

# Security in the cloud is not automatic: what you may not know

With a [shared responsibility model](#), the cloud provider secures the cloud infrastructure that apps run on, while you're still on the hook for securing your web application and data. This means you will still need to deploy your own security layer for your web app with a web application firewall (WAF) solution.

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**Web applications deployed in  
the cloud are not protected by  
the cloud's security**

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## About WAFs

A WAF is a type of advanced application firewall that protects your web applications by blocking and filtering malicious requests and intrusions. This ensures availability of your service to legitimate users. It is crucial that a WAF is deployed to ensure your web apps are protected from attacks. Implementing a WAF helps you easily meet compliance requirements and protect your assets against new and existing application threats and distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks. Provisioning and deploying a WAF can take weeks or even months to achieve on-premises, even if you have the technical expertise to do so.

## Fully integrated with Azure

F5's enterprise-class WAF solution is available for immediate deployment through Microsoft Azure Security Center. In three easy steps, F5's fully automated WAF goes to work right away protecting your web apps. In Azure's dashboard view, you're able to monitor the WAF's activity and make any adjustments to the security policy based on analytics and reporting.

## The F5 advantage

When deploying your WAF, F5 handles the licensing, provisioning, and a full configuration for your specific web application. It pulls your app's unique attributes and uses that data to perform the full configuration for you. It then places a WAF policy that is set for the app's category, blocking threats immediately. In less than an hour, you'll get a full deployment of a WAF—this can include features such as proactive bot defense, automatic server protection, and visibility into HTTP and WebSocket traffic.

[Learn more](#)

## A simple solution with big security benefits

You don't need to be a security expert to implement and realize the benefits of the F5 WAF. Protecting your web apps and data in the cloud with F5 can be accomplished with minimal steps. And backed by Azure, F5's quick and simple WAF solution is even easier to set up.

[Learn more](#)



# WAF 101: what you need to know about web app security

## Web application firewalls

Implementing a sufficiently comprehensive security layer can be a time-consuming and confusing process if you don't have the experience. In fact, it can take nearly three weeks to deploy a WAF yourself on-premises.

Another option is a fully automated F5 WAF available in Microsoft Azure Security Center. It can drastically shorten deployment time as well as handle all the setup and netting you a fully operational WAF in less than an hour.

## Key considerations

When choosing a WAF, it's important to evaluate it using some basic criteria:

### 1. Common security threats

Some common security threats, including the [OWASP Top Ten Application Security Threats](#), can be blocked automatically. Because F5's WAF is preconfigured, protection against these threats is already included with deployment.

### 2. Maintenance and administration

It's important to know what role you'll play when deploying and maintaining a WAF solution. Some WAFs require you to take on a lot of the work that is either automated or handled by F5 when deploying or running your WAF. Even the ongoing management of your security policy is easy with F5's [Real Traffic Policy Builder®](#) feature.

### 4. Price

The cost of WAF solutions, including those deployed on-premises, should be a consideration when evaluating how you will protect your web apps.

## Deployment model

F5's WAF in Microsoft Azure Security Center is fully automated and immediately starts protecting your web apps from threats. In Azure's dashboard view, you're able to monitor the WAF's activity and make any adjustments to the security policy based on analytics and reporting.

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