Troubleshooting BIG-IP

Duration: 2 Days Course Code: F5N_BIG-TRBL-INT2 Version: 17.5 Delivery Method: Company Event

Overview:

Apply bottom-to-top techniques to troubleshoot BIG-IP systems. Review a variety of lower layer tools including ping, bigtop, netstat and tcpdump for manipulating different flags for viewing hex and ASCII.
Analyze network protocols using Wireshark and a variety of capture file formats including pcap and tcpdump. Build filters and use different commands and expressions to capture data on different connections in hands-on lab scenarios. Use the Fiddler HTTP proxy to view and analyze different session elements including URL, Content-Type and other headers, bytes sent/received, response codes, and performance statistics. Explore various curl command options for testing endpoint availability and analyzing ingress and egress payloads in detail.
Learn how to use KDiff to compare files from different BIG-IP devices for locating different traffic processing objects. Gain familiarity with using local and remote logging data, facilities, messaging, and levels for troubleshooting. See how iRules can be used for setting up message logging and logging levels. Finally, learn how to create an analytics profile to view traffic statistics, application visibility, and reporting.

Updated November 2026

Company Events

These events can be delivered exclusively for your company at our locations or yours, specifically for your delegates and your needs. The Company Events can be tailored or standard course deliveries.

Target Audience:

This course is intended for network administrators responsible for managing the normal day-to-day operation and administration of a BIG-IP application delivery network. This course presents the prerequisite knowledge for many of F5's other BIG-IP instructor-led training courses.

Objectives:

- After this course participants should be able to:
- Troubleshoot BIG-IP systems using a structured methodology and bottom-to-top troubleshooting techniques.
- Use tools such as tcpdump, Wireshark, Fiddler, cURL, and KDiff3 to analyze network traffic and system behavior.
- Configure and use logging, iRules, and system logs to identify and resolve application delivery issues.
- Diagnose network, performance, and communication problems across different OSI layers on BIG-IP systems.
- Monitor traffic, application visibility, and reporting using analytics profiles and troubleshooting tools.

Prerequisites:

Students must complete one of the following F5 prerequisites before attending this course:

- Administering BIG-IP (ILT)
- F5 Certified BIG-IP Administrator

Suggested Prework

The following free Self-Directed Training (SDT) courses, although optional, are helpful for any student with limited BIG-IP administration and configuration experience:

- Getting Started with BIG-IP
- Getting Started with Local Traffic Manager (LTM)

General network technology knowledge and experience are recommended before attending any F5 Global Training Services

Testing and Certification

- *None*

instructor-led course, including OSI model encapsulation, routing and switching, Ethernet and ARP, TCP/IP concepts, IP addressing and subnetting, NAT and private IP addressing, NAT and private IP addressing, default gateway, network firewalls, and LAN vs. WAN.

Students should be familiar with and be able to configure basic BIG-IP elements such as virtual servers, pools, pool members, and nodes, pool monitors, and basic virtual server profiles. In addition, students should be familiar with the basics of the Linux command line, and have solid understanding of Layer 2 Ethernet and ARP networking, Layer 3 and 4 TCP/IP networking, including IP addressing and subnetting, Layer 7 HTTP networking, and HTML.

The following course-specific knowledge and experience is suggested before attending this course:

- Web application delivery
- HTTP, HTTPS, FTP and SSH protocols
- TLS/SSL

Follow-on-Courses:

- *None*

Content:

Programme

Chapter 1: Setting Up the BIG-IP System

- Introducing the BIG-IP System
- Initially Setting Up the BIG-IP System
- Archiving the BIG-IP System Configuration

Chapter 2: Reviewing Local Traffic Configuration

- Reviewing Nodes, Pools, and Virtual Servers
- Reviewing Address Translation
- Reviewing Routing Assumptions
- Reviewing Application Health Monitoring
- Reviewing Traffic Behavior Modification with Profiles
- Reviewing the TMOS Shell (TMSH)
- Reviewing Managing BIG-IP Configuration Data
- Reviewing High Availability (HA)

Chapter 3: Troubleshooting Methodology

- Step-By-Step Process
- Documenting a Problem
- Putting Troubleshooting Steps to Use

Chapter 4: Working with F5 Support

- Leveraging F5 Support Resources
- Leveraging F5 Labs
- Working with F5 Technical Support
- Running End User Diagnostics (EUD) - Hardware Only
- New Platform Diagnostic Tools
- Always-On Management (AOM) System
- Requesting Return Materials Authorization
- F5's Software Version Policy
- Managing the BIG-IP License for Upgrades
- Managing BIG-IP Disk Space
- Upgrading BIG-IP Software

Chapter 5: Troubleshooting – Bottom to Top

- Introducing Differences between BIG-IP and LINUX Tools
- Troubleshooting with Layer 1/Layer 2 Tools
- Troubleshooting with Layer 2/Layer 3 Tools
- Troubleshooting with Layer 3 Tools
- Troubleshooting Network Communication
- Troubleshooting Memory and CPU
- Troubleshooting with watch
- Troubleshooting with Additional tmsh commands

Chapter 6: Troubleshooting Tools

- tcpdump
- Wireshark
- SSL/TLS
- Fiddler
- diff
- KDiff3
- cURL

Chapter 7: Using System Logs

- Configuring Logging
- Log Files
- Understanding BIG-IP Daemons Functions
- Triggering an iRule
- Deploying and Testing iRules
- Application Visibility and Reporting

Chapter 8: Troubleshooting Lab Projects

- Network Configurations for Project

Chapter 9: Additional Training and Certification

- Getting Started Series Web-Based Training
- F5 Instructor Led Training Curriculum
- F5 Professional Certification Program

Further Information:

For More information, or to book your course, please call us on Head Office 01189 123456 / Northern Office 0113 242 5931

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