



BIG-IP 1600 and 3600 FAQ

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Q What's the news?

A F5 is introducing two new BIG-IP platforms: the BIG-IP 1600 and the BIG-IP 3600. These effectively replace the 1500 and 3400. At the same time, we are changing the way we package and sell some options to make BIG-IP easier to evaluate, buy, and sell.

Q Why is this good for our customers?

- A**
- The new platforms and packaging provide more value at a similar price.
 - Simplified options make it easy to understand what's included and which add-ons to buy.
 - The new platforms are higher quality and offer redundant power options, decreasing downtime.

Q Why is this good for you (our field and channel)?

- A**
- Availability of product modules on the 3600 provides more opportunity to sell add-ons.
 - Increased performance allows you to compete more effectively.
 - Simplified packaging makes quoting and selling easier.

New Platforms

Q Why is F5 introducing new platforms?

A We've spent the last several years educating the market on the benefits of going from basic load balancing to focusing more on holistic application delivery. And for some time now we've offered high-end platforms and add-on options to build an integrated Application Delivery Controller (ADC).

But the mid-range market needs integrated application delivery too. As people are beginning to understand the need for an integrated ADC, they're asking for more features, more performance, and better integration.

With the introduction of the 1600 and 3600 platforms, more organizations are able to take advantage of integrated application security, better user experience, and lower cost per operation.

Q How does the 1600 differ from the 1500?

A The big difference is that the 1500 has a single processor, while the 1600 has a dual core processor. This gives the 1600 a significant performance advantage. Other major differences are the inclusion of greater amounts of compression and SSL TPS as well as IPv6, Rate Shaping, and Fast Cache.

Description	BIG-IP 1600	BIG-IP 1500
Included 10/100/1000 Ports	4	4
Optional SFP 1 Gbps Fiber Ports	2	2
Maximum Memory	4 GB	2 GB
Hard Drive	160 GB	160 GB
L4 Throughput	750 Mbps	500 Mbps
L4 Connections Per Sec	60K cps	22K cps
L7 Requests per Second (inf-inf)	100K rps	55K rps
L7 Throughput	750 Mbps	500 Mbps
L2/L3 Switch Backplane	14 Gbps	14 Gbps
SSL Transactions Included	500 tps	100 tps
Max. SSL Transactions Per Sec	5000 tps	2000 tps
Max. SSL Concurrent Connections	1 M	500 K
Max. SSL Bulk Crypto	750 Mbps	500 Mbps
Max. Software Compression	750 Mbps	100 Mbps
Compression Included	50 Mbps	5 Mbps

Q How does the 3600 differ from the 3400?

A Again, the big difference is the move to a dual core processor. Other major differences are the inclusion of greater amounts of compression and SSL TPS as well as IPv6, Rate Shaping, and Fast Cache. Along with the base LTM, the 3600 is capable of running one product module: GTM, LC, WebAccelerator, or ASM. Note that this is not able to run multiple modules at the same time.

Description	BIG-IP 3600	BIG-IP 3400
Included 10/100/1000 Ports	8	8
Optional SFP 1 Gbps Fiber Ports	2	2
Maximum Memory	4 GB	2 GB
Compact Flash	8 GB	512 MB
Hard Drive	160 GB	160 GB
Best Case Throughput	1.5 Gbps	1 Gbps
Max. Concurrent Connections	8 M	4 M
L4 Connections Per Sec	115K cps	110K cps
L7 Requests per Second (inf-inf)	135K rps	120K rps
L7 Throughput	1.5 Gbps	1 Gbps
L2/L3 Switch Backplane	24 Gbps	22 Gbps
SSL Transactions Included	500 tps	100 tps
Max. SSL Transactions Per Sec	10000 tps	5000 tps
Max. SSL Concurrent Connections	1 M	500 K
Max. SSL Bulk Crypto	1.5 Gbps	1 Gbps
Max. Software Compression	1.0 Gbps	500 Mbps
Compression Included	50 Mbps	5 Mbps

Q How can I upsell to the 6400 if the 3600 now has product modules?

A During the first few quarters we expect many existing customers to continue to buy the 6400. It has been certified and proven in their environment. But since the performance and feature gap between the 3400 and 6400 is greater than it is with the 3600, upselling to the 6400 may be more difficult. However, there are still many reasons to choose the 6400:

- 6400 has 25% better throughput
- 6400 has hardware accelerated layer 4, offloading L4 virtuals from the main CPU
- 6400 has FIPS and NEBS options
- 6400 has twice the number of ports (20 ports vs. 10)

Also, adding a product module to the 3600 may significantly affect the performance of LTM. The 6400 does not have this limitation—adding a product module to the 6400 will have a negligible impact on LTM performance.

Description	BIG-IP 6400	BIG-IP 3600
Packet Velocity ASIC (PVA)	PVA2	n/a
Total Number of Ports for Use	20	10
Best Case Throughput	2 Gbps	1.5 Gbps
Max. Concurrent Connections	8 M	8 M
L4 Connections Per Sec	220K cps	115K cps
L7 Requests per Second (inf-inf)	150K rps	135K rps
L7 Throughput	2 Gbps	1.5 Gbps
L2/L3 Switch Backplane	44 Gbps	24 Gbps
SSL Transactions Included	100 tps	500 tps
Max. SSL Transactions Per Sec	15000 tps	10000 tps
Max. SSL Concurrent Connections	1 M	1 M
Max. SSL Bulk Crypto	2 Gbps	1.5 Gbps
FIPS SSL Accelerator Card	○	n/a
NEBS Certified	○	n/a

○ = Available as an option n/a = Not available

Q Why would I sell the 3600 over the 6400?

A There are a few situations where it may make sense to try to sell the 3600 instead of a 6400.

- Competitive situations: When price has become an issue, the 3600 might be a good option since it offers great value on a price vs. performance basis.
- Early adopter customers considering the base level 6400: If a customer is considering a 6400 with no add-ons, and is interested in the new platforms, we have a great opportunity to move them to a 3600 enterprise package. For nearly the same price, the customer now has maximum SSL, compression, IPv6, caching, and more at the expense of a little performance.

Q What is the pricing of the new platforms?

A Pricing will vary by region. The chart below shows the NA list price:

SKU	Description	List (USD)
F5-BIG-LTM-1600-4G-R	LTM 1600 4GB ROHS	\$17,995.00
F5-BIG-LTM-1600-E-R	LTM 1600 Enterprise (Max SSL, MAX Comp, All Routing, ACA) ROHS	\$30,495.00
F5-BIG-LTM-3600-4G-R	LTM 3600 4GB ROHS	\$29,995.00
F5-BIG-LTM-3600-E-R	LTM 3600 Enterprise (Max SSL, MAX Comp, All Routing, ACA) ROHS	\$42,495.00

You will notice above that there are “Enterprise” options for these platforms. This package includes the platform, LTM, maximum SSL, maximum compression, the Advanced Routing module, and the Advanced Client Authentication module.

Q What hardware is included with each platform?

A The 1600 and 3600 ship standard with 4 GB of RAM, rack rails, and a single AC power supply. SFPs are not included.

Q Which additional hardware options are available for the 1600 and 3600?

A There are two new hardware SKUs for the 1600 and 3600 to add an additional AC power supply for redundancy or to replace the fan tray. The chart below shows the NA list pricing:

SKU	Description	List (USD)
F5-UPG-FANTRAY-1U-R	Field Upgrade: Fan-Tray (1600/3600) ROHS	\$250.00
F5-UPG-AC-300W-R	Field Upgrade: 300W AC Power (1600/3600) ROHS	\$2,500.00

The platforms also support DC power supplies and can be field-upgraded for DC support. This option will be available approximately one quarter after the initial platform release.

There are no NEBS or FIPS options for these platforms.

Q Which software version is needed for the 1600 and 3600?

A The 1600 and 3600 will only run 9.4.5 or greater (with the exception of 9.6.x, which is VIPRION only).

Q How can I get evaluation units?

A For partner evaluations, the strongbox program will be extended for these new platforms. Below is the list of new strongbox SKUs:

- F5-BIG-LTM-1600-RE-RS
- F5-BIG-GTM-1600-RE-RS
- F5-BIG-LC-1600-RE-RS
- F5-BIG-LTM-3600-RE-RS
- F5-BIG-ASM-3600-RE-RS
- F5-BIG-WBA-3600-RE-RS

Q What is happening to the 1500 and 3400?

A Both the 1500 and the 3400 will be available for sale until July 2009 and will follow our standard platform support policies (described in SOL4309). This means that both platforms will continue to be sold for a full year and supported for seven years after the end of sale date—until July 2016.

Q If we are refreshing our low-end platforms, are we refreshing our higher-end platforms?

A We will be refreshing our higher-end platforms, but we do not have release dates yet. These new platforms are currently in development. More information about these platforms will be made available in the future.

Q What is happening to the standalone versions of GTM, WA, ASM?

A Global Traffic Manager will be available as a standalone device on the 1600 platform, to replace the standalone 1500 version. WA and ASM will be available as standalone devices on the 3600.

SKU	Description	List (USD)
F5-BIG-WBA-3600-R	BIG-IP Appliance: WBA 3600 ROHS	\$24,995
F5-BIG-ASM-3600-4G-R	BIG-IP Appliance: ASM 3600 ROHS	\$23,995
F5-BIG-GTM-1600-4G-R	BIG-IP Switch: GTM 1600 4GB ROHS	\$27,995

Q What is happening to the WA 4500?

A The WA 4500 will continue to be sold as a standalone unit.

New Packaging

Q Which platforms are affected?

A The new bundles and options are only available for the 1600 and 3600. They will be extended to apply to new high-end platforms when these are released.

To provide a clean transition, the new bundles and options will not be available for the 1500, 3400, 6400, 6800, 8400, or 8800. This will be less confusing for our customers and channel, but may cause some issues. Any issues should be handled on a case-by-case basis through the normal escalation process.

Q What's changing?

A There are three major changes to options available for the 1600 and 3600:

- 1. More features are included with the standard LTM package:** Rate Shaping, Fast Cache, and IPv6 will all be included. In addition, the base amounts of compression and SSL are being increased. The 1600 and 3600 LTM will include 50 Mb/s of compression (previously 5 Mb/s) and 500 TPS of SSL (previously 100 TPS).
- 2. Ordering add-ons is simplified:** Instead of choosing between tiers of SSL and compression performance, customers who want to buy more SSL or compression for the 1600 and 3600 now have one option—buy the maximum that the platform supports. Customers don't need to know how much performance they need to choose the add-on. Now they only need to know which platform they have. Additionally, the individual routing SKUs will be removed, so customers who want the Advanced Routing module must purchase the bundle.
- 3. WA and ASM bundles replace performance packs:** Rather than having five performance packs and two module options, ASM and WA bundles have been created to provide a security and acceleration “solution pack.” See the last two questions for more details.
- 4. Enterprise packages are available for entry-level platforms:** With options for an enterprise pack on both the 1600 and 3600, our customers now have a simple way to get a fully loaded LTM system.

The chart on the following page shows these changes.

BIG-IP 1600 AND 3600 **FAQ**

Description	BIG-IP 6400	BIG-IP 3600	BIG-IP 3400	BIG-IP 1600	BIG-IP 1500
SSL Transactions Included	100 tps	500 tps	100 tps	500 tps	100 tps
Max. SSL Transactions Per Sec	15000 tps	10000 tps	5000 tps	5000 tps	2000 tps
Compression Included	5 Mbps	50 Mbps	5 Mbps	50 Mbps	5 Mbps
Max. Software Compression	1 Gbps	1 Gbps	500 Mbps	750 Mbps	100 Mbps
WebAccelerator Module	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	n/a	n/a	n/a
WebAccelerator Bundle	n/a	<input type="radio"/>	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fast Cache Module	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
App. Security Manager Module	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	n/a	n/a	n/a
App. Security Manager Bundle	n/a	<input type="radio"/>	n/a	n/a	n/a
Message Security Module	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Client Authentication Module	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Global Traffic Manager Module	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	n/a	n/a	n/a
Link Controller Module	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rate Shaping Module	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
IPv6 Gateway Module	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advanced Routing Modules	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

● = Standard with base unit ○ = Available as an option n/a = Not available

Q What is the pricing of the new options?

A Pricing will vary by region. The chart below shows the NA list price:

SKU	Description	List (USD)
F5-ADD-BIG-SSL-1600	BIG-IP Add-On: SSL License 1600 (Max TPS)	\$5,995
F5-ADD-BIG-SSL-3600	BIG-IP Add-On: SSL License 3600 (Max TPS)	\$5,995
F5-ADD-BIG-CMP-1600	BIG-IP Add-On: Compression License 1600 (Max Mbps)	\$5,995
F5-ADD-BIG-CMP-3600	BIG-IP Add-On: Compression License 3600 (Max Mbps)	\$5,995
F5-ADD-BIG-WBA-3600	BIG-IP Add-On: Web Acceleration Bundle 3600 (WBA, Max SSL, Max CMP)	\$15,995
F5-ADD-BIG-ASM-3600	BIG-IP Add-On: Application Security Bundle 3600 (ASM, Max SSL, ACA)	\$17,995

Q Can I buy max SSL or compression for existing platforms?

A No. The new max SKUs only apply to the 1600 and 3600. All other platforms (1500, 3400, 6400, 6800, 8400, and 8800) will continue to use the existing add-on SKUs that are measured by performance level.

Q What’s the difference between the WebAccelerator module and the WebAccelerator bundle?

A The WebAccelerator bundle includes the WA module, maximum SSL, and maximum compression. Note that the pricing for this bundle on the 3600 is the same price as the WA module on its own. This is to encourage our customers to purchase the bundle so that we’re providing a full acceleration solution. The WA module will remain available so that enterprise customers can add WA.

Q What is the difference between the Application Security Manager module and the ASM bundle?

A The Application Security Manager bundle includes the ASM module, maximum SSL, and the Advanced Client Authentication module. Note that the pricing for this bundle on the 3600 is the same price as the ASM module on its own. This is to encourage our customers to purchase the bundle so that we’re providing a full security solution. The ASM module will remain available so that enterprise customers can add ASM.



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