



# **Installing F5 BIG-IP Load Balancers**

## **NetApp Solutions**

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# Installing F5 BIG-IP Load Balancers

F5 BIG-IP is an Application Delivery Controller (ADC) that offers a broad set of advanced production-grade traffic management and security services like L4-L7 load balancing, SSL/TLS offload, DNS, firewall and many more. These services drastically increase the availability, security and performance of your applications.

F5 BIG-IP can be deployed and consumed in various ways, on dedicated hardware, in the cloud, or as a virtual appliance on-premises. Refer to the documentation here to explore and deploy F5 BIG-IP as per requirement.

For efficient integration of F5 BIG-IP services with Red Hat OpenShift, F5 offers the BIG-IP Container Ingress Service (CIS). CIS is installed as a controller pod that watches OpenShift API for certain Custom Resource Definitions (CRDs) and manages the F5 BIG-IP system configuration. F5 BIG-IP CIS can be configured to control service types LoadBalancers and Routes in OpenShift.

Further, for automatic IP address allocation to service the type LoadBalancer, you can utilize the F5 IPAM controller. The F5 IPAM controller is installed as a controller pod that watches OpenShift API for LoadBalancer services with an ipamLabel annotation to allocate the IP address from a preconfigured pool.

This page lists the installation and configuration instructions for F5 BIG-IP CIS and IPAM controller. As a prerequisite, you must have an F5 BIG-IP system deployed and licensed. It must also be licensed for SDN services, which are included by default with the BIG-IP VE base license.



F5 BIG-IP can be deployed in standalone or cluster mode. For the purpose of this validation, F5 BIG-IP was deployed in standalone mode, but, for production purposes, it is preferred to have a cluster of BIG-IPs to avoid a single point of failure.



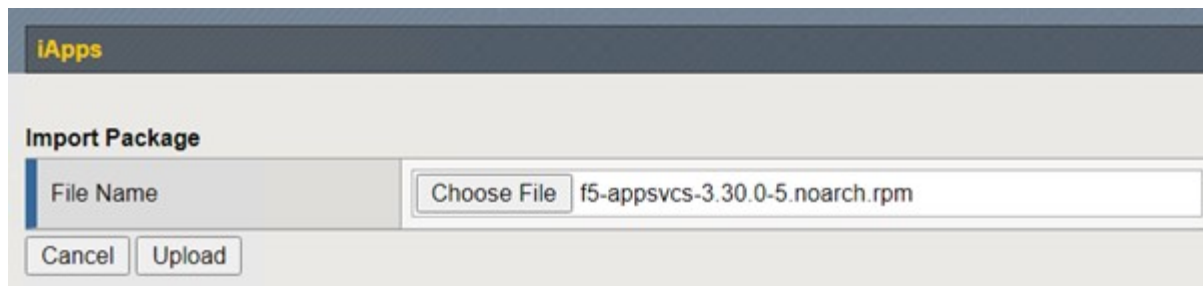
An F5 BIG-IP system can be deployed on dedicated hardware, in the cloud, or as a virtual appliance on-premises with versions greater than 12.x for it to be integrated with F5 CIS. For the purpose of this document, the F5 BIG-IP system was validated as a virtual appliance, for example using the BIG-IP VE edition.

## Validated releases

Technology	Software version
Red Hat OpenShift	4.6 EUS, 4.7
F5 BIG-IP VE edition	16.1.0
F5 Container Ingress Service	2.5.1
F5 IPAM Controller	0.1.4
F5 AS3	3.30.0

## Installation

1. Install the F5 Application Services 3 extension to allow BIG-IP systems to accept configurations in JSON instead of imperative commands. Go to [F5 AS3 GitHub repository](#), and download the latest RPM file.
2. Log into F5 BIG-IP system, navigate to iApps > Package Management LX and click Import.
3. Click Choose File and select the downloaded AS3 RPM file, click OK, and then click Upload.



The screenshot shows the 'iApps' application window with the 'Import Package' dialog box open. The 'File Name' field contains 'f5-appsvcs-3.30.0-5.noarch.rpm'. There are 'Choose File', 'Cancel', and 'Upload' buttons.

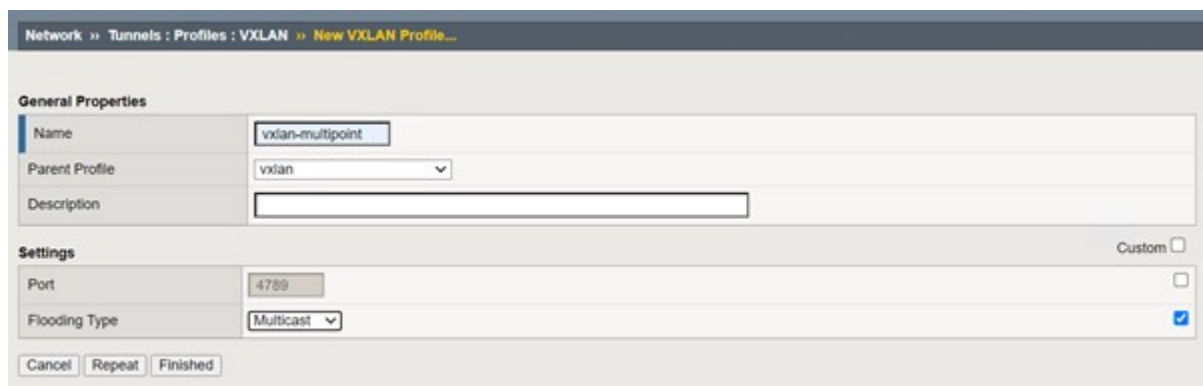
4. Confirm that the AS3 extension is installed successfully.



The screenshot shows the 'iApps Package Management LX' window. It features a table with columns: Name, Version, Build, Package, and Tags. The table contains one entry for 'f5-appsvcs'.

Name	Version	Build	Package	Tags
f5-appsvcs	3.30.0	5	f5-appsvcs-3.30.0-5.noarch	PLUGIN

5. Next configure the resources required for communication between OpenShift and BIG-IP systems. First create a tunnel between OpenShift and the BIG-IP server by creating a VXLAN tunnel interface on the BIG-IP system for OpenShift SDN. Navigate to Network > Tunnels > Profiles, click Create, and set the Parent Profile to vxlan and the Flooding Type to Multicast. Enter a name for the profile and click Finished.



The screenshot shows the 'New VXLAN Profile' configuration window. It has two main sections: 'General Properties' and 'Settings'.

**General Properties:**

- Name: vxlan-multipoint
- Parent Profile: vxlan (dropdown)
- Description: (empty text box)

**Settings:**

- Port: 4789
- Flooding Type: Multicast (dropdown)
- Custom: (checkbox, checked)

Buttons at the bottom: Cancel, Repeat, Finished.

6. Navigate to Network > Tunnels > Tunnel List, click Create, and enter the name and local IP address for the tunnel. Select the tunnel profile that was created in the previous step and click Finished.

Network » Tunnels : Tunnel List » New Tunnel...

**Configuration**

Name	openshift_vxlan
Description	
Key	0
Profile	vxlan-multipoint
Local Address	10.63.172.239
Secondary Address	Any
Remote Address	Any
Mode	Bidirectional
MTU	0
Use PMTU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enabled
TOS	Preserve
Auto-Last Hop	Default
Traffic Group	None

Cancel Repeat Finished

- Log into the Red Hat OpenShift cluster with cluster-admin privileges.
- Create a hostsubnet on OpenShift for the F5 BIG-IP server, which extends the subnet from the OpenShift cluster to the F5 BIG-IP server. Download the host subnet YAML definition.

```
wget https://github.com/F5Networks/k8s-bigip-ctlr/blob/master/docs/config_examples/openshift/f5-kctlr-openshift-hostsubnet.yaml
```

- Edit the host subnet file and add the BIG-IP VTEP (VXLAN tunnel) IP for the OpenShift SDN.

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: HostSubnet
metadata:
  name: f5-server
  annotations:
    pod.network.openshift.io/fixed-vnid-host: "0"
    pod.network.openshift.io/assign-subnet: "true"
# provide a name for the node that will serve as BIG-IP's entry into the
cluster
host: f5-server
# The hostIP address will be the BIG-IP interface address routable to
the
# OpenShift Origin nodes.
# This address is the BIG-IP VTEP in the SDN's VXLAN.
hostIP: 10.63.172.239
```



Change the hostIP and other details as applicable to your environment.

10. Create the HostSubnet resource.

```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ oc create -f f5-kctlr-openshift-hostsubnet.yaml

hostsubnet.network.openshift.io/f5-server created
```

11. Get the cluster IP subnet range for the host subnet created for the F5 BIG-IP server.

```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ oc get hostssubnet
```

NAME	HOST	HOST IP
SUBNET	EGRESS CIDRS	EGRESS IPS
f5-server	f5-server	10.63.172.239
10.131.0.0/23		
ocp-vmw-nszws-master-0	ocp-vmw-nszws-master-0	10.63.172.44
10.128.0.0/23		
ocp-vmw-nszws-master-1	ocp-vmw-nszws-master-1	10.63.172.47
10.130.0.0/23		
ocp-vmw-nszws-master-2	ocp-vmw-nszws-master-2	10.63.172.48
10.129.0.0/23		
ocp-vmw-nszws-worker-r8fh4	ocp-vmw-nszws-worker-r8fh4	10.63.172.7
10.130.2.0/23		
ocp-vmw-nszws-worker-tvr46	ocp-vmw-nszws-worker-tvr46	10.63.172.11
10.129.2.0/23		
ocp-vmw-nszws-worker-wdxhg	ocp-vmw-nszws-worker-wdxhg	10.63.172.24
10.128.2.0/23		
ocp-vmw-nszws-worker-wg8r4	ocp-vmw-nszws-worker-wg8r4	10.63.172.15
10.131.2.0/23		
ocp-vmw-nszws-worker-wtgfw	ocp-vmw-nszws-worker-wtgfw	10.63.172.17
10.128.4.0/23		

12. Create a self IP on OpenShift VXLAN with an IP in OpenShift's host subnet range corresponding to the F5 BIG-IP server. Log into the F5 BIG-IP system, navigate to Network > Self IPs and click Create. Enter an IP from the cluster IP subnet created for F5 BIG-IP host subnet, select the VXLAN tunnel, and enter the other details. Then click Finished.

**Network » Self IPs » New Self IP...**

**Configuration**

Name	<input type="text" value="10.131.0.60"/>
IP Address	<input type="text" value="10.131.0.60"/>
Netmask	<input type="text" value="255.252.0.0"/>
VLAN / Tunnel	<input type="text" value="openshift_vxla"/>
Port Lockdown	<input type="text" value="Allow All"/>
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"/>

13. Create a partition in the F5 BIG-IP system to be configured and used with CIS. Navigate to System > Users > Partition List, click Create, and enter the details. Then click Finished.

**System » Users : Partition List » New Partition...**

**Properties**

Partition Name	<input type="text" value="ocp-vmw"/>
Partition Default Route Domain	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Description	<div></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Extend Text Area <input type="checkbox"/> Wrap Text</div>

**Redundant Device Configuration**

Device Group	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inherit device group from root folder <input type="text" value="None"/>
Traffic Group	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inherit traffic group from root folder <input type="text" value="traffic-group-1 (floating)"/>



F5 recommends that no manual configuration be done on the partition that is managed by CIS.

14. Install the F5 BIG-IP CIS using the operator from OperatorHub. Log into the Red Hat OpenShift cluster with cluster-admin privileges and create a secret with F5 BIG-IP system login credentials, which is a prerequisite for the operator.



```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ oc create secret generic bigip-login -n kube-system
--from-literal=username=admin --from-literal=password=admin

secret/bigip-login created
```

15. Install the F5 CIS CRDs.

```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ oc apply -f
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/F5Networks/k8s-bigip-
ctlr/master/docs/config_examples/crd/Install/customresourcedefinitions.y
ml

customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/virtualservers.cis.f5.com
created
customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/tlsprofiles.cis.f5.com
created
customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/transportservers.cis.f5.co
m created
customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/externaldnss.cis.f5.com
created
customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/ingresslinks.cis.f5.com
created
```

16. Navigate to Operators > OperatorHub, search for the keyword F5, and click the F5 Container Ingress Service tile.

## OperatorHub

Discover Operators from the Kubernetes community and Red Hat partners, curated by Red Hat. You can purchase commercial software through [Red Hat Marketplace](#). You can install Operators on your clusters to provide optional add-ons and shared services to your developers. After installation, the Operator capabilities will appear in the [Developer Catalog](#) providing a self-service experience.

All Items

AI/Machine Learning

Application Runtime

Big Data

Cloud Provider

Database

Developer Tools

Development Tools

Drivers And Plugins

Integration & Delivery


Logging & Tracing

Modernization & Migration

Monitoring

All Items

1 items




F5 Container Ingress Services

provided by F5 Networks Inc.

Operator to install F5 Container Ingress Services (CIS) for BIG-IP.

17. Read the operator information and click Install.

 **F5 Container Ingress Services** 1.8.0 provided by F5 Networks Inc. ×

**Install**

**Latest version**  
1.8.0

**Capability level**  
☒ Basic Install  
☐ Seamless Upgrades  
☐ Full Lifecycle  
☐ Deep Insights  
☐ Auto Pilot

**Provider type**  
Certified

**Provider**  
F5 Networks Inc.

**Repository**  
<https://github.com/F5Networks/k8s-bigip-ctlr>

**Container image**  
[registry.connect.redhat.com/f5networks/k8s-bigip-ctlr](https://registry.connect.redhat.com/f5networks/k8s-bigip-ctlr)

### Introduction

This Operator installs F5 Container Ingress Services (CIS) for BIG-IP in your Cluster. This enables to configure and deploy CIS using Helm Charts.

### F5 Container Ingress Services for BIG-IP

F5 Container Ingress Services (CIS) integrates with container orchestration environments to dynamically create L4/L7 services on F5 BIG-IP systems, and load balance network traffic across the services. Monitoring the orchestration API server, CIS is able to modify the BIG-IP system configuration based on changes made to containerized applications.

### Documentation

Refer to F5 documentation

- CIS on OpenShift (<https://clouddocs.f5.com/containers/latest/userguide/openshift/>) - OpenShift Routes (<https://clouddocs.f5.com/containers/latest/userguide/routes.html>)

### Prerequisites

Create BIG-IP login credentials for use with Operator Helm charts. A basic way be,

```
oc create secret generic <SECRET-NAME> -n kube-system --from-literal=username=<USERNAME> --from-literal=password=<PASSWORD>
```

18. On the Install operator screen, leave all default parameters, and click Install.

## Install Operator

Install your Operator by subscribing to one of the update channels to keep the Operator up to date. The strategy determines either manual or automatic updates.

### Update channel \*

☒ beta

### Installation mode \*

- ☒ All namespaces on the cluster (default)  
Operator will be available in all Namespaces.
- ☐ A specific namespace on the cluster  
Operator will be available in a single Namespace only.

### Installed Namespace \*

**PR** openshift-operators

### Approval strategy \*

- ☒ Automatic
- ☐ Manual

**Install** Cancel



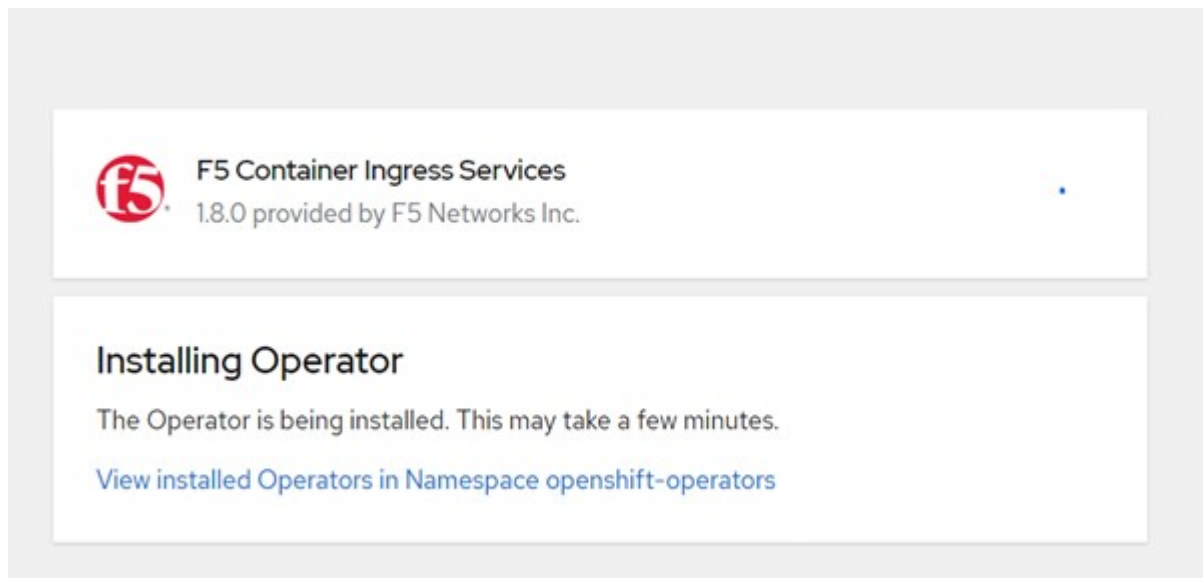
**F5 Container Ingress Services**  
provided by F5 Networks Inc.

### Provided APIs

**FBiC** F5BigIpCtrlr

This CRD provides kind **F5BigIpCtrlr** to configure and deploy F5 BIG-IP Controller.

19. It takes a while to install the operator.



20. After the operator is installed, the Installation Successful message is displayed.

21. Navigate to Operators > Installed Operators, click F5 Container Ingress Service, and then click Create Instance under the F5BigIpCtrlr tile.

[Installed Operators](#) > Operator details



**F5 Container Ingress Services**  
1.8.0 provided by F5 Networks Inc.

[Details](#)

[YAML](#)

[Subscription](#)

[Events](#)

[F5BigIpCtrlr](#)

## Provided APIs

**FBIC** F5BigIpCtrlr

This CRD provides kind `F5BigIpCtrlr` to configure and deploy F5 BIG-IP Controller.

[+ Create instance](#)

22. Click YAML View and paste the following content after updating the necessary parameters.



Update the parameters `bigip_partition`, ``openshift_sdn_name``, `bigip_url` and `bigip_login_secret` below to reflect the values for your setup before copying the content.

```

apiVersion: cis.f5.com/v1
kind: F5BigIpCtlr
metadata:
  name: f5-server
  namespace: openshift-operators
spec:
  args:
    log_as3_response: true
    agent: as3
    log_level: DEBUG
    bigip_partition: ocp-vmw
    openshift_sdn_name: /Common/openshift_vxlan
    bigip_url: 10.61.181.19
    insecure: true
    pool-member-type: cluster
    custom_resource_mode: true
    as3_validation: true
    ipam: true
    manage_configmaps: true
  bigip_login_secret: bigip-login
  image:
    pullPolicy: Always
    repo: f5networks/cntr-ingress-svcs
    user: registry.connect.redhat.com
  namespace: kube-system
  rbac:
    create: true
  resources: {}
  serviceAccount:
    create: true
  version: latest

```

23. After pasting this content, click Create. This installs the CIS pods in the kube-system namespace.

**Pods** Create Pod

Filter Name Search by name...

Name	Status	Ready	Restarts	Owner	Memory	CPU
f5-server-f5-bigip-ctlr-5d7578667d-qxdgj	Running	1/1	0	f5-server-f5-bigip-ctlr-5d7578667d	61.1 MiB	0.003 cores



Red Hat OpenShift, by default, provides a way to expose the services via Routes for L7 load balancing. An inbuilt OpenShift router is responsible for advertising and handling traffic for these routes. However, you can also configure the F5 CIS to support the Routes through an external F5 BIG-IP system, which can run either as an auxiliary router or a replacement to the self-hosted OpenShift router. CIS creates a virtual server in the BIG-IP system that acts as a router for the OpenShift routes, and BIG-IP handles the advertisement and traffic routing. Refer to the documentation here for information on parameters to enable this feature. Note that these parameters are defined for OpenShift Deployment resource in the apps/v1 API. Therefore, when using these with the F5BigIpCtrl resource cis.f5.com/v1 API, replace the hyphens (-) with underscores (\_) for the parameter names.

24. The arguments that are passed to the creation of CIS resources include `ipam: true` and `custom_resource_mode: true`. These parameters are required for enabling CIS integration with an IPAM controller. Verify that the CIS has enabled IPAM integration by creating the F5 IPAM resource.

```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ oc get f5ipam -n kube-system
```

NAMESPACE	NAME	AGE
kube-system	ipam.10.61.181.19.ocp-vmw	43s

25. Create the service account, role and rolebinding required for the F5 IPAM controller. Create a YAML file and paste the following content.

```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ vi f5-ipam-rbac.yaml

kind: ClusterRole
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
metadata:
  name: ipam-ctrl-clusterrole
rules:
  - apiGroups: ["fic.f5.com"]
    resources: ["ipams","ipams/status"]
    verbs: ["get", "list", "watch", "update", "patch"]
---
kind: ClusterRoleBinding
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
metadata:
  name: ipam-ctrl-clusterrole-binding
  namespace: kube-system
roleRef:
  apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
  kind: ClusterRole
  name: ipam-ctrl-clusterrole
subjects:
  - apiGroup: ""
    kind: ServiceAccount
    name: ipam-ctrl
    namespace: kube-system
---
apiVersion: v1
kind: ServiceAccount
metadata:
  name: ipam-ctrl
  namespace: kube-system
```

## 26. Create the resources.

```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ oc create -f f5-ipam-rbac.yaml

clusterrole.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/ipam-ctrl-clusterrole created
clusterrolebinding.rbac.authorization.k8s.io/ipam-ctrl-clusterrole-
binding created
serviceaccount/ipam-ctrl created
```

## 27. Create a YAML file and paste the F5 IPAM deployment definition provided below.



Update the ip-range parameter in spec.template.spec.containers[0].args below to reflect the ipamLabels and IP address ranges corresponding to your setup.



ipamLabels [range1 and range2 in below example] are required to be annotated for the services of type LoadBalancer for the IPAM controller to detect and assign an IP address from the defined range.

```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ vi f5-ipam-deployment.yaml

apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
metadata:
  labels:
    name: f5-ipam-controller
    name: f5-ipam-controller
    namespace: kube-system
spec:
  replicas: 1
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: f5-ipam-controller
  template:
    metadata:
      creationTimestamp: null
      labels:
        app: f5-ipam-controller
    spec:
      containers:
      - args:
        - --orchestration=openshift
        - --ip-range='{"range1":"10.63.172.242-10.63.172.249",
"range2":"10.63.170.111-10.63.170.129"}'
        - --log-level=DEBUG
        command:
        - /app/bin/f5-ipam-controller
        image: registry.connect.redhat.com/f5networks/f5-ipam-
controller:latest
        imagePullPolicy: IfNotPresent
        name: f5-ipam-controller
        dnsPolicy: ClusterFirst
        restartPolicy: Always
        schedulerName: default-scheduler
        securityContext: {}
        serviceAccount: ipam-ctlr
        serviceAccountName: ipam-ctlr
```



## 28. Create the F5 IPAM controller deployment.

```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ oc create -f f5-ipam-deployment.yaml  
  
deployment/f5-ipam-controller created
```

## 29. Verify the F5 IPAM controller pods are running.

```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ oc get pods -n kube-system
```

NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS
AGE			
f5-ipam-controller-5986cff5bd-2bvn6	1/1	Running	0
30s			
f5-server-f5-bigip-ctlr-5d7578667d-qxdgj	1/1	Running	0
14m			

## 30. Create the F5 IPAM schema.

```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ oc create -f  
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/F5Networks/f5-ipam-  
controller/main/docs/_static/schemas/ipam_schema.yaml  
  
customresourcedefinition.apiextensions.k8s.io/ipams.fic.f5.com
```

# Verification

## 1. Create a service of type LoadBalancer

```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ vi example_svc.yaml
```

```
apiVersion: v1
kind: Service
metadata:
  annotations:
    cis.f5.com/ipamLabel: range1
  labels:
    app: f5-demo-test
  name: f5-demo-test
  namespace: default
spec:
  ports:
  - name: f5-demo-test
    port: 80
    protocol: TCP
    targetPort: 80
  selector:
    app: f5-demo-test
  sessionAffinity: None
  type: LoadBalancer
```

```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ oc create -f example_svc.yaml
```

```
service/f5-demo-test created
```

2. Check if the IPAM controller assigns an external IP to it.

```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ oc get svc
```

NAME	TYPE	CLUSTER-IP	EXTERNAL-IP
f5-demo-test	LoadBalancer	172.30.210.108	10.63.172.242
80:32605/TCP	27s		

3. Create a deployment and use the LoadBalancer service that was created.

```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ vi example_deployment.yaml
```

```
apiVersion: apps/v1
kind: Deployment
metadata:
  labels:
    app: f5-demo-test
  name: f5-demo-test
spec:
  replicas: 2
  selector:
    matchLabels:
      app: f5-demo-test
  template:
    metadata:
      labels:
        app: f5-demo-test
    spec:
      containers:
      - env:
        - name: service_name
          value: f5-demo-test
        image: nginx
        imagePullPolicy: Always
        name: f5-demo-test
        ports:
        - containerPort: 80
          protocol: TCP
```

```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ oc create -f example_deployment.yaml
```

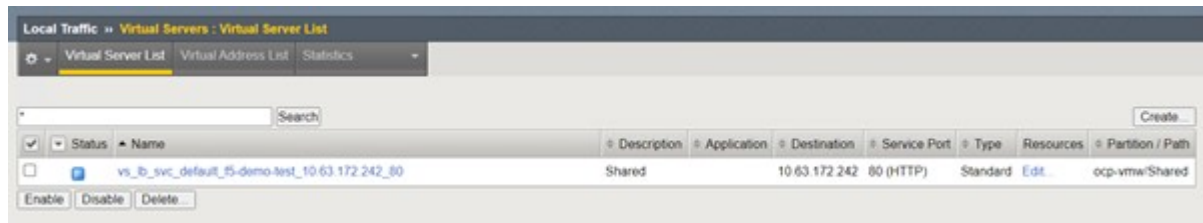
```
deployment/f5-demo-test created
```

#### 4. Check if the pods are running.

```
[admin@rhel-7 ~]$ oc get pods
```

NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE
f5-demo-test-57c46f6f98-47wvp	1/1	Running	0	27s
f5-demo-test-57c46f6f98-cl2m8	1/1	Running	0	27s

#### 5. Check if the corresponding virtual server is created in the BIG-IP system for the service of type LoadBalancer in OpenShift. Navigate to Local Traffic > Virtual Servers > Virtual Server List.



Next: Solution Validation/Use Cases: Red Hat OpenShift with NetApp.

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