The Network Is a Critical Component

The VMware® Horizon™ Mobile Secure Workplace™ solution is a powerful architecture intended to serve the needs of mobile workers who change devices and access points frequently. Users may be accessing their desktops from iPads, laptops, or smartphones, and moving between home offices, corporate offices, airports, and hotels.

Together, F5 and VMware ensure that users always have secure, easy, and quick access to their virtual desktops no matter what device they are using, and no matter where they are accessing from. For the IT administrator, F5 BIG-IP delivers centralized access to all applications, intelligent traffic management between multiple pods and sites, and stringent security controls.

Deployments ranging from hundreds to tens of thousands of devices will benefit from leveraging F5 solutions.

**Key benefits**

- Hardened, secure remote access to the VMware Horizon Mobile Secure Workplace
- Local and global intelligent traffic management to maximize scalability and availability
- Simplified user access experience with username persistence and single sign-on

**F5 Secures Access to Mobile Desktops**

F5 and the VMware Horizon Mobile Secure Workplace solution provide an innovative way for IT to support device diversity and BYOD initiatives. From pre-logon endpoint security checks to two-factor authentication, F5 provides security for all mobile devices: from laptops to iPads to smartphones.

The BIG-IP product family is a system of integrated application delivery services that work together on the same purpose-built hardware. Services range from load balancing and SSL offload, to network security, application security, access control, and much more. The modular BIG-IP system is built on the TMOS platform, which offers tremendous scalability and customization. You can start with one specific function to meet your current business needs and budget, and add more capacity and functionality as your application and business demands change.
SOLUTION OVERVIEW
F5 Solutions for VMware Horizon View

TMOS provides several unique features that enhance IT’s control over virtual desktop environments.

BIG-IP iRules, an event-driven scripting language, allows administrators to modify BIG-IP actions based on traffic inspection. You can fully customize your policies based on users, devices, access points, and more. F5 offers a specially designed and tested iRule to help improve username persistence of VMware Horizon View™ client sessions, which is particularly valuable for organizations using multiple Horizon View pods, or serving Horizon View from more than one datacenter. Whenever users disconnect, either by changing devices, temporarily losing a mobile connection, or moving between locations, they can get reconnected to their original Horizon View server and session. This eliminates the need for the Horizon View server to rebuild the user’s virtual desktop, which in turn accelerates access and avoids any loss of workflow or information.

In addition, BIG-IP has a unique wizard-based configuration system called iApps that allows users to quickly configure their systems using F5’s pre-tested best practices for application deployments. This helps minimize configuration errors and reduces deployment time from hours to minutes. F5 has developed and maintains an iApp specifically in support of the latest version of VMware Horizon View.

The BIG-IP product family gives you granular control, scalability, and flexibility that are not available with other traffic-management technologies.

F5 Solutions for VMware Horizon View

The Mobile Secure Workplace is a validated solution architecture offered by VMware and VMware Ready Partners. F5 offers tightly integrated offerings to meet the needs of organizations looking to securely support end users across devices and locations. There are three primary components to F5’s solution for the VMware Horizon Mobile Secure Workplace:

Secure Access Management
BIG-IP Access Policy Manager (APM) is a high-performance SSL-VPN solution that provides unified global access to your virtual desktop environment. BIG-IP APM provides integration with authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA) services as well as enables convenient single sign-on to streamline the authentication process across devices into a single quick and easy step. By converging and consolidating remote access, LAN access, and wireless connections within a single management interface, and providing easy-to-manage access policies, BIG-IP APM can help you free up valuable IT resources and scale cost effectively.

Local Traffic Management
BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager (LTM) is an Application Delivery Networking solution that provides intelligent load balancing of the Horizon View Security and Connection Servers. BIG-IP LTM also provides traffic management as well as application security, acceleration, and optimization. With BIG-IP LTM, you get a full set of unified application infrastructure services that give you total application control, visibility, and flexibility.

Global Traffic Management
BIG-IP Global Traffic Manager (GTM) is designed to load balance amongst multiple geographically distributed sites. BIG-IP GTM distributes Horizon View connection requests based on pre-defined business policies, datacenters, network conditions, the user’s location, and application performance. BIG-IP GTM is designed to maximize global uptime in the event of a disaster or an attack like DDoS.

The combination of BIG-IP LTM and BIG-IP GTM enables IT to simplify user access when more than one site is available for access. Rather than offering multiple access points (e.g., site1.corp.com, site2.corp.com, etc.), this solution enables IT to offer users a single site (e.g., view.corp.com) which distributes connection requests automatically according to the correct policy. The F5 Single Namespace solution offers great value in simplifying access for users who no longer have to remember which site to access for optimal performance. Furthermore, this solution reduces the volume of support calls into your helpdesk.

Summary

The VMware Horizon Mobile Secure Workplace solution is a powerful architecture that leverages technology from VMware and F5 Networks. The joint solutions provided enable organizations to improve security while reducing costs and complexity—thereby fully delivering on the promise of fast, easy, and always-available virtual desktops.

Learn More about the Mobile Secure Workplace

For additional information about F5 solutions for VMware Horizon View including the Mobile Secure Workplace solution, please visit http://www.f5.com/view or contact F5 at VMwarePartnership@f5.com.