

DevCentral Top5 03/12/2010



Colin Walker, 2010-12-03

This week I bring to you a full house of content, docs over blogs. To say there have been more than a few pairs on [DevCentral](#) lately though would be an understatement. The rush of content could be likened to an avalanche but without the messy death and destruction bits to deal with. From interviews to tech tips to blog posts to original songs pertaining to cloud computing (no, I'm not joking, and no, the link isn't in here...go find it yourself), DevCentral never seems to sleep these days, which is just how we like it. In case you're overwhelmed and looking for a place to get started, here are my Top5 picks for the week:

Citrix XenApp 5.0 Implementation Tips

<http://devcentral.f5.com/Default.aspx?tabid=63&articleType=ArticleView&articleId=1082335>

Naladar, one of the esteemed MVPs of the DevCentral community, comes to us with this piece on XenApp this week. He's looking to share his recent experiences and given his track record, he's the kind of person you want to listen to when he decides to share something with the community. While there are deployment guides out there for Presentation Server 4.5, Naladar takes the time to walk you through the differences in implementation that you'll need to pay attention to for v5. With some almost immediate positive feedback it's obvious that other people out there have found this one useful already. Combine that with the fact that I'm always eager for a chance to show off how awesome our users are, even to the point of contributing killer content for the masses, and this one had to be my top pick this week.

Configuring a multi-tier Testing Environment with VMware Teams and BIG-IP LTM VE

<http://devcentral.f5.com/Default.aspx?tabid=63&articleType=ArticleView&articleId=1084344>

There have been many a post about LTM VE over the past few weeks, many of them very cool, but Don took a slightly different angle by showing you how to set up a VMware team so you can spin up and down your entire test team (VE, client, server) with the push of a single button. Pretty neat stuff. Not only that, but he goes into enough detail with screenshots and step by step instructions that you should be able to re-create the environment pretty easily if you're still looking for a way to get up and running with your VE deployment. Whether you were waiting for the right walk-through on setting up LTM VE to come along or you're just interested in seeing yet another way of doing things, this article was a goodie.

BIG-IP Logging and Reporting Toolkit - part two

<http://devcentral.f5.com/Default.aspx?tabid=63&articleType=ArticleView&articleId=1084341>

The second installment of Joe Malek's awesome Logging and Reporting Toolkit series is out, and worth a read. Here he talks about the two vendor options he investigated when looking into advanced options for BIG-IP logging and reporting, Splunk and Q1 Labs. He talks a bit about each of their offerings, their strengths and what to expect from them. He then goes on to give us an extensive list of the different information these systems are going to be made to handle in the soon to come resolution to this technological tease wherein we'll finally get to see the results of his testing, his analysis of the options, and some fun charts. If you didn't catch the first installment yet, I highly recommend going and checking that one out as well.

If I Had a Hammer...

<http://devcentral.f5.com/weblogs/macvittie/archive/2010/03/10/if-i-had-a-hammer.aspx>

Despite the title Lori does not go on to talk about carpentry or construction. Instead she fills us in on her take on Carr's analogy and why the "pay as you use" model is really more like a "pay for the minimum required in CASE you need it" model. It's not a negative slant on things, just realistic, to remember that there is an inherent cost in things that have to be running before requests actually come in. To fool ourselves into thinking that we're paying only for what we use, like electricity, when we're paying a set cost just to have the resources available when needed is..well..just that, fooling ourselves. I like her points here and thought it was worth passing on. The cloud can be awesome and effective and even cheap for many people, but don't get caught off-guard thinking it's going to be free until you need it while really being billed.

20 Lines or Less #37 - Hex, HTTPS, and SNATing

<http://devcentral.f5.com/weblogs/cwalker/archive/2010/03/12/20-lines-or-less-37.aspx>

I'm so sorry, 20LoL, I didn't mean to leave you out last time, there was just too much good stuff! I never meant to hurt you, you know how I love you, I just couldn't justify bumping one of the other hawesome topics for your iRuley goodness. You're back, though, this week, with 3 more examples of iRules fu at its finest. *cough* Check out what the forums & samples section have to offer this week in less than 21 lines of code. We've got payloads being converted to hex, yet another take on https redirection and some pretty nifty snating stuff happening. These are always a cool look at what people in the community are up to, so check it out.

Well, there it is, another week, another 5 from DC. Hopefully you liked reading as much as I liked writing. Come back next week for more, and feel free to drop me a line with any feedback.

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