

Add-On Modules

Datasheet
BIG-IP Add-On Modules



Available Modules

Feature Modules

- Message Security
- Intelligent Compression
- L7 Rate Shaping
- IPv6 Gateway
- Advanced Client Authentication
- SSL Acceleration
- Advanced Routing
- Fast Cache
- Protocol Security

Product Modules

- BIG-IP Application Security Manager
- BIG-IP Global Traffic Manager
- BIG-IP Link Controller
- BIG-IP WebAccelerator

Please refer to individual BIG-IP product datasheets for specific information on which products support each of these add-on modules.

BIG-IP Add-On Modules

Because F5 Application Delivery Networking products are modular, they're extensible by design and can easily incorporate new functions and quickly adapt to changing application and business challenges. The following are available product modules and feature modules for BIG-IP® Application Delivery Networking products.

Feature Modules

Feature modules are individual feature packs you can add to BIG-IP systems.

Message Security Module

The BIG-IP® Message Security Module™ (MSM) is the industry's first reputation-based, network edge security module. Leveraging reputation data from Secure Computing's TrustedSource™ multi-identity reputation engine, MSM extends protection for enterprise message applications to the edge of the corporate network—providing an extremely powerful and efficient tool for dealing with the growing volume of unwanted email.

Up To 70 Percent Drop in Unwanted Email

Eliminates up to 70 percent of unwanted email at the edge of the network using TrustedSource—before it gets through the firewall—significantly increasing the scaling capacity of existing enterprise anti-spam solutions.

Real-Time Lookup of Sender Reputation

Incorporates reputation-based message management, which goes far beyond blocking known "bad" emails by giving you the ability to set up sophisticated message distribution policies based on sender reputation. This allows you to intelligently filter or divide messages among multiple message scanning infrastructure tiers for a fast and cost-effective approach.

Reduced Costs

Helps reduce bandwidth expenditures, use fewer server resources, reduce business continuity risks, and lower overall infrastructure costs by eliminating unwanted email before it reaches your infrastructure.

Unique TMOS Architecture

Runs on F5's TMOS architecture, so it is easy to install as an add-on module to existing BIG-IP version 9.x systems. Best of all, BIG-IP systems can help you further reduce the load on any type of second tier anti-spam inspection, providing more diversity for filtering and reducing the number of devices required.

Intelligent Compression Module

Users today are continually impacted by poor web application performance caused by WAN latency and connection bottlenecks. By dramatically reducing the volume of traffic that is sent to the user, the Intelligent Compression™ module improves application performance while greatly enhancing the user experience.

Faster Download Times

Provides an improvement in page rendering speed of up to 5x.

Lower Bandwidth Bills

Efficiently compresses a broad variety of content types, including HTTP, XML, Javascript, J2EE applications and many others, reducing bandwidth bills by up to 80 percent.

Client Aware Compression (patent pending)

Your organization can apply compression based on the BIG-IP system's unique ability to measure client round-trip time and connection type—conserving processing cycles while targeting compression to only those user groups that will benefit.

Transparency To Users

Using GZIP and Deflate compression algorithms supported in today's browsers, Intelligent Compression reduces HTTP traffic. Compression is completely transparent to the end user, requiring no downloads or agents.

Adaptive Compression

Your organization can control and scale back cycles devoted to compression based on system load to ensure optimal performance across all functions.

L7 Rate Shaping Module

Contention for shared bandwidth often degrades application performance when you have little control in guaranteeing that high priority traffic is passed ahead of non-priority traffic. The BIG-IP® L7 Rate Shaping™ module adds fine-grained bandwidth control to better manage application bandwidth usage and traffic spikes.

Application Performance and Availability

Ensures that business critical applications are not impacted by non-priority traffic. Delivers optimal application performance by allocating bandwidth for higher priority applications.

Reduced Device Costs

Eliminates special-purpose rate shaping products to simplify and centralize traffic management.

Sophisticated Bandwidth Control

Provides flexible bandwidth limits, full support for bandwidth borrowing, and traffic queuing (stochastic fair queue, FIFO ToS priority queue).

Granular Traffic Classification L2 through L7

Controls rate classes based on any traffic variable; allows application bandwidth to be shared across similar priority applications for better resource sharing.

Rate Limiting

Provides a valuable security function that ensures specific types of application traffic stay within authorized boundaries.

IPv6 Gateway Module

With demand for IPv6 increasing, many sites are facing new requirements to handle IPv6 traffic. The IPv6 Gateway™ module provides a clear and seamless strategy for staging network migration without wholesale network and application upgrades.

Lower Cost

Provides complete IP transformation and load balancing capabilities between v4 and v6 networks and directs traffic across mixed IPv6 and IPv4 resources. Insulates your organization from costly application changes to support IPv6.

IPv6 Support

Supports object definition, object probing, AAAA, A6, DNAME, SNMP, F5 iControl API, and statistics. Enables BIG-IP systems to support IPv4 and IPv6 addresses (self IPs, virtual servers, proxies, nodes and SNATs).

IPv6/IPv4 Translation

Translates traffic for consumption by either IPv4 or IPv6 end points, allowing your organization to stage your migration gradually as demand for IPv6 increases.

Advanced Client Authentication Module

Managing authentication individually across applications is costly. Top level authentication enforcement consumes server cycles that could be used elsewhere. The Advanced Client Authentication™ module provides top-level client authentication of HTTP and other traffic types to LDAP, RADIUS and TACAS directories.

Centralized Application Authentication

Reduces management costs and decreases server and application load.

Advanced SSL Authorization and Authentication

Checks user certificates using the Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP) before granting network access.

Insulation From Attacks

Stops unwanted traffic before it reaches your servers and applications.

Customizable Authentication Framework

Supports the Pluggable Authentication Module (PAM) for passing client information to external devices for authentication; allows your organization to integrate BIG-IP systems into any type of authentication device that will accept PAM services.

SSL Acceleration Module

The SSL Acceleration™ module* offloads CPU-intensive processing from servers and migrates SSL decryption onto a high performance device designed to efficiently handle SSL transactions.

100 Percent SSL

Your organization can migrate 100 percent of its communications to SSL; the SSL Acceleration module removes all the bottlenecks for secure, wire speed processing (concurrent users, bulk throughput, and new transactions per second).

Consolidation

Consolidates SSL certificates directly onto the BIG-IP system, saving hundreds of dollars per certificate.

Centralized Management

Centralizes certificate management to a single source, greatly simplifying administrative duties.

Reduced Cost

Eliminates the need to buy and install SSL-capable server software on every server within the network.

Selective Content Encryption & Encrypted Cookies

Provides the industry's most granular control to holistically, partially, or conditionally encrypt data without coding changes into applications.

Advanced Routing Modules

Support for diverse routing protocols enables BIG-IP systems to share routing information with other devices for better interoperability within the corporate network, whether it's IPv4 or IPv6.

Modules support the following protocols: Border Gateway Protocol (BGP & BGP4); Routing Information Protocol (RIPv1, RIPv2, & RIPv3); Open Shortest Path First (OSPF & OSPFv3); and Intermediate System - Intermediate System (IS-IS).

* Different BIG-IP hardware platforms offer and are capable of supporting varying degrees of SSL TPS. All platforms include 100 TPS of SSL processing standard.

Fast Cache Module

The BIG-IP Fast Cache™ module improves application and server performance by offloading repetitive requests for content from the backend infrastructure—while intelligently targeting its performance on a per-application basis. This module provides superior flexibility and control to ensure that your organization can achieve greater offload and faster service to your customer base.

Reduced Server Utilization

Reduces server load by up to 50 percent, reduces server costs, and speeds user performance for frequently visited pages.

Multi-Store Caching

Creates dedicated cache repositories to target caching on a per-application basis, delivering maximum service and speed where it is needed most.

Pre-Compressed Content

Stores and serves compressed content, eliminating wasteful recompression of content and associated performance hits.

Static and Dynamic Content Caching

Allows your organization to specify content that is dynamically built (i.e. dynamic HTML) for caching. Conditionally flushes cache repositories to maintain content freshness.

Protocol Security Module

BIG-IP® Protocol Security Module™ (PSM) provides powerful security services for HTTP(s), SMTP, and FTP at BIG-IP system speed. PSM is perfect for environments that require more than layer 3 and layer 4 inspection services, where the expertise and management overhead needed to deploy a full-featured web application firewall isn't possible or there is a need to secure other protocols. Protocol enforcement services can be implemented on a per-virtual-server basis and configured within a matter of minutes.

Broad Protection from HTTP Attacks

Safeguards your brand by filtering out attacks related to web server vulnerability, request smuggling, buffer overflow, and command injection and masks sensitive data like Social Security and credit card numbers.

Spam-Blocking SMTP Security

Stops spam at the perimeter by performing DNS checks and blocking dangerous SMTP commands. Enforces rate limits on incoming connections and mitigates directory harvesting attacks.

Centralized FTP Security Management

Simplifies security management of FTP servers with centralized configuration and provides comprehensive FTP security.

Product Modules

The following product modules are software versions of F5 appliance products you can add to an existing F5 BIG-IP system. These products are also available as standalone appliances.

BIG-IP Application Security Manager Module

The BIG-IP® Application Security Manager™ (ASM) module runs on the BIG-IP Application Delivery Networking platform, providing robust application security with traffic management capabilities in a single system—without the need to buy or install more hardware.

BIG-IP ASM provides application-layer protection from both targeted and generalized application attacks, ensuring that applications are always available and performing optimally.

This complete security solution reduces box clutter, lowers maintenance and management costs, and provides proactive application protection while ensuring exceptional application performance.

Protection of Brand Equity

Significantly reduces the risk of loss or damage to data, intellectual property, and web applications to protect your organization's brand equity and reputation.

Proactive Protection Against Identity Theft

Provides the industry's most comprehensive protection of identity information (credit card numbers, bank accounts, etc.) by controlling access as well as updates to identity information as part of every HTTP request/response.

Regulatory Compliance

Ensures compliance with regulations such as PCI-DSS, the Basel Accords, HIPAA and CA SB 1386 as well as with emerging regulations—an absolute necessity if your organization handles sensitive customer information.

Reduced Remediation Costs

Stops attacks before they can do any harm, preventing not only the direct costs of responding to an attack but also the potential costs associated with public relations, brand image, litigation, and regulatory fines.

“Plug and Protect” Capability

Dramatically reduces policy management and manual configuration duties. Once installed, the module's proprietary, automated learning mechanism quickly and accurately builds security policies tailored to the unique requirements of the applications it protects.

BIG-IP Global Traffic Manager Module

Site outages, attacks, and application or infrastructure failure are a major cause for user dissatisfaction that can lead to a loss of revenue and clientele. The BIG-IP® Global Traffic Manager™ (GTM) module provides high availability, maximum performance, and global management for applications running across multiple and globally dispersed data centers.

High Availability

Distributes user requests according to business policies and data center and network conditions. Enables transparent delivery of applications and web services across multiple sites and ensures global business continuity and application availability.

Better Performance

Improves performance and the user experience by directing users to the best-performing site on a global basis.

Improved Control

Increases flexibility by delivering global traffic control that can direct users according to any business policy.

More Efficient Management

Fully leverages secondary data centers by providing a holistic view into application and data center health from a single locale. This reduces management overhead while increasing the efficiency, scalability, and ROI of the global network.

BIG-IP Link Controller Module

As the use of the Internet to deliver organizations' applications increases, maintaining only one link to the public network represents a single point of failure and serious network vulnerability. The BIG-IP® Link Controller™ module seamlessly monitors the availability and performance of multiple WAN connections to intelligently manage bi-directional traffic flows to a site—providing fault-tolerant, optimized Internet access.

High Availability

Detects errors across an entire link to provide end-to-end, reliable WAN connectivity. Monitors the health and availability of each connection, detecting outages to a link or ISP. In the event of a failure, traffic is transparently and dynamically directed across other available links so users and external customers always stay connected.

Comprehensive Link Monitoring

Provides a comprehensive view into the health and throughput of links through the gateway router, ensuring availability and providing insight into the bandwidth and capacity of any given link. It also detects failures caused by ISP misconfiguration or other manual errors that might otherwise be missed.

Composite Monitors

Combines multiple monitors to quickly and accurately determine the health and availability of a link. If a problem is detected, it can route traffic to other available links—reducing downtime costs while improving the user experience.

Maximum ROI and Quality of Service

Ensures traffic is directed over the best possible link and ISP, maintaining the highest quality of service and speed for users. Maximizes ROI for connectivity by enabling you to aggregate inexpensive links.

BIG-IP WebAccelerator Module

When combined with selected BIG-IP® Local Traffic Manager™ platforms, the BIG-IP® WebAccelerator™ module provides additional acceleration technologies such as Dynamic Content Control™ and Dynamic Data Offload™ to provide an extended level of web application acceleration as an integrated solution. The BIG-IP WebAccelerator module is specially suited for web applications such as Microsoft SharePoint, Oracle Portal, Microsoft Office Outlook Web Access, Siebel CRM, and many others.

5x–10x Acceleration

Accelerates web applications for remote and mobile users by up to 10x.

Reduced Bandwidth Usage

Significantly reduces bandwidth usage by reducing the amount of data sent.

Greater Server Capacity

Improves server capacity by offloading repetitive content with dynamic caching.

Lower Costs

Reduces web application deployment and maintenance costs through validated web application acceleration policies.

Deployable as Asymmetric, Symmetric, or Both

Unique to BIG-IP WebAccelerator, asymmetric deployment offers up to 5x acceleration for significant ROI on a moderate investment. A symmetric deployment can provide even greater acceleration—up to 10x.



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