K77706009: Using BIG-IQ License Manager to remotely manage BIG-IP Virtual Edition licenses

Non-Diagnostic

Topic

You should consider using these procedures under the following conditions:

- You have one or more BIG-IP Virtual Edition (VE) systems with active support contracts.
- You want to use BIG-IQ License Manager to assign and revoke standalone BIG-IP VE licenses.

Description

Beginning in BIG-IQ Centralized Management 5.1.0, you can assign, refresh, revoke, and reassign remote BIG-IP VE device licenses using the License Manager. BIG-IQ License Manager organizes licenses into groups using a **registration key** (**RegKey**) **pools** concept. After you create a RegKey pool, you activate new registration keys and begin assigning licenses to your BIG-IP VE devices. In addition, starting from BIG-IQ 5.2.0, F5 offers a specially licensed virtual edition of the BIG-IQ Central Management system, which allows you to use BIG-IQ License Manager as a standalone module. To obtain a free BIG-IQ License Manager license, refer to Obtaining BIG-IQ License Manager.

Notes:

- For information about BIG-IQ-supported BIG-IP VE devices, refer to: K34133507: BIG-IQ Centralized Management compatibility matrix.
- You must use BIG-IQ 5.3.0 or later to assign and revoke licenses for BIG-IP VE systems running in 1NIC mode.

Prerequisites

You must meet the following prerequisites to use these procedures:

- You have one or more registration keys that you have not used to license a BIG-IP VE system.
- Your BIG-IP VE systems have active support contracts.
- You have the necessary BIG-IQ role to license BIG-IP devices.
- You have administrative access to the BIG-IP VE systems that you are licensing (unmanaged devices only).

Procedures

- Obtain a BIG-IQ License Manager (Optional)
- Activate a registration key with License Manager (automatic method)

- [Activate a registration key with License Manager (manual method)](#)
- [Reactivate a registration key with License Manager (automatic method)](#)
- [Reactivate a registration key with License Manager (manual method)](#)
- [Assign a license from the RegKey pool to a BIG-IP VE device](#)
- [Refresh a license in the RegKey pool to a BIG-IP VE device](#)
- [Revoke a license in the RegKey pool from a BIG-IP VE device](#)
- [Assign an add-on key to a licensed BIG-IP VE device](#)

For a brief demonstration of some of these procedures, watch the following videos:

Obtain a BIG-IQ License Manager (Optional)

For BIG-IQ version 7.1.0 and earlier, you can obtain the free BIG-IQ License Management license by performing the following procedure:

1. Contact your sales representative to request a free BIG-IQ License Manager registration key.
2. Download the virtual edition of BIG-IQ Centralized Management, which is available on the [F5 Downloads](#) page.

   Note: Make sure to obtain BIG-IQ Centralized Management 5.2.0 or later.

3. After you install BIG-IQ Centralized Management, you can license the system. For more information, refer to [K15094: Licensing the BIG-IQ system](#).

Activate a registration key with License Manager (automatic method)

After you obtain your base registration key from F5, typically in the form of an email, you can create a standalone RegKey pool and add and activate registration keys for that pool. You can automatically contact the F5 license server for activation if the BIG-IQ system meets the following criteria:

- It is connected to the public Internet.
- It can access the **activate.f5.com** site.
- Its existing firewalls allow port 443 to pass through.

Note: You cannot reactivate or import registration keys from currently active BIG-IP VE licenses. For already licensed devices in your network, contact [F5 Technical Support](#) for assistance with transferring the devices to the BIG-IQ system for license management.

Impact of procedure: Performing the following procedure should not have a negative impact on your system.

1. Log in to the BIG-IQ system with your administrator username and password.
2. Select **Devices**.
3. Go to **LICENSE MANAGEMENT > Licenses**.
4. Perform one of the following actions:

If no RegKey pool exists, select **Add RegKey Pool** and, in the **Name** box, enter a name for the new RegKey pool.

If a RegKey pool exists, select the name of the RegKey pool for which you want to activate a license.

5. Select **Add RegKey**.
6. In the **Registration Key** box, enter or paste the registration key, and into the **Add-on Keys** box, enter or paste an associated add-on key.
7. For the **Activation Method** setting, select **Automatic**.
8. Select **Activate**.
9. Review the end user license agreement, and, if you agree with the terms, select **Accept**.
10. After the activation status displays **Active**, you can assign a license from the pool to a BIG-IP VE device.

Activate a registration key with License Manager (manual method)

After you obtain your base registration key from F5, typically in the form of an email, you can create a standalone RegKey pool and add and activate registration keys for that pool. If your BIG-IQ system is not connected to the public Internet, you must activate the registration key using the following manual procedure:

Note: You cannot reactivate or import registration keys from currently active BIG-IP VE licenses. For devices in your network already licensed, contact [F5 Technical Support](#) for assistance with transferring the devices to the BIG-IQ system for license management.

Impact of procedure: Performing the following procedure should not have a negative impact on your system.

1. Log in to the BIG-IQ system with your administrator username and password.
2. Select **Devices**.
3. Go to **LICENSE MANAGEMENT > Licenses**.
4. Perform one of the following actions:

   If no RegKey pool exists, select **Add RegKey Pool** and in the **Name** box, enter a name for the new RegKey pool.

   If a RegKey pool exists, select the name of the RegKey pool for which you want to activate a license.

5. Select **Add RegKey**.
6. In the **Name** box, enter the name and optional **Description** for the RegKey pool.
7. Select **Add RegKey**.
8. In the **Registration Key** box, enter or paste the registration key, and into the **Add-on Keys** box, enter or paste an associated add-on key.
9. For the **Activation Method** setting, select **Manual**.
10. Select **Generate Dossier**.
11. Select and copy the dossier.
12. Select **Access F5 manual activation web portal**.
13. On the **F5 Product Licensing** page, paste the dossier into the **Enter your dossier** box, and select **Next**.

Alternatively, select **Choose File** and go to the location where you saved the dossier.

14. Review the end user license agreement and, if you agree with the terms, select **Accept**.
15. Select and copy the license.
16. Paste the license into the **License Text** box on the BIG-IQ system.
17. Select **Activate**.

Note: If the activated license contains multiple offerings, you must repeat this process for each offering to fully activate the license. You can assign individual offerings that you already reactivated to a BIG-IP, as needed.

Reactivate a registration key with License Manager (automatic method)

To upgrade licensed BIG-IP systems, you must update the service check date by periodically reactivating the base registration key.

When your BIG-IQ system meets the following criteria, you can automatically contact the F5 license server for activation. Your BIG-IQ system:

* Is connected to the public internet.
* Can access the http://activate.f5.com site.
* Has existing firewalls that allow port 443 to pass through.

Impact of procedure: Performing the following procedure should not have a negative impact on your BIG-IQ nor any BIG-IP system licensed from this pool.

1. Log in to the BIG-IQ system as an administrator.
2. Select **Devices**.
3. Go to **LICENSE MANAGEMENT > Licenses**.
4. Select the check box next to the license pool you want to reactivate, and then select **Reactivate**.

   You can add or remove add-on keys as needed.

5. Select **Automatic.**
6. Select **Reactivate.**

   The end user license agreement may display.

7. Review the end user license agreement and, if you agree with the terms, select **Accept**.
8. After the activation status displays **Active**, you can refresh the licenses from the pool to a BIG-IP VE device.

Reactivate a registration key with License Manager (manual method)

To upgrade licensed BIG-IP systems, you must update the service check date by periodically reactivating the base registration key. If your BIG-IQ system is not connected to the public internet, you must activate the registration key using the following manual procedure:

Impact of procedure: Performing the following procedure should not have a negative impact on your BIG-IQ system nor any BIG-IP licensed from this pool.

1. Log in to the BIG-IQ system as an administrator.
2. Select **Devices**.
3. Go to **LICENSE MANAGEMENT > Licenses**.
4. Select the check box next to the license pool you want to reactivate, and then select **Reactivate**.

   You can add or remove add-on keys as needed.

5. Select **Manual.**
6. Select **Generate Dossier**.
7. Select and copy the dossier.
8. Select **Access F5 manual activation web portal**.
9. On the **F5 Product Licensing** page, paste the dossier into the **Enter your dossier** box, and select **Next**.

   Alternatively, select **Choose File** and go to the location where you saved the dossier.

10. Review the end user license agreement and, if you agree with the terms, select **Accept**.
11. Select and copy the license.
12. Paste the license into the **License Text** box on the BIG-IQ system.
13. Select **Reactivate**.

Note: If the reactivated license contains multiple offerings, you must repeat this process for each offering to fully reactivate the license. You can refresh individual offerings that you already reactivated to assigned BIG-IP systems, as needed.

Assign a license from the RegKey pool to a BIG-IP VE device

After you activate a VE license from the RegKey pool, you can assign the registration key to a BIG-IP VE device. You assign a license from the RegKey pool to a BIG-IP VE device to authorize the device to run F5 services that support your applications.

Impact of procedure: Performing the following procedure triggers the license activation process.
The process may reload the configuration and temporarily interrupt traffic processing on the target BIG-IP system. When licensing redundant BIG-IP systems, F5 recommends that you activate the license on your BIG-IP devices while they are in standby mode.

1. Select **Devices**.
2. Go to **LICENSE MANAGEMENT > Licenses**.
3. Under **Name**, select the name of the RegKey pool that contains the registration key you want to assign.
4. Under **Registration Key**, select the registration key you want to assign by selecting the box next to its name.
5. Select **Assign**.
6. For managed devices, select the BIG-IP device you want from the list, or select **Unmanaged Device**, then enter the device **IP Address**, **Port**, **Username**, and **Password** for unmanaged devices.

Note: BIG-IQ 5.3.0 and later allows you to modify the default service port 443.

Important: The BIG-IQ system must use service port 8443 to license BIG-IP VE devices running in 1NIC mode.

7. Select **Assign** and confirm the assignment.
8. Ensure that the **License Status** indicates **Licensed**.

Refresh a license from the RegKey pool to a BIG-IP VE device

Note: Refreshing the BIG-IP license from the BIG-IQ system is also referred to as reactivating a BIG-IP license

After reactivating the base registration key from the License server, you need to pass the updated license information to the BIG-IP system to ensure it contains a recent service check date. This procedure is required on all BIG-IP systems that are scheduled for an upgrade.

Impact of procedure: Performing the following procedure triggers the license activation process.
The process may reload the configuration and temporarily interrupt traffic processing on the target BIG-IP system. When licensing redundant BIG-IP systems, F5 recommends that you activate the license on your BIG-IP devices while they are in standby mode.

1. Select **Devices**.
2. Go to **LICENSE MANAGEMENT > Licenses**.
3. Under **Name**, select the name of the RegKey pool that contains the registration key you want to refresh.
4. Under **Registration Key**, select the registration key you want to refresh by selecting the check box next to its name.
5. Select **More**.
6. Select **Refresh**.
7. For unmanaged devices, enter the username and password of the BIG-IP system.
8. Select **OK** to confirm the refreshing.

Revoke a license in the RegKey Pool from a BIG-IP VE device

When fewer devices are required for your applications, you can revoke licenses to reassign them to other BIG-IP VE devices as needed.

Impact of procedure: Performing the following procedure removes the license from the target BIG-IP system.

1. Select **Devices**.
2. Go to **LICENSE MANAGEMENT > Licenses**.
3. Under **Name**, select the name of the RegKey pool that contains the registration key you want to revoke.
4. Under **Registration Key**, select the registration key you want to revoke by selecting the box next to its name.
5. Select **Revoke**.

6. The new page displays the **IP address** and **Offering** (registration key), and you must provide the **Username** and **Password** for the unmanaged BIG-IP device.
7. Select **Revoke** again, and confirm the revocation.

This license is now available for reassignment to another BIG-IP VE device.

Assign an add-on key to a licensed BIG-IP VE device

When BIG-IQ system manages the registration key, you can associate and activate additional add-on keys to an already licensed BIG-IP VE device, as needed.

Impact of procedure: Performing the following procedure triggers the license activation process.
The process may reload the configuration and temporarily interrupt traffic processing on the target BIG-IP system. When licensing redundant BIG-IP systems, F5 recommends that you activate the license on your BIG-IP devices while they are in standby mode.

1. Select **Devices**.
2. Go to **LICENSE MANAGEMENT > Licenses**.
3. Under **Name**, select the name of the RegKey pool that contains the registration key you want to append the add-on key.
4. Under **Registration Key**, select the registration key you want to append the add-on key by selecting the check box next to its name.
5. Select **More**.
6. Select **Reactivate**.
7. In the **Add-on Keys** box, enter or paste an associated add-on key.
8. Select **Reactivate**.
9. To activate the license with the new add-on keys, see the **Refreshing a license from the RegKey pool to a BIG-IP VE device** section in this article.

Supplemental Information

- [K15612: Connectivity requirements for the BIG-IQ system](#)
- [K34133507: BIG-IQ Centralized Management compatibility matrix](#)
- [K16307: Troubleshooting BIG-IQ device discovery failures](#)
- [K14888: Displaying the BIG-IQ software version](#)
- [K14383: Finding the serial number or registration key of your BIG-IQ system](#)

Applies to:

Product: BIG-IQ, BIG-IQ Centralized Management
8.1.0, 8.0.0, 7.1.0, 7.0.0, 6.1.0, 6.0.1, 6.0.0, 5.4.0, 5.3.0, 5.2.0

Product: BIG-IP, BIG-IP AFM, BIG-IP APM, BIG-IP ASM, BIG-IP DNS, BIG-IP GTM, BIG-IP Link Controller, BIG-IP LTM, BIG-IP PEM, BIG-IP AAM
15.X.X, 14.X.X, 13.X.X, 12.X.X, 11.6.X, 11.5.X

Product: Legacy Products, BIG-IP PSM
15.X.X, 14.X.X, 13.X.X, 12.X.X, 11.6.X, 11.5.X