Karl Triebes

EVP OF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND CTO, F5 NETWORKS

Triebes oversees F5's technology strategy and leads the engineering team with a successful track record driving development of enterprise networking and next-generation telecommunications products, including Layer 4–7 switches.

Kit Colbert

OFFICE OF THE CTO, VMWARE

Colbert leads VMware's cloud-native apps strategy for the Office of the CTO, leveraging an 11-year history at VMware as the End-User Computing CTO, chief architect and principal engineer for VMware vRealize™ Operations™ and VMware vSphere® vMotion® and Storage vMotion.

Successfully Securing Applications in a Mobility-Focused World

Today's ongoing technology transition to a "mobility first" environment is making a profound impact on how organizations operate. With mobile devices and applications often taking center stage, the evolution opens up a world of interesting opportunities, but also puts a strain on IT to cost-effectively provide secure environments that encourage rather than hamper productivity. F5's Karl Triebes and VMware's Kit Colbert share their perspectives on where the market is headed, and how IT organizations can stay ahead of the curve.

Applications are in demand anytime, anywhere, on any device. What does the market need right now?

Triebes: The world is changing in how it uses applications. The number of apps is constantly growing – well over 1 billion. Everything is moving toward the idea that we need immediate access to our apps whether we are at home, on vacation or at work. At the same time, organizations are looking for ways to reduce OPEX and CAPEX. As a result, companies need ways to provide seamless and secure accessibility, as well as a variety of capabilities for simplification and application management without tool specialization.

How can F5's Software-Defined Application Services™ make a difference?

Triebes: We serve as a bridge between the network, network services and the applications, while providing or optimizing application-focused security. We accomplish this across a variety of environments (traditional data centers, cloud and virtual-

ized). Regardless of how we are deployed, our management system is identical. With Software-Defined Application Services, we allow organizations to add services like secure access, optimization and high availability for remote users, anywhere their mobile desktops and applications live. We also provide organizations with the tools to manage and grow those services while securely delivering applications to users.

From a technical perspective, how does virtualization impact the way organizations deliver and manage desktop and application services?

Colbert: Virtualization has fundamentally changed the way companies deliver applications and services, allowing for greater flexibility and simplified management. As users move away from a single desktop to a multitude of devices (mobile and desktop), they demand a consistent, seamless experience. This is exactly what virtualization technologies can provide. At the same time, it's just as critical to offer a single management experience for IT. This becomes increasingly important when considering the immense complexity IT deals with on a daily basis. Virtualization provides the foundation to realize all of this.

How does F5 enhance the overall VMware value offering of application, device and data management?

Triebes: As close collaborators for the past eight years, we have been able to achieve a deep level of integration. For instance, our Software-Defined Application Services integrate as part of the VMware fabric as well as with the end-user compute platform. We

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provide authentication capabilities, and help with enterprise connectivity on the front end. We also integrate with VMware's management platform, allowing for application-level security in a very specific, granular fashion.

How are F5 and VMware working together to change the game when it comes to app delivery? Where do you see the possibilities moving forward?
Colbert: Successful app delivery is based on context and the policies admins can set

How will this help drive the vision of the secure virtual workspace for customers?
Colbert: VMware's end-user computing vision is to provide a secure virtual workspace, where users can access everything they need to do their jobs – including their apps, data and other collaboration tools – to enable work at the speed of life. This vision focuses on two groups: end users and IT. For the end users, this means being able to seamlessly access their apps and data from any device. For IT, it means en-

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on that context. F5 supplies a tremendous wealth of context about the devices connecting in and what applications they're accessing. This gives administrators significant power in how they specify policy and governance rules. It also helps address key questions including:

■ Is a user allowed to log in from a particular device in a particular place using a particular app?
■ Is the user's device properly patched and secured?
■ How is the user authenticating herself?
■ Is that authentication strong enough to allow access to certain areas/documents?

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Looking ahead, I don't think we are anywhere near done. It is about getting even more context and data and putting it into a really strong policy framework. The policy expressiveness for admins is only going to get richer.

abling admins to specify powerful policies based on rich context. Really this vision is a culmination of our two companies' many technologies working together in tandem.

How do these offerings and services integrate with existing solutions?
Colbert: We've been focused on compatibility because we want our customers to be able to leverage their existing investments, rather than encourage a rip-and-replace mentality. We want to make what customers already have in place better by providing a clear path to iteratively make a move as needs dictate. It's about putting the building blocks in place.

Triebes: Part of our mission is to help companies make the transition. We know it's risky to rip and replace when you're dealing with systems that need remote accessibility to back-end services. We provide the front-end tools to help transition any environment in a very seamless manner. Things are changing rapidly in the data center, and with our respective technologies we are well positioned to find new synergies for our clients. ■

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