

## F5 Audit Service: Analysis & Next Steps

### Why Milestone?

- World-class network engineering talent
- Largest integrator of high-availability and security devices in the country
- More than 700 clients since inception, a strong percentage of which are in the Fortune 500
- Nationwide client delivery
- Partnered with best-of-breed technology companies
- Recognized by *Inc.* magazine as one of the 5000 fastest growing US companies

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*Delivering High Availability & Network Security for Mission-Critical Network Applications, since 2000*

If your F5 Application Delivery Controllers have been added to your network at different times, consider a **holistic audit** of the entire group to ensure they are **operating optimally** for PCI and other compliance -- that is, with 100% availability, at peak efficiency, and with unquestioned security. Milestone Systems, the premiere integrator of F5 appliances, offers **F5 Audit Service at 2 levels**:

Our **Premium Audit** is a comprehensive, deep dive analysis of your F5 network environment, traffic flows, utilizations, and configurations. Extensively thorough, the Premium Audit provides you with the most possible information on how the F5 appliances are working, as well as how they could/should best be utilized for highest performance.

Milestone Engineer/s will be at your site to analyze the racking, hardware, temperatures, fan speeds, power supplies, and all factors critical to determining peak efficiency of the F5 units. Premium Audits typically require 5 work days per redundant pair. Findings are documented and presented in 3 formal deliveries:

- Executive Management Report (high level)
- Management Report (mid-level)
- Engineering Report (detailed view)

**Standard Audit** identifies areas that need remediation in your F5 network environment, utilizations, and configurations. This is a high-level view into your F5 units that will provide a snapshot of how the devices are working and utilized. The resulting Engineering Report cites specific problems and recommendations for remediation.

A Standard Audit begins with your running a pre-established script on the identified units, then sending the results to Milestone Systems to perform the audit remotely. Our Standard Audit typically requires 3 work days per F5 pair.



*Your organization has invested in the world's most powerful and sophisticated application delivery solution: F5 Networks. Let Milestone help you maximize your return on that investment.*

**Customized to Your Needs**

Because every network is different and our clients' needs vary, Milestone tailors each Audit project per customer needs. The descriptions below outline the processes we can use to construct an F5 Audit. Before any work begins, we submit a specific Statement of Work.

**Milestone's Standard Level Audit | Remote Snapshot**

Standard Level is a 'negative' audit spotlighting areas that need remediation and the steps to get there.

**1) F5 Inventory**

- Where is the device located?
- How is it identified? (device name, serial number)
- What options are installed?
- How is the device being used? (production vs. non-production)
- Is the device current? (software revision level, patch level)
- What type of support plan is in place and when does it expire?

**2) Configuration Analysis**

Milestone's engineers analyze the tech.out files and configurations of the F5's to ensure that proper, efficient configurations are utilized. Production units are compared to redundant back-up unit to ensure compatibility and that proper failover will be achieved.

Existing capacity issues are noted if visible in the data collected. Typically for the Standard Audit, we do not capture the historical data needed for trending or forecasting.

**Milestone's Premium Level Audit | On-Site, In-Depth**

Our Premium Audit provides both positive & negative information -- what is running well and what needs remediation.

**1) F5 Inventory**

- Where is the device located?
- How is it identified? (device name, serial number)
- What options are installed?
- How is the device being used? (production vs. non-production)
- Is the device current? (software revision level, patch level)
- What type of support plan is in place and when does it expire?

**2) Architecture Mapping**

Concurrent with the development of the inventory, the Milestone engineer gathers tech.out data files from each F5 device and uses their configuration information for developing topology maps for each device.

- The current "as is" topology.
- An analysis topology highlighting the areas where change was recommended.
- A proposed topology showing the device with the recommendations in place.

**3) Configuration Analysis**

Milestone engineers analyze the tech.out files and configurations of the F5 units to ensure that proper, efficient configurations are utilized. They also compare the production units to the redundant back-up unit to ensure compatibility and proper failover will be achieved.



**4) OPTION:**

**Configuration Diagramming**

Configuration diagrams illustrate the F5 configurations and how they relate to the other pool members.

**5) Utilization Analysis**

Milestone analyzes the data from each F5 device you provided, and then assesses the utilization of each pair and compares it against F5's Best Practices. Analysis is focused on all F5 servers (production and non-production) at specific locations.

- Leverage vendor and industry benchmark data to establish raw capacity thresholds (high water mark) independent of extraneous items (network, shared components, application.)
- Complete analysis of the primary resource utilization (cpu, memory, disk, and interfaces) of the production environment.
- Create base line measurements to determine current capacity and future scalability of the portal.
- Overlay (compare) the current production utilization to the baseline utilization model to establish a point-in-time checkpoint and report results.
- Data acquisition: the acquired data sampling that is used in the measurement is for the CPU, Memory, Disk I/O, and interface utilization.