Time : 8/5/2020 at 11:53:10

Sync Options:

No sync options are available.

► bigip-dsc

In Sync

2 Devices

Sync-Failover Group

Manual Sync

In sync on 8/7/2020 at 12:03:53

(tmos)# show cm device-group device_trust_group

```
-----
CM::Device-Group
-----
Group Name                device_trust_group
Member Name               bigip01.f5demo.com
Time Since Last Sync (HH:MM:SS)  50:27:21
Last Sync Type            full-load-auto-sync
CID Originator             /Common/bigip02.f5demo.com
CID Time (UTC)            2020-Aug-05 18:53:10
LSS Originator             /Common/bigip02.f5demo.com
LSS Time (UTC)            2020-Aug-05 18:53:10
-----
```

```
-----
CM::Device-Group
-----
Group Name                device_trust_group
Member Name               bigip02.f5demo.com
Time Since Last Sync (HH:MM:SS)  -
Last Sync Type            none
CID Originator             /Common/bigip02.f5demo.com
CID Time (UTC)            2020-Aug-05 18:53:10
LSS Originator             /Common/bigip02.f5demo.com
LSS Time (UTC)            2020-Aug-05 18:53:10
-----
```



3.02 Execute force to standby or offline procedure

[Manual: BIG-IP Device Service Clustering: Administration](#)

(tmsh)# run sys failover

Offline Changes the status of a unit or cluster to Forced Offline. If persist or no-persist are not specified, the change in status will be persisted in-between system restarts.

Online Changes the status of a unit or cluster from Forced Offline to either Active or Standby, depending upon the status of the other unit or cluster in a redundant pair.

Standby Specifies that the active unit or cluster fails over to a Standby state, causing the standby unit or cluster to become Active.



Hostname: bigip01.f5demo.com | Date: Aug 7, 2020 | User: admin | Role: Administrator | Log out

IP Address: 10.1.1.4 | Time: 2:23 PM (PDT)

f5 ONLINE (ACTIVE) In Sync

Main | Help | About | Device Management » Devices » bigip01.f5demo.com

Statistics | iApps | DNS | SSL Orchestrator | Local Traffic | Acceleration | Device Management

Overview | **Devices** | Device Groups | Device Trust | Traffic Groups

General Properties

Name	bigip01.f5demo.com	Change Device Name...
Description		
Location		
Contact		
Comment		
Hostname	bigip01.f5demo.com	
IP Address	10.1.1.4	
Serial Number	27e5b6ca-da07-7b45-6cac74d05173	
MAC Address	52:54:00:00:65:15	
Time Zone	America/Los_Angeles	
Time Delta (sec)	0	
Platform ID	Z100	
Platform Name	BIG-IP Virtual Edition	

Update | Cancel | **Force Offline** | Release Offline | Force to Standby

Other HA concepts not explicitly called out in the blueprint

[Manual: BIG-IP Device Service Clustering: Administration](#)

Device Service Clusters (DSCs) can consist of more than two BIG-IPs supporting each other:

- Know where to find where failover objects on BIG-IP in the DSC will fail to.
- Understand the difference between Active-Standby and Active-Active.

You probably should have a working knowledge of Device Trust and the Device Trust Group.

Have a working knowledge of mirroring:

- SNAT
- Persistence
 - Only if persistence records are kept locally on the BIG-IP, not necessary for cookie persistence.
- Connection Table
 - Only for long-term connections, ie. FTP, resource intensive.

Other HA concepts not explicitly called out in the blueprint

[Manual: BIG-IP Device Service Clustering: Administration](#)

Devices (Self)

- On the (Self) Device, which is the device you are on, there are several configuration items you should know
 - These must be configured prior to building the device trust group
- ConfigSync - IP address the BIG-IP listens for synchronizing configuration changes (TCP port 4353)
- Failover Network - IP address the BIG-IP uses to send and receive polls to determine the state of other BIG-IPs in the cluster (TCP port 1026)
- Mirroring - IP address where mirrored information is sent and received

The screenshot shows the F5 BIG-IP configuration interface. At the top, the status bar indicates 'ONLINE (ACTIVE)' and 'In Sync'. The left sidebar contains navigation menus for 'Main', 'Help', 'About', 'Statistics', 'iApps', 'DNS', 'SSL Orchestrator', 'Local Traffic', 'Acceleration', and 'Device Management'. The 'Device Management' menu is expanded, showing 'Overview', 'Devices', 'Device Groups', 'Device Trust', and 'Traffic Groups'. The 'Devices' tab is selected, and the 'Properties' sub-tab is active. A red box highlights the 'ConfigSync', 'Failover Network', and 'Mirroring' tabs. The 'General Properties' section displays the following information:

General Properties	
Name	bigip01.f5demo.com Change Device Name...
Description	
Location	
Contact	
Comment	
Hostname	bigip01.f5demo.com
IP Address	10.1.1.4
Serial Number	27e5b6ca-da07-7b45-6cac74d05173
MAC Address	52:54:00:00:65:15
Time Zone	America/Los_Angeles
Time Delta (sec)	0
Platform ID	Z100
Platform Name	BIG-IP Virtual Edition

At the bottom of the interface, there are buttons for 'Update', 'Cancel', 'Force Offline', 'Release Offline', and 'Force to Standby'.

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: Virtual Servers](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

2.06

Apply concepts required to use BIG-IP functionality to fulfill security requirements

- Make use of port lockdown
- Demonstrate how to restrict access to management interface
- Demonstrate how to restrict access to virtual servers

3.03 Interpret port lockdown settings to Self-IP

- Port Lockdown determines which ports a self IP address will respond to
 - By default, Port Lockdown is none, the self IP only responds to ICMP
- Port Lockdown settings can be modified to allow other traffic, such as port 443 or 22 for management

Network » Self IPs

Self IP List

* Search Create...

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name	Application	IP Address	Netmask	VLAN / Tunnel	Traffic Group	Partition / Path
<input type="checkbox"/>	client_ip		10.1.10.245	255.255.255.0	client_vlan	traffic-group-local-only	Common
<input type="checkbox"/>	floating-ip		10.1.20.240	255.255.255.0	server_vlan	traffic-group-1	Common
<input type="checkbox"/>	ha_ip		192.168.20.245	255.255.255.0	ha_vlan	traffic-group-local-only	Common
<input type="checkbox"/>	server_ip		10.1.20.245	255.255.255.0	server_vlan	traffic-group-local-only	Common

Delete...

Network » Self IPs » client_ip

Properties

Configuration

Name	client_ip
Partition / Path	Common
IP Address	10.1.10.245
Netmask	255.255.255.0
VLAN / Tunnel	client_vlan
Port Lockdown	Allow None
Traffic Group	Allow Default
Service Policy	Allow All

Update Cancel Delete

Allow None

Allow Custom

Allow Custom (Include Default)

3.03 Interpret port lockdown settings to Self-IP

You can select “Allow Default” which opens the following:

- ospf:any
- tcp:domain (53)
- tcp:f5-iquery (4353)
- tcp:https (443)
- tcp:snmp (161)
- tcp:ssh (22)
- udp:520
- udp:cap (1026 - for network failover)
- udp:domain (53)
- udp:f5-iquery (4353)
- udp:snmp (161)

Or you can select custom ports to open

Configuration	
Name	client_ip
Partition / Path	Common
IP Address	10.1.10.245
Netmask	255.255.255.0
VLAN / Tunnel	client_vlan
Port Lockdown	Allow Custom
Custom List	<input checked="" type="radio"/> TCP <input type="radio"/> UDP <input type="radio"/> Protocol:
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> All <input type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> Port: <input type="button" value="Add"/>
	TCP 22 443
	UDP
	Protocol
	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
Traffic Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Inherit traffic group from current partition / path traffic-group-local-only (non-floating)
Service Policy	None

```
list net self
net self client_ip {
    address
    10.1.10.245/24
    allow-service {
        tcp:ssh
        tcp:https
    }
}
```

3.03 Identify SSH access list to management—IP address

[K13309: Restricting access to the Configuration utility by source IP address \(11.x - 16.x\)](#)

The screenshot shows the F5 Configuration utility interface. At the top, there's a breadcrumb 'System » Platform' and a 'Configuration' tab. Below this, the 'General Properties' section is active, showing 'Management Port Configuration' with 'Automatic (DHCP)' and 'Manual' radio buttons. The 'Manual' option is selected. Fields for 'IP Address[/prefix]:' (10.1.1.4), 'Network Mask:' (255.255.255.0), and 'Management Route:' (10.1.1.2) are visible. Other fields include 'Host Name' (bigip01.f5demo.com), 'Host IP Address' (Use Management Port IP Address), and 'Time Zone' (America/Los Angeles). Below this is the 'Redundant Device Properties' section with 'Root Folder Device Group' (bigip-dsc (Sync-Failover)) and 'Root Folder Traffic Group' (traffic-group-1). The 'User Administration' section is also visible, showing 'Root Account' and 'Admin Account' password fields, and 'SSH Access' (Enabled). At the bottom, the 'SSH IP Allow' section has a dropdown menu open showing 'Specify Range...' and '* All Addresses'.

To add to the allow list:

- modify /sys sshd allow add { <IP address or IP address range> }
 - Range uses space ie. {10.1.1.1 10.1.1.10}

To replace the list

- modify /sys sshd replace-all-with {<IP address or IP address range>}

Default is:

```
(tmsh)# list sys sshd allow
sys sshd {
    allow { All }
}
```

Save the change by entering the following command:

- save /sys config

3.03 Identify HTTP access list to management—IP address

[K13309: Restricting access to the Configuration utility by source IP address \(11.x - 16.x\)](#)

To add to the allow list:

- `modify /sys httpd allow add { <IP address or IP address range> }`

To replace the list:

- `modify /sys httpd replace-all-with {<IP address or IP address range>}`

Default is:

```
(tmos)# list sys httpd
allow
sys httpd {
    allow { All }
}
```

Save the change by entering the following command:

- `save /sys config`

Restricting access to management ports on Self IPs

(src host 192.168.13.139 or src net 11.1.1.0/24)

The image shows two overlapping screenshots of the F5 Network Manager interface. The background screenshot shows the 'Network >> Packet Filters : General' configuration page. The foreground screenshot shows the 'Network >> Packet Filters : Rules >> bad_block' configuration page.

Background Screenshot: Network >> Packet Filters : General

- Properties:**
 - Packet Filtering: Enabled
 - Unhandled Packet Action: Accept
 - Options:
 - ☐ Filter established connections
 - ☐ Send ICMP error on packet reject
- Exemptions:**
 - Protocols:
 - ☒ Always accept ARP
 - ☒ Always accept important ICMP
 - MAC Addresses: None
 - IP Addresses: None
 - VLANs: None

Foreground Screenshot: Network >> Packet Filters : Rules >> bad_block

Configuration:

Name	bad_block
Order	Last
Action	Continue
Rate Class	None
Bandwidth Controller	None
VLAN / Tunnel	All
Logging	Disabled

Filter Expression:

```
{ src host 192.168.13.139 or src net 11.1.1.0/24 }
```

Packet Filtering

Disabled by default, but once you enable

Network » Packet Filters : General

⚙️

General

Rules

Statistics

Properties

Packet Filtering	Enabled ▾
Unhandled Packet Action	Accept ▾
Options	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Filter established connections</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Send ICMP error on packet reject</div>

Exemptions

Protocols	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Always accept ARP</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Always accept important ICMP</div>
MAC Addresses	None ▾
IP Addresses	None ▾
VLANs	None ▾

Network » Packet Filters : Rules » New Packet Filter Rule...

Configuration

Name	
Order	Select... ▾
Action	Accept ▾
Rate Class	None ▾
VLAN / Tunnel	* All ▾
Logging	Disabled ▾

Filter Expression

Filter Expression Method	Build Expression ▾
Protocols	Any ▾
Source Hosts and Networks	Any ▾
Destination Hosts and Networks	Any ▾
Destination Port	Any ▾

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: Virtual Servers](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

2.07

Determine how configuration changes affect existing and new connections

- Predict persistence for existing connections
- Calculate when changes will affect the connections
- Predict load balancing and persistence for new connections
- Determine the impact of virtual server configuration change on traffic

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: Virtual Servers](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

2.08

Explain the uses of user roles, administrative partitions, and route domains

- Explain how to restrict access to LTM using user roles
- Discuss the benefits of administrative partitions
- Apply user roles to administrative partitions
- Explain the functionality of route domains
- Summarize how the three technologies can be used together

Manual: BIG-IP Systems: User Account Administration

Assign a role

- A user may be assigned to one partition or All partitions

- Disabled
 - The user may access only the GUI interface
- TMSH
 - Permits the user access to the TMOS CLI shell via SSH
- Advanced Shell
 - Permits user access to the Linux prompt

System » **Users : User List**

⚙

User List

Partition List

Authentication

Remote Role Groups

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	▲ User Name	⬆ Locked Out	⬆ Failed Logins	⬆ Role	⬆ Partition	⬆ Console
<input type="checkbox"/>	admin	No	0	Administrator	Common	Disabled
<input type="checkbox"/>	user1	No	0	Manager	Common	tmsh
<input type="checkbox"/>	user2	No	0	Manager	Common	Disabled

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3.08 Explain how to create a user

[Manual: BIG-IP Systems: User Account Administration](#)

The image displays three overlapping screenshots of the BIG-IP User Account Administration interface, specifically the 'New User...' form. The form is titled 'System » Users : User List » New User...' and contains the following fields and options:

- User Name:** A text input field.
- Password:** Two text input fields labeled 'New:' and 'Confirm:'.
- Role:** A dropdown menu with 'No Access' selected.
- Partition Access:** A dropdown menu with 'All' selected.
- Terminal Access:** A dropdown menu with 'Disabled' selected.

At the bottom of the form are three buttons: 'Cancel', 'Repeat', and 'Finished'.

The three screenshots illustrate different states of the form:

- Left Screenshot:** Shows the form with the 'User Name' and 'Password' fields highlighted by a red border.
- Middle Screenshot:** Shows the form with the 'Role' dropdown menu open, displaying a list of roles: 'No Access', 'Guest', 'Operator', 'Application Editor', 'Manager', 'Certificate Manager', 'iRule Manager', 'User Manager', 'Resource Administrator', 'Auditor', and 'Administrator'. The 'No Access' option is highlighted by a blue background and a red border.
- Right Screenshot:** Shows the form with the 'Terminal Access' dropdown menu open, displaying a list of options: 'Disabled', 'Disabled', 'Advanced shell', and 'tmsh'. The 'Disabled' option is highlighted by a blue background and a red border.

User Roles (most common)

[Manual: BIG-IP Systems: User Account Administration](#)

No Access

- Prevents users from accessing the system.

Guest

- Grants users limited, view-only access to a specific set of objects.

Operator

- Grants users permission to enable or disable existing nodes and pool members.

Application Editor

- Grants users permission to modify existing nodes, pools, pool members, and monitors.

Manager

- Permission to create, modify, and delete virtual servers, pools, pool members, nodes, custom profiles, custom monitors, and iRules.

Administrator

- Grants users complete access to all objects on the system.

3.08 Explain how to modify user properties

Just go back in and change them

System » Users : User List

⚙️

User List

Partition List

Authentication

Remote Role Groups

*

Search

Create

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ▲ User Name	Locked Out	Failed Logins	Role	Partition	Consolidated
<input type="checkbox"/> admin	No	0	Administrator	Common	Disabled
<input type="checkbox"/> appmgr-bu1	No	0	Manager	Common	tmsh
<input type="checkbox"/> nocguy	No	0	Operator	Common	Disabled
<input type="checkbox"/> olduser	Yes	5	Operator	Common	Disabled

Delete...

Unlock

System » Users : User List » appmgr-bu1

⚙️

Properties

Account Properties

User Name	appmgr-bu1
Partition	Common
Password	New: <div>.....</div> <div>Confirm:</div>
Role	Manager ▼
Partition Access	business_unit_1 ▼
Terminal Access	tmsh ▼

Account Security

Locked Out	No
Failed Logins	0

Update

Delete



3.08 Explain options for remote authentication provider

[Manual: BIG-IP Systems: User Account Administration](#)

Still will always need at least one admin local account

- For config sync functionality
- In case you lose access to authentication server

Supports AD, LDAP, TACACS+ and RADIUS

System » Users : Authentication	
⚙️	User List Partition List Authentication Remote Role Groups
Authentication: Basic ▼	
User Directory	Remote - LDAP ▼
Host	Local
Port	Remote - Active Directory
Remote Directory Tree	Remote - LDAP
Scope	Remote - ClientCert LDAP
Bind	Remote - RADIUS
	Remote - TACACS+
User Template	
Check Member Attribute in Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Enabled
SSL	Disabled ▼
External Users	
Role	No Access ▼
Partition Access	All ▼
Terminal Access	Disabled ▼

3.08 Explain use of groups using remote authentication provider

[Manual: BIG-IP Systems: User Account Administration](#)

For a remote group you can choose to:

- Enable/disable remote access
- Assign a permissions role to members of the group
- Select All/Common/Specific name partition access
- Select the type of terminal access required.

System » Users : Remote Role Groups

User List		Partition List	Authentication	Remote Role Groups	
* <input type="text"/>			Search	Create...	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Group Name	Line Order	Attribute String	Assigned Role	Remote Access
<input type="checkbox"/>	admins	100	memberOf=cn=admin,ou=Groups,dc=f5demo,dc=com	Administrator	Enabled
<input type="checkbox"/>	HumanResources	200	memberOf=cn=employees,ou=Groups,dc=f5demo,dc=com	Manager	Enabled
Delete...					

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: Virtual Servers](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

2.09

Determine how to deploy or upgrade vCMP guests and how the resources are distributed

- Explain the different vCMP guest deployment states
- Discuss the relationship between CPU and memory on vCMP
- Select which versions can run on a guest given host version
- Understand the relationship of network configuration objects between vCMP hosts and vCMP guests

Topic Resources

- [Manual Chapter: Virtual Servers](#)
- [Manual Chapter: Session Persistence Profiles](#)

Breaktime

F5 Learning: Getting Started with BIG-IP

This course is divided into two modules:

The **Administration Module** focuses on basic administrative activities on the BIG-IP system. You'll learn how to activate a new BIG-IP system for operation, including configuring the management port, licensing, provisioning, and basic network configuration. You'll learn how to archive the BIG-IP configuration in support of data center backup and recovery activities. Finally, you'll learn how to verify the proper operation of your BIG-IP system by using the online BIG-IP iHealth® diagnostic tool.

Launch: [Getting Started with BIG-IP Part 1: Administration](#)

Demo: [Setup Utility](#)

The **Application Delivery Module** focuses on the basic building blocks of BIG-IP configuration in support of application delivery including nodes, pools and pool members, virtual servers, monitors, and profiles. You'll learn how to configure a basic web application that is delivered through the BIG-IP system, and includes round-robin load balancing, HTTP application health monitoring, overcoming routing issues with SNATs, and SSL offload (client SSL termination). You'll also learn how to review the flow of application traffic through the BIG-IP system using local traffic statistics.

Launch: [Getting Started with BIG-IP Part 2: Application Delivery](#)

Demo: [Application Delivery](#)

To access Getting Started Virtual Labs, please login or create an account in the new [LearnF5](#), then search for "Getting Started with BIG-IP."

F5 Free Training: Getting Started with BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager (LTM)

This course is divided into four modules that are presented in two separate WBTs. The topics presented are organized around a customer scenario that takes an organization's globally expanding e-commerce site from a single server to multiple load balanced back-end servers behind a pair of BIG-IP LTM systems. You'll learn how to implement the high availability feature to establish an active/standby device service cluster. You'll learn how to load balance web application traffic across a pool of non-homogenous servers. You'll learn how to use an iRule to customize traffic flow, selecting the appropriate pool of back-end servers based on the client's preferred content language. And finally, you'll learn how to decrease existing server load reducing concurrent connections and connection rates using OneConnect.

Launch: [Getting Started with LTM Part 1: HA and Traffic Processing](#)

Demo: [Configure High Availability](#)

Launch: [Getting Started with LTM Part 2: iRules and OneConnect](#)

Demo: [iRules](#)

F5 Free Training: Getting Started with BIG-IP iHealth

This course is intended to help you get started using BIG-IP iHealth as an online diagnostic tool. You'll learn how to leverage this tool to proactively maintain and more quickly troubleshoot your BIG-IP systems. The course describes how BIG-IP iHealth Diagnostics evolved from an internal tool into a free, online tool available to F5 customers. It explains the four-step process to generate iHealth Diagnostics and introduces iHealth reports. The remainder of the course describes how to use iHealth to identify security vulnerabilities and performance issues, prepare to upgrade your system, and leverage iHealth to troubleshoot system configuration issues and ensure your hardware platform is running at peak performance. The course is based on user-centered simulations and will take 15 minutes to complete.

Launch: [Getting Started with BIG-IP iHealth](#)



USE CASE: “Deliver any application on-premises or in the cloud with BIG-IP”

- **Improve website performance and availability:** With BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager, you can ensure your website is always available and performing at its best. By intelligently distributing traffic and managing connections, BIG-IP LTM can optimize website delivery, improve response times, and prevent downtime, even during peak traffic periods.
- **Securely manage and control application traffic:** BIG-IP provides advanced security features that enable you to safely manage and control application traffic. With SSL/TLS offloading, advanced access control, and granular application-level policies, you can protect your applications and sensitive data from malicious attacks and unauthorized access.
- **Simplify application deployment and management:** BIG-IP simplifies application deployment and management with **powerful automation and orchestration capabilities**. With easy-to-use interfaces and tools, you can quickly provision and manage applications, and automate routine tasks to save time and reduce errors. **Comprehensive monitoring and analytics**, gain valuable insights into application performance and make informed decisions to optimize your infrastructure.
- **Secure APIs and microservices:** BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager provides robust API security features that help you protect your APIs and microservices from threats. With support for modern authentication and authorization protocols like OAuth and OpenID Connect, BIG-IP LTM can authenticate and authorize API requests, prevent unauthorized access, and protect sensitive data. Additionally, with advanced traffic management capabilities like rate limiting and content-based routing, you can ensure API availability and performance.