



## ***F5 and ExtraHop Ensure Application Delivery Success***

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It's always the network's fault, or at least it seems that way every time there is an intermittent issue or performance degradation. Too often, software is tested in a lab environment instead of the real world, where multiple networks, servers, and clients can introduce scenarios that the application might not be able to overcome. Even worse, it frequently falls on network engineers to troubleshoot these application issues, costing man-hours, potential lost revenue, and customer dissatisfaction.

ExtraHop Networks and F5 Networks have partnered to tackle these challenges. The ExtraHop Application Delivery Assurance system provides passive, real-time analysis from L2–L7 for proactive early warning and accelerated troubleshooting across the network, web, database, and storage tiers. With specific KPIs and prescriptive tuning guidelines for the BIG-IP, ExtraHop works together with F5 to ensure application-delivery success and provide a powerful and intuitive management solution that is designed to solve today's network- and application-management challenges.

### ***Challenges***

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In today's distributed, virtualized world, networks are becoming increasingly complex to manage. As new classes of networking devices blur the lines between the network and application layers, the network often is blamed unfairly for any performance issues that arise. A hodgepodge of legacy management tools, including packet sniffers, SNMP pollers, NetFlow collectors, and custom performance agents, have been thrown at these problems for decades but are lagging further and further behind. While the business expects flawless management of extremely complex environments, IT teams equipped with obsolete, manual tools are losing the battle. IT infrastructure and applications will not become simpler. New technology, like the agentless real-time transaction analysis performed by the ExtraHop system, is required to keep pace with future demands.

### ***The ExtraHop Solution***

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The ExtraHop Application Delivery Assurance system is a passive network appliance built to ensure that business-critical transactions do not fail. The ExtraHop system combines the troubleshooting capabilities of Network Performance Managers with the superior application-level visibility of User Experience Monitors. Performing real-time analysis of application transactions across the network, database, and storage tiers, the ExtraHop system accelerates troubleshooting efforts and proactively warns of potential problems.

The health and performance information needed to manage growing IT complexity is on the wire. The ExtraHop system leverages recent gains in processing power and storage capacity to extract this valuable information and deliver a level of visibility and analysis that only recently has become feasible. While many tools rely on legacy technologies, such as NetFlow collection, SNMP polling, or TCP-header inspection, the ExtraHop system performs full-stream reassembly and full content analysis, processing tens of thousands of transactions simultaneously and in real time.

ExtraHop Networks has brought innovation to network- and application-management performance, offering the only solution that delivers full L2–L7 visibility to accelerate troubleshooting and provide guided tuning for intelligent network devices such as the F5 BIG-IP. The ExtraHop system helps networking teams achieve the following mission-critical goals:

## End the Blame Game

- Stop wasting time guessing what might be causing an issue. Instead, use the unprecedented visibility of the ExtraHop system to confidently answer the question, "Is it the application or is it the network?" with just a few clicks.
- Drill down to individual applications, devices, protocols, or even specific errors and database stored procedures to avoid war room troubleshooting summits.

## Optimize Performance through Advanced Tuning

- Navigate the online ExtraHop Help, which describes each metric in detail and provides expert recommendations for tuning, including specific tuning instructions for BIG-IP.
- Centralize all-important TCP metrics and tuning parameters in a single view to spot network congestion issues and tune proactively.
- Stack-rank load-balanced servers by performance to optimize load-balancing policies and ensure sufficient capacity for application deployments.
- Obtain vital information for content-caching policies to get the most out of your Application Delivery Controllers.
- Determine the impact of the Application Delivery Controller on application and network performance.

## Understand Capacity Needs and Test Network Designs

- Deploy the ExtraHop system within a staging environment to discover potential performance bottlenecks before deploying a new application into production.
- Analyze the cyclical trends learned by the ExtraHop system through intelligent trending of performance and capacity metrics to create an accurate and insightful view of the application and network.

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