

# F5 Cookbooks Serve Up Easy-to-Use Configuration Recipes. Bon Appétit!



marcia aguero, 2009-09-10

*Whether you are whipping up a crème brûlée or configuring your BIG-IP system to manage web traffic, a good cookbook won't let you down.*

Gourmet chefs know that the best way to help us cook a dinner fit for a queen is to create recipes. Top-notch recipes don't just give us a list of ingredients or describe the chemical composition of an emulsifier; they give us simple, step-by-step instructions on how to cook a meal so delectable our guests will be tweeting about it before they leave the dinner table.

Fortunately, recipes aren't just for cooking. They can also help you configure your BIG-IP system, quickly and easily. Just for fun, here's a potential recipe for web hosting two different customers through an external switch.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 BIG-IP system interface
- 2 VLANs
- 2 load balancing pools
- 2 virtual servers
- routes

#### Instructions:

1. Create an internal VLAN, assigning the interface as a tagged interface to the VLAN.
2. Create a load balancing pool, with content servers as its pool members.
3. Create a virtual server that references the pool.
4. Add routes, to taste.
5. Wash, rinse, repeat.

(O.K., a tad over-simplified maybe, but you get the idea.)

In this same spirit, the F5 product documentation team regularly publishes a special category of "cookbooks" known as implementations guides. Derived in part from real customer use cases, these guides give you detailed step-by-step instructions for how to quickly combine ingredients (aka product features) to reach your goals, without dropping too many eggs on the floor in the process.

For example, the guide *BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager: Implementations* offers a slew of instructions ranging from how to set up HTTP data compression to how to segment application traffic into route domains. Another guide, *BIG-IP Global Traffic Manager: Implementations*, gives instructions such as how to set up wide IP load balancing and how to manage bandwidth based on link thresholds.

Currently, F5 offers implementations guides for BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager, BIG-IP Global Traffic Manager, and BIG-IP Application Security Manager, and you can find all of these guides on our Ask F5 web site, <https://support.f5.com>.

When you crack open our BIG-IP implementations guides, it's a sure bet that your dinner guests won't give a hoot, but your IT staff (and ultimately your application users) will be delighted.

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