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F5 Redefines ADC for the AI Era

Next-generation Application Delivery Controllers address hybrid, multicloud, and AI-driven IT...

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F5 is leading ADC transformation with convergence of high-performance application delivery with sophisticated application security capabilities into a single platform

New reference architecture and partner alliances help customers deliver a secure future for AI-powered digital world

SEATTLE--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- F5 (NASDAQ: FFIV) today outlined its vision on how Application Delivery Controllers (ADCs) must transform to meet the extraordinary demands of modern and AI-powered applications. With a platform-based approach that delivers flexibility in form factor, management capabilities, and advanced control over every aspect of application security and delivery, F5 is leading the way and developing this next generation of ADCs.

“The rise of AI and modern applications demands a fundamental rethinking of application security and delivery. Traditional approaches fall short in managing today’s complex, distributed systems. Organizations need solutions that provide consistency, flexibility, and complete visibility across their IT landscape. F5 has transformed our technology portfolio to meet these challenges head-on, enabling our customers to confidently secure and deliver advanced digital experiences,” said Kunal Anand, Chief Innovation Officer, F5.

According to F5’s State of Application Strategy Report, the modern application era driven by AI is upon us. 75% of enterprises state they are already deploying AI apps in some form. Despite the rush to implement these new modern digital experiences, enterprises are ill equipped to secure and deliver AI applications that handle massive amounts of data, require complex traffic patterns, and introduce sophisticated security threats.

A new approach is needed to the underlying tech stack that is still powered by traditional ADCs. The next generation of ADCs must support the reality of today’s hybrid and multicloud infrastructures, converging what are currently point solutions to address critical needs such as high-performance load balancing, full web app and API security, multicloud networking, and AI gateway capabilities.

F5 is leading the industry in this transformation, introducing a new approach to secure and deliver modern apps with a series of architectures designed for today’s most dynamic AI use cases. These new resources will help enterprises accelerate AI planning and deployment while tackling the increasing complexity in delivering modern applications.

ADC 3.0: Redefining ADC for the AI Era

Infrastructure, applications, and security have evolved significantly over the past 25 years—from on-premises data centers and monolithic applications secured by basic rule-based WAF and DoS protection, to public cloud deployed microservices and container-based applications with more comprehensive security that includes API protection and bot defense. As we enter the AI era, hybrid, multicloud environments are now the norm and applications are highly distributed, requiring AI-powered security capabilities that protect

against increasingly complex threats.

In an era of unprecedented technological complexity and security challenges, F5's reimagined vision of what an ADC can and should be is critical for organizations looking to adapt. AI and other modern apps require a new, more advanced approach to ADCs that converges high-performance load balancing with more powerful web application and API cybersecurity capabilities to deliver this new breed of digital experiences. F5 created the ADC category and has been the leader in securing and delivering applications for the world's largest organizations for nearly 30 years. As F5 enables customers to tackle the complexity challenges inherent in deploying AI applications, the company is once again leading the industry with a new vision for ADC technology.

"Apps have become more dynamic and more distributed. This trend is expected to continue as AI becomes more ubiquitous throughout the enterprise. As the nature of applications has changed, the ADC naturally needs to evolve as well. The need for robust load balancing and application delivery techniques combined with robust security features that protect data at the application and API level is critical as we enter the era of AI. F5 has been a proven leader in this space, and the company's vision appears to meet the stringent delivery and security requirements that will be ever present in the AI era," said Zeus Kerravala, founder and Principal Analyst, ZK Research.

Learn more about the next generation of ADC—ADC 3.0—at f5.com and preview exciting news coming later this month at AppWorld, F5's flagship app security and delivery conference.

Delivering Secure AI Apps for All

The acceleration of AI is creating unprecedented application security and delivery challenges for enterprise IT and security teams already mired in hybrid and multicloud complexity. AI applications make larger and more frequent requests of enterprise data stores and AI models often housed in AI factories. This requires advanced high-performance load balancing capable of handling massive amounts of data and complex traffic patterns without creating latency. And, with new AI-focused cybersecurity threats such as model theft, training data poisoning, and prompt injection emerging with the growth of generative AI, attackers are working to infiltrate and hijack both the AI models and the data used to train them.

To help enterprises tackle these challenges, F5 has introduced a new AI reference architecture designed to organize AI/ML workflows into seven core building blocks, offering guidance and best practices for security, application traffic management, and platform optimization. It also includes critical considerations such as F5's Application Delivery Top 10 challenges, OWASP's Top 10 security risks for LLMs, and various deployment models. With this architecture, customers can efficiently align their business and technical requirements for AI projects.

F5's AI reference architecture enables customers to build secure and highly scalable IT infrastructure required for AI applications, reducing risks, costs, and the need for extensive in-house design efforts. F5 facilitates the integration of seven AI building blocks across hybrid and multicloud environments, and the company has announced partnerships with the following companies to support customers' AI projects:

Compute

F5 to Supercharge AI Application Delivery for Service Providers and Enterprises with NVIDIA BlueField-3 DPUs

F5 Collaborates with Intel to Simplify the Security and Delivery of AI Services

Data & Storage

F5 and NetApp Accelerate and Streamline Large Language Model Deployments

MinIO and F5 to Enhance AI Workloads with High Performance Object Storage and Distributed Application Services

LLM Security & Observability

Prompt Security Firewall for AI on F5 Distributed Cloud Platform Secures Generative AI App Interactions

F5 Distributed Cloud Services Now Supports AIShield Guardium for Generative AI Applications and LLM Security

Portkey and F5 Collaborate for Intelligent AI Application Delivery

Cloud Service Provider

OVHcloud and F5 Deliver Advanced Multicloud Application Security

Supporting Resources

Resource: Simplify and Scale AI Deployments with F5's AI Reference Architecture

Digital Experience: F5 Introduces New Vision for Application Delivery Controllers

Blog: A New Generation of ADCs for the AI Era

Resource: Application Delivery Top 10

About F5

F5 is a multicloud application security and delivery company committed to bringing a better digital world to life. F5 partners with the world's largest, most advanced organizations to secure every app—on premises, in the cloud, or at the edge. F5 enables businesses to continuously stay ahead of threats while delivering exceptional, secure digital experiences for their customers. For more information, go to f5.com. (NASDAQ: FFIV)

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