F5 Application Delivery Services in Microsoft Azure

Key features

- Consistent application services on premises and in Azure

- Secure, policy-driven single sign-on

- Web application security and DDoS protection

- High availability of cloud-based and on-premises applications

- SSL offloading and stateful layer 4-7 traffic management

- Subnet isolation and application-centric policy enforcement

Enterprises are moving critical web applications to the public cloud in order to boost flexibility and scalability and reduce infrastructure and operational costs. F5® BIG-IP® virtual editions for Microsoft Azure enable you to provide the same level of security and performance for your applications, no matter where they reside. At the same time, they help you maintain seamless continuity of application services and realize the benefits of a hybrid cloud architecture.

Challenge

Enterprises are under constant pressure to simplify management and enhance performance and scalability. Traditional data center architectures cannot provide this level of on-demand services. By moving mission-critical applications to the public cloud, you can boost data center agility and efficiency. Yet, despite the benefits of moving applications to a cloud environment, some enterprises are still wary of taking this big step. They are often concerned that their cloud-based applications won't have the same levels of performance and security as their on-premises applications.

Solution

F5 built BIG-IP VEs for Microsoft Azure to enable you to take advantage of the elasticity of the public cloud while continuing to manage and secure critical applications the same way you do when they're hosted on premises. Whether you want to move your applications entirely to the Azure cloud, use a hybrid private-public cloud network, or even deploy a hybrid network across geographical regions, BIG-IP VEs for Microsoft Azure can help increase efficiency, optimize performance, and bolster security.
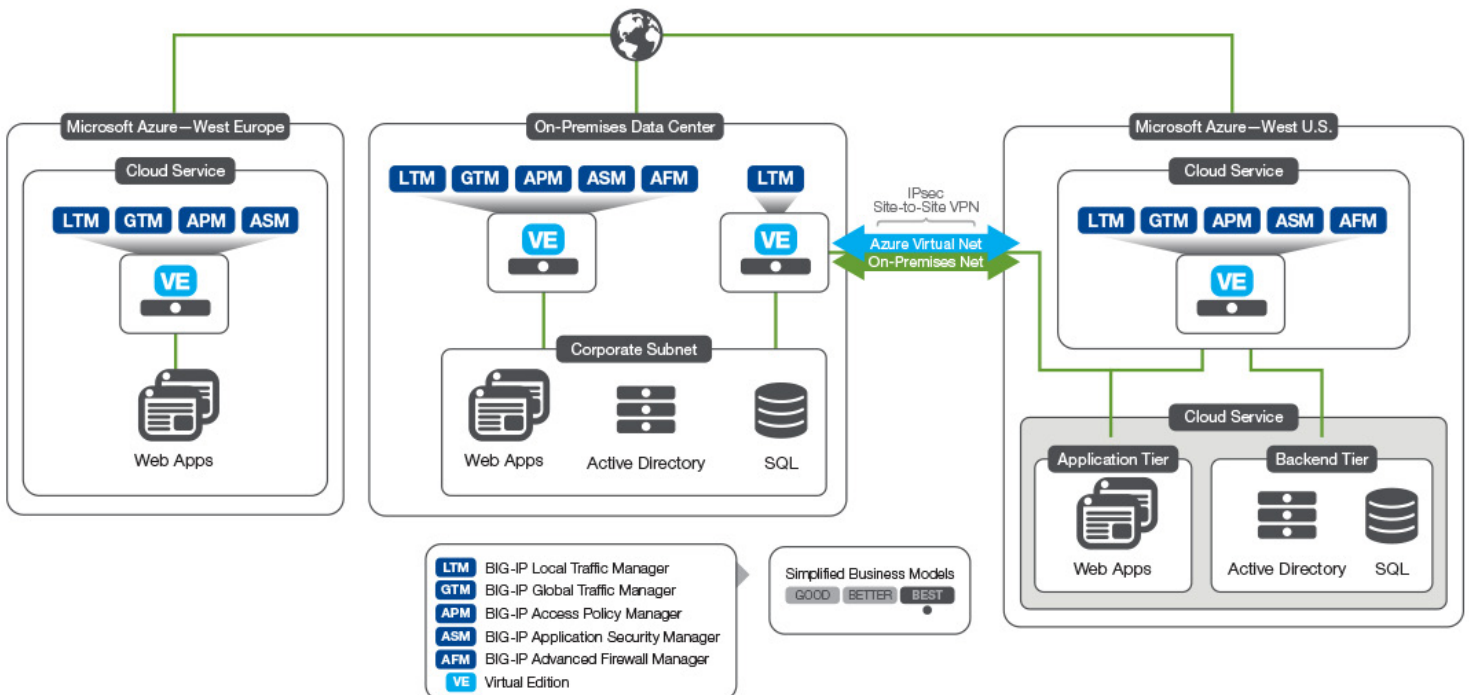
F5 offers enterprise-class local and global traffic management, web application firewall, and SAML federation wherever your applications reside.

Key benefits

- Cut costs by scaling in the cloud, not on premises
- Easily move workloads between cloud and data centers
- Maintain high availability of web applications
- Speed development by testing in Azure
- Keep sensitive data on premises

Web pages

F5 Microsoft

Enjoy enterprise-class security and performance in an Azure environment

BIG-IP VEs for Microsoft Azure enables you to maintain the same security policies and a consistent management interface for applications you move to the cloud. BIG-IP product modules provide a host of services for cloud-based applications, including policy-driven single-sign on (SSO), web application security, DDoS protection, SSL offloading, and stateful layer 4–7 traffic management.

Increase flexibility and scalability with hybrid cloud networks

Integrating public cloud resources with an existing private cloud can give you a much-needed on-demand platform to scale rapidly. Key advantages of a federated cloud configuration include the seamless redirection of application users, geolocation and acceleration technologies, and secure SSL VPN connections. The user experience remains unaffected regardless of the location from which applications are delivered.

Improve performance and boost availability with global traffic management and federation

One of the advantages of public cloud computing is the potential to deliver applications from multiple locations across geographic regions. This can improve performance by reducing the distance between the user and the application. It can also increase availability by ensuring failover if an application in one region were to go down. BIG-IP VEs for Microsoft Azure makes it easy for you to realize these benefits by balancing traffic across regions based on performance and availability metrics.

Moreover, BIG-IP VEs for Microsoft Azure help enterprises using a hybrid cloud model address the challenge of federating network, access, and application resources across locations. BIG-IP uses Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML), an XML-based, open standard data format for authentication and authorization. SAML eliminates the need to manage independent user accounts across Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) providers. It also enables web browser SSO and stronger authorization solutions, including two-factor authentication, IP geolocation enforcement, and device inspection.

Conclusion

Migrating applications to the cloud offers many benefits to enterprises that are interested in increasing flexibility and scalability while cutting their infrastructure and operational costs.

BIG-IP VEs for Microsoft Azure deliver the flexibility, security, and application control that today's enterprises require while providing the consistency and scalability necessary for future growth.

To learn more about BIG-IP virtual editions for Azure, please see BIG-IP VEs in Microsoft Azure. To find out how the F5 and Microsoft partnership can help your business, visit f5.com/microsoft.