



MICROSOFT MOBILE INFORMATION SERVER

Secure, Fast and Available Access to Microsoft Mobile Information Server Deployments

Executive Summary

There is an increasing trend within the enterprise to add connectivity to the network from mobile devices. Two industry leaders, Microsoft® and F5 Networks, already have a complete mobile solution in place. When Microsoft Mobile Information Server is combined with F5 Networks application delivery networking products, enterprises have a scalable, high performing, easy to use, and secure mobile solution at their fingertips. Enterprises taking advantage of this mobile solution are sure to be riding this wave of the future today.

By combining F5's BIG-IP® application delivery networking devices with Microsoft Mobile Information Server (MMIS), mobile computing solutions delivering applications based on the .NET® Framework experience continuous uptime, increased performance, enhanced security, and greater scalability.

Challenges

Providing high availability, increased uptime, performance, scalability and enhanced security for mobile server deployments is just as critical as with any other type of application, perhaps even more. Scaled solutions need assurance that all business-critical mobile traffic is properly distributed across the available resources and delivered to the intended destination. Flexible deployment scenarios are needed to easily accommodate infrastructure modifications, without costly disruptions.

Solution

When deployed together, products from F5 Networks and Microsoft deliver a robust and optimized solution for managing mobile traffic with enterprise-class security. The BIG-IP solution automatically directs user requests to only those servers that are functioning properly and optimally distributes load based upon a variety of performance and business criteria.

The BIG-IP system offers in-depth application level security for enterprises, including the Universal Inspection Engine and iRules™. With these two unique features, enterprises can use the BIG-IP product to set up and enforce common application level security policies. Using the Universal Inspection Engine (UIE) and rules (iRules) capabilities, organizations can filter and block application level attacks and threats. The UIE has the ability to read any type of IP traffic and its payload, including traffic from mobile devices. Organizations can take advantage of this flexible and powerful capability by creating iRules, which are used to define application traffic administrators wish to persist on, switch on, or deny. The combination of these two features provide enterprises with unmatched control over their application traffic.

The combined BIG-IP and MMIS solution gives customers a competitive edge by providing scalability, fault tolerance, flexibility, and enhanced performance through its best practices approach of load balancing traffic. It also provides extensible, programmatic control, using F5's iControl® SOAP/XML API, enabling automated administration and maintenance of multi-server implementations. By adding the BIG-IP product to the solution, and offloading the scaling, high availability, and SSL security functions from MMIS, deployments can achieve higher degrees of uptime, flexible deployment architectures, and optimized performance for the following forms of mission-critical traffic:

- * SMTP traffic from the Exchange servers to the MIS server
- * HTTP traffic from the Microsoft Outlook® Mobile server to the MIS server
- * IPSEC connections from MIS-EE to MIS-CE
- * SSL encrypted traffic to the WAP gateway

About F5

F5 Networks is the global leader in Application Delivery Networking. F5 provides solutions that make applications secure, fast and available for everyone, helping organizations get the most out of their investment. By adding intelligence and manageability into the network to offload applications, F5 optimizes applications and allows them to work faster and consume fewer resources. F5's extensible architecture intelligently integrates application optimization, protects the application and the network, and delivers application reliability—all on one universal platform. Over 10,000 organizations and service providers worldwide trust F5 to keep their applications running. The company is headquartered in Seattle, Washington with offices worldwide. For more information, go to www.f5.com.

About Microsoft MIS

Microsoft Mobile Information Server (MMIS) extends the reach of Microsoft .NET-based enterprise applications, data, and intranet content into the realm of the mobile user. Mobile Information Server 2002 brings the power of the corporate intranet to the latest generation of mobile devices, so no matter where you are, you can securely gain access to your email messages, tasks or intranet line-of-business applications.