



Monitoring F5 BIG-IP

F5 BIG-IP PowerPack version 106

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Chapter

1

Introduction to the F5 BIG-IP PowerPack

Overview

This manual describes how to monitor F5 Networks' BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager (LTM) devices in Skylar One (formerly SL1) using the "F5 BIG-IP" PowerPack.

This chapter covers the following topics:

<i>What is F5 BIG-IP LTM?</i>	3
<i>What Does the F5 BIG-IP PowerPack Monitor?</i>	4
<i>Installing the F5 BIG-IP PowerPack</i>	4

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What is F5 BIG-IP LTM?

F5 Networks' BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager (LTM) devices manage local system traffic to ensure optimal network and application performance and increase the system's operational efficiency. BIG-

IP LTM solutions include BIG-IP appliances, the VIPRION application delivery controller, and software-based BIG-IP Virtual Editions.

What Does the F5 BIG-IP PowerPack Monitor?

The "F5 BIG-IP" PowerPack enables you to monitor LTM configuration and performance metrics for virtual servers, pools, and member nodes, as well as other chassis and asset information.

The "F5 BIG-IP" PowerPack includes the following features:

- Dynamic Applications that discover and monitor F5 BIG-IP LTM devices
- Device classes for each of the F5 BIG-IP LTM devices that the "F5 BIG-IP" PowerPack can monitor
- Event policies and corresponding alerts that are triggered when F5 BIG-IP LTM devices meet certain status criteria

Installing the F5 BIG-IP PowerPack

Before completing the steps in this manual, you must import and install the latest version of the "F5 BIG-IP" PowerPack.

TIP: By default, installing a new version of a PowerPack overwrites all content from a previous version of that PowerPack that has already been installed on the target system. You can use the **Enable Selective PowerPack Field Protection** setting in the **Behavior Settings** page (System > Settings > Behavior) to prevent new PowerPacks from overwriting local changes for some commonly customized fields. For more information, see the section on [Global Settings](#).

NOTE: For details on upgrading Skylar One, see the relevant [Skylar One Platform Release Notes](#).

To download and install the PowerPack:

1. Search for and download the PowerPack from the **PowerPacks** page at the [ScienceLogic Support Center](#) (Skylar One > PowerPacks, login required).
2. In Skylar One, go to the **PowerPacks** page (System > Manage > PowerPacks).
3. Click the **[Actions]** button and choose *Import PowerPack*. The **Import PowerPack** dialog box appears.
4. Click **[Browse]** and navigate to the PowerPack file from step 1.
5. Select the PowerPack file and click **[Import]**. The **PowerPack Installer** modal displays a list of the PowerPack contents.
6. Click **[Install]**. The PowerPack is added to the **PowerPacks** page.

NOTE: If you exit the **PowerPack Installer** modal without installing the imported PowerPack, the imported PowerPack will not appear in the **PowerPacks** page. However, the imported PowerPack will appear in the **Imported PowerPacks** modal. This page appears when you click the **[Actions]** menu and select *Install PowerPack*.

Chapter

2

Configuration and Discovery

Overview

The following sections describe how to configure and discover F5 BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager (LTM) services for monitoring by Skylar One (formerly SL1) using the "F5 BIG-IP" PowerPack:

This chapter covers the following topics:

<i>Prerequisites for Monitoring F5 BIG-IP</i>	6
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<i>Discovering an F5 BIG-IP System</i>	8
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Prerequisites for Monitoring F5 BIG-IP

Before you can monitor F5 BIG-IP services using the "F5 BIG-IP" PowerPack, you must ensure that Skylar One can communicate with BIG-IP using SNMP and you must know the SNMP community string for the BIG-IP system. Skylar One can then use the data collected from BIG-IP to create device records for all components managed by BIG-IP.

Creating an SNMP Credential for F5 BIG-IP

To use the Dynamic Applications in the "F5 BIG-IP" PowerPack, you must first define an SNMP credential in Skylar One. This credential allows Skylar One to communicate with the BIG-IP system.

To configure an SNMP credential for F5 BIG-IP:

1. Go to the **Credentials** page (Manage > Credentials).
2. Click the **[Create New]** button.
3. In the drop-down list that appears, select *Create SNMP Credential*. The **Credential Editor** page appears:

The screenshot shows the 'Create Credential' dialog box. The left panel contains fields for Name, Organizations, Timeout (ms) (1500), SNMP Version (SNMP V2), SNMP Retries (1), Port (161), and two SNMP Community fields (Read Only and Read/Write). The right panel, titled 'Credential Tester', includes a 'Select Credential Test' dropdown, a 'Select Collector' dropdown (CUG | s11a02: 10.128.68.27), and an 'IP or Hostname to test' field. A 'Test Credential' button is located at the bottom right of the right panel. A 'Close' button is at the bottom right of the dialog.

4. In the **SNMP Version** field, select **SNMP V2**.
5. In the **Name** field, enter a name for the credential.
6. In the **All Organizations** drop-down field, select the organizations the credential belongs to.
7. In the **SNMP Community (Read Only)** field, enter the community string for the BIG-IP system.
8. Optionally, supply values in the other fields in this page. In most cases, you can use the default values for the other fields.
9. Click the **[Save & Close]** button.

Creating an SNMP Credential for F5 BIG-IP in the Skylar One Classic User Interface

To use the Dynamic Applications in the "F5 BIG-IP" PowerPack, you must first define an SNMP credential in Skylar One. This credential allows Skylar One to communicate with the BIG-IP system.

To configure an SNMP credential for F5 BIG-IP in the classic user interface:

1. Go to the **Credential Management** page (System > Manage > Credentials).
2. Click the **[Actions]** button.
3. In the drop-down list that appears, select *Create SNMP Credential*. The **Credential Editor** page appears:
4. In the **SNMP Version** field, select *SNMP V2*.
5. In the **Profile Name** field, enter a name for the credential.
6. In the **SNMP Community (Read Only)** field, enter the community string for the BIG-IP system.
7. Optionally, supply values in the other fields in this page. In most cases, you can use the default values for the other fields.
8. Click the **[Save]** button.

Discovering an F5 BIG-IP System

After you have created an SNMP credential for the F5 BIG-IP system that you want to monitor, you can create and run a discovery session that will discover the BIG-IP system and automatically align Dynamic Applications with the BIG-IP system.

To do so, perform the following steps:

1. Go to the **Discovery Session** page (Devices > Discovery Sessions).
2. Click the **[Add Devices]** button to create a new discovery session. You will be redirected to a self-guided service where you can add devices.

The screenshot shows a modal dialog box titled "Select the type of devices you want to monitor" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The dialog is divided into two main sections. The left section displays six selectable device categories, each with a logo: Azure, IBM, Citrix, Alibaba Cloud, AWS, and VMware. Below these is a section titled "Other ways to add devices:" containing a button for "Unguided Network Discovery". The right section, titled "General Information", contains the text "Select the type of devices or services you want to monitor." followed by a note: "Select Unguided Network Discovery to add other devices that use core credentials, such as SNMP, Database, SOAP/XML, Basic/Snippet, SSH/Key, or PowerShell." At the bottom right of the dialog is a "Select" button.

3. Select **[Unguided Network Discovery]**, then click the **Select** button. You will be redirected to a page where you can create and create a Discovery Session that will discover the BIG-IP system and automatically align Dynamic Applications with the BIG-IP system. This is a three-step process.
4. Enter a name for your Discovery Session in the **Discovery Session Name** field and select an organization from the **Select the organization to add discovered devices to** drop-down field.

The screenshot shows a web-based form titled "Discovery Session Editor" with a three-step progress bar at the top: "Step 1 Basic Information" (active), "Step 2 Credential Selection", and "Step 3 Discovery Session Details". The form contains three input fields: "Discovery Session Name*" (required), "Description (Optional)", and "Select the organization to add discovered devices to..." (a dropdown menu). At the bottom, there are "Back" and "Next" navigation buttons.

5. Select the SNMP credential(s) that connected your devices, then click the **Next** button.
6. Select an IP or Hostname, then click the **[Save and Run]** button. The **Discovery Logs** window will appear.
7. When the BIG-IP system is discovered, you can click the device name to view the system device's properties.

Discovering an F5 BIG-IP System in the Skylar One Classic User Interface

After you have created an SNMP credential for the F5 BIG-IP system that you want to monitor, you can create and run a discovery session that will discover the BIG-IP system and automatically align Dynamic Applications with the BIG-IP system.

To run a discovery session, perform the following steps:

1. Go to the **Discovery Control Panel** page (Devices > Discovery Sessions).
2. Click the **[Add Devices]** button to create a new discovery session. The **Discovery Session Editor** window appears:
3. Enter values in the following fields:

- **IP Address Discovery List.** Enter the IP address for the BIG-IP system.
 - **SNMP Credentials.** Select the SNMP Credential for the BIG-IP system.
4. Optionally, you can enter values in the other fields on this page. For more information about the other fields on this page, see the **Discovery & Credentials** manual.
 5. Click the **[Save]** button and then close the **Discovery Session Editor** window.
 6. The discovery session you created will appear at the top of the **Discovery Control Panel** page. Click its lightning-bolt icon (⚡) to run the discovery session.
 7. The **Discovery Session** window appears. When the BIG-IP system is discovered, you can click its device icon (🖨) to view the system device's properties.

Aligning F5 BIG-IP Dynamic Applications

The Dynamic Applications in the "F5 BIG-IP" PowerPack are divided into four types:

- **Count.** These Dynamic Applications poll BIG-IP to determine the number of component devices monitored by Skylar One.
- **Discovery.** These Dynamic Applications poll BIG-IP for new instances of component devices or changes to existing instances of component devices.
- **Configuration.** These Dynamic Applications retrieve configuration information about each component device and retrieve any changes to that configuration information.
- **Performance.** These Dynamic Applications poll BIG-IP for performance metrics.

The following Dynamic Applications are aligned automatically to the F5 BIG-IP system when you run discovery:

- F5: Viprion Chassis Slot Status
- F5 BIG-IP: Cluster Status
- F5 BIG-IP: CPU Configuration
- F5 BIG-IP: Disk Array Status
- F5 BIG-IP: Fan Status
- F5 BIG-IP: Interface Usage (64Bit)
- F5 BIG-IP: Performance
- F5 BIG-IP: Power Supply Status
- F5 BIG-IP: System Configuration
- F5 BIG-IP: Temperature
- F5 BIG-IP: vCMP VM Configuration
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Node Configuration
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Node Discovery
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Node Performance
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Pool Configuration

- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Pool Discovery: Non-Default Pools
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Pool Discovery: Virtual Server Default Pools
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Pool Member Configuration
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Pool Member Discovery
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Pool Member Performance
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Pool Performance
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Virtual Server Configuration
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Virtual Server Discovery
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Virtual Server Performance
- Host Resource: Configuration
- Net SNMP: CPU
- Net SNMP: Physical Memory
- Net SNMP: Swap

CAUTION: To discover all of the component devices in the BIG-IP system, you must *manually align* the "F5 BIG-IP LTM: Service Discovery" Dynamic Application with the BIG-IP root device. For instructions on how to do this, see the section on [Manually Aligning the Dynamic Application with the BIG-IP Root Device](#).

If these Dynamic Applications are not aligned during discovery, perform the following steps to add them manually:

1. From the **Devices** page, click the name of root device for the BIG-IP system to open the **Device Investigator** for that device.
2. Click the **[Collections]** tab.
3. On the **[Collections]** tab of the **Device Investigator**, click **[Edit]** and then click **[Align Dynamic Application]**. The **Align Dynamic Application** window appears.
4. Select the Dynamic Application you want to align to the BIG-IP system and click **[Select]**. The name of the selected Dynamic Application appears in the **Align Dynamic Application** window.
5. If a default credential is already selected, uncheck the box next to the credential name.
6. Click *Choose Credential*. The **Choose Credential** window appears.
7. Select the SNMP credential for the BIG-IP system and then click the **[Select]** button. The name of the selected credential appears in the **Align Dynamic Application** window.
8. Click the **[Align Dynamic App]** button. When the Dynamic Application is successfully aligned, it is added to the **Collections** tab, and a confirmation message appears at the bottom of the tab.

Manually Aligning the "F5 BIG-IP LTM: Service Discovery" Dynamic Application with the BIG-IP Root Device

When you run discovery, the "F5 BIG-IP LTM: Component Counts" Dynamic Application is automatically aligned with the F5 BIG-IP system. This Dynamic Application enables you to determine the number of component devices in your BIG-IP system that will be discovered.

To determine the BIG-IP component device count:

1. From the **Devices** page, click the name of root device for the BIG-IP system to open the **Device Investigator** for that device.
2. Click the **[Performance Metrics]** tab.
3. On the **[Performance Metrics]** tab of the **Device Investigator**, locate the "F5 BIG-IP LTM: Component Counts" Dynamic Application from the list and click it. A list of collection and presentation objects for that Dynamic Application appear.
4. Click the name of one of the "F5 BIG-IP LTM: Component Counts" presentation objects to view the collected data for that presentation object, including the number of components that are being monitored.

After verifying the number of component devices that will be discovered, perform the following steps to start component device discovery by aligning the "F5 BIG-IP LTM: Service Discovery" Dynamic Application with the BIG-IP root system:

1. From the **Devices** page, click the name of root device for the BIG-IP system to open the **Device Investigator** for that device.
2. Click the **[Collections]** tab.
3. On the **[Collections]** tab of the **Device Investigator**, click **[Edit]** and then click **[Align Dynamic Application]**. The **Align Dynamic Application** window appears.
4. Select the *F5 BIG-IP LTM: Service Discovery* Dynamic Application from the list and then click **[Select]**.
5. If a default credential is already selected, uncheck the box next to the credential name.
6. Click *Choose Credential*. The **Choose Credential** window appears.
7. Select the SNMP credential for the BIG-IP system and then click the **[Select]** button. The name of the selected credential appears in the **Align Dynamic Application** window.
8. Click the **[Align Dynamic App]** button. When the Dynamic Application is successfully aligned, it is added to the **Collections** tab, and a confirmation message appears at the bottom of the tab.

Aligning F5 BIG-IP Dynamic Applications in the Skylar One Classic User Interface

The Dynamic Applications in the "F5 BIG-IP" PowerPack are divided into four types:

- **Count.** These Dynamic Applications poll BIG-IP to determine the number of component devices monitored by Skylar One.

- **Discovery.** These Dynamic Applications poll BIG-IP for new instances of component devices or changes to existing instances of component devices.
- **Configuration.** These Dynamic Applications retrieve configuration information about each component device and retrieve any changes to that configuration information.
- **Performance.** These Dynamic Applications poll BIG-IP for performance metrics.

The following Dynamic Applications are aligned automatically to the F5 BIG-IP system when you run discovery:

- F5: Viprion Chassis Slot Status
- F5 BIG-IP: Cluster Status
- F5 BIG-IP: CPU Configuration
- F5 BIG-IP: Disk Array Status
- F5 BIG-IP: Fan Status
- F5 BIG-IP: Interface Usage (64Bit)
- F5 BIG-IP: Performance
- F5 BIG-IP: Power Supply Status
- F5 BIG-IP: System Configuration
- F5 BIG-IP: Temperature
- F5 BIG-IP: vCMP VM Configuration
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Node Configuration
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Node Discovery
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Node Performance
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Pool Configuration
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Pool Discovery: Non-Default Pools
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Pool Discovery: Virtual Server Default Pools
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Pool Member Configuration
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Pool Member Discovery
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Pool Member Performance
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Pool Performance
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Virtual Server Configuration
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Virtual Server Discovery
- F5 BIG-IP LTM: Virtual Server Performance
- Host Resource: Configuration
- Net SNMP: CPU
- Net SNMP: Physical Memory
- Net SNMP: Swap

CAUTION: To discover all of the component devices in the BIG-IP system, you must *manually align* the "F5 BIG-IP LTM: Service Discovery" Dynamic Application with the BIG-IP root device. For instructions on how to do this, see the section on [Manually Aligning the Dynamic Application with the BIG-IP Root Device](#).

If these Dynamic Applications are not aligned during discovery, perform the following steps to add them manually:

1. Go to the **Device Properties** page (Devices > Classic Devices > wrench icon) for the BIG-IP system.
2. Click the **[Collections]** tab. The **Dynamic Application Collections** page appears.
3. Click the **[Actions]** button and then select *Add Dynamic Application*. The **Dynamic Application Alignment** page appears.
4. In the **Dynamic Applications** field, select the Dynamic Application that you want to align to the BIG-IP system.
5. In the **Credentials** field, select the SNMP credential for the BIG-IP system.
6. Click the **[Save]** button.

Manually Aligning the "F5 BIG IP LTM: Service Discovery" Dynamic Application with the BIG-IP Root Device in the Skylar One Classic User Interface

When you run discovery, the "F5 BIG-IP LTM: Component Counts" Dynamic Application is automatically aligned with the F5 BIG-IP system. This Dynamic Application enables you to determine the number of component devices in your BIG-IP system that will be discovered.

To determine the BIG-IP component device count:

1. Go to the **Device Manager** page (Devices > Classic Devices, or Registry > Devices > Device Manager in the classic SL1 user interface).
2. Click the wrench icon () for the BIG-IP system.
3. In the **Device Administration** panel, click the **[Collections]** tab. The **Dynamic Application Collections** page displays.
4. Click the plus icon (+) for the "F5 BIG-IP LTM: Component Counts" Dynamic Application. If collection for the Dynamic Application was successful, the graph icons () for the "F5 BIG-IP LTM: Component Counts" presentation objects are enabled.
5. Click a graph icon () for any of the "F5 BIG-IP LTM: Component Counts" presentation objects to view the collected data for that presentation object. The **Device Performance** page displays the number of components that are being monitored.

After verifying the number of component devices that will be discovered, perform the following steps to start component device discovery by aligning the "F5 BIG-IP LTM: Service Discovery" Dynamic Application with the BIG-IP root system:

1. Go to the **Device Properties** page (Devices > Classic Devices > wrench icon) for the BIG-IP system.
2. Click the **[Collections]** tab. The **Dynamic Application Collections** page appears.
3. Click the **[Actions]** button and then select *Add Dynamic Application*. The **Dynamic Application Alignment** page appears.
4. In the **Dynamic Applications** field, select *F5 BIG-IP LTM: Service Discovery*.
5. In the **Credentials** field, select the SNMP credential for the BIG-IP system.
6. Click the **[Save]** button.

Viewing Component Devices

When Skylar One performs collection for the F5 BIG-IP system, Skylar One will create component devices that represent each device and align other Dynamic Applications to those component devices. Some of the Dynamic Applications aligned to the component devices will also be used to create additional component devices. All component devices appear in the **Device Manager** page just like devices discovered using the ScienceLogic discovery process.

In addition to the **Device Manager** page, you can view the F5 BIG-IP system and all associated component devices in the following places in the user interface:

- The **[Map]** tab of the **Device Investigator** (Devices > select a device > Map) displays a map of a particular device and all of the devices with which it has parent-child relationships.
- The **Device Components** page (Devices > Device Components) displays a list of all root devices and component devices discovered by Skylar One in an indented view, so you can easily view the hierarchy and relationships between child devices, parent devices, and root devices. To view the component devices associated with an F5 BIG-IP system, find the BIG-IP device and click its plus icon (+).
- The **Component Map** page (Maps > Classic Maps > Device Maps > Components) allows you to view devices by root node and view the relationships between root nodes, parent components, and child components in a map. This makes it easy to visualize and manage root nodes and their components. Skylar One automatically updates the **Device Component Map** as new component devices are discovered. Skylar One also updates each map with the latest status and event information. To view the map for an F5 BIG-IP system, go to the **Device Component Map** page and select the map from the list in the left NavBar. To learn more about the **Device Component Map** page, see the **Views** manual.

Viewing Component Devices in the Skylar One Classic User Interface

When Skylar One performs collection for the F5 BIG-IP system, Skylar One will create component devices that represent each device and align other Dynamic Applications to those component devices. Some of the Dynamic Applications aligned to the component devices will also be used to create additional component devices. All component devices appear in the **Device Manager** page just like devices discovered using the ScienceLogic discovery process.

In addition to the **Device Manager** page, you can view the F5 BIG-IP system and all associated component devices in the following places in the user interface:

- The **Device View** modal page (click the bar-graph icon  for a device, then click the **Topology** tab) displays a map of a particular device and all of the devices with which it has parent-child relationships. Double-clicking any of the devices listed reloads the page to make the selected device the primary device.
- The **Device Components** page (Devices > Device Components) displays a list of all root devices and component devices discovered by Skylar One in an indented view, so you can easily view the hierarchy and relationships between child devices, parent devices, and root devices. To view the component devices associated with an F5 BIG-IP system, find the BIG-IP device and click its plus icon (+).
- The **Device Component Map** page (Classic Maps > Device Maps > Components) allows you to view devices by root node and view the relationships between root nodes, parent components, and child components in a map. This makes it easy to visualize and manage root nodes and their components. Skylar One automatically updates the **Device Component Map** as new component devices are discovered. Skylar One also updates each map with the latest status and event information. To view the map for an F5 BIG-IP system, go to the **Device Component Map** page and select the map from the list in the left NavBar. To learn more about the **Device Component Map** page, see the **Views** manual.

Troubleshooting Known Issues

The following known issues affect version 105 of the *F5 BIG-IP PowerPack*:

- All snippets display a "RequestsDependency" warning. This is caused by importing requests in python3.6 or python3.9, but does not affect collection. ([EM-62334](#))
- Virtual Servers with the same name may only have one discovered instance of duplicate named servers discovered, modeled, and present in the configuration table in the "F5 Big-IP LTM: Virtual Server Discovery" Dynamic Application. Additionally, due to a change in how Python 2 and Python 3 handle dictionaries, when upgrading from version 103 to version 104, the duplicated device that is discovered, modeled, and listed in the configuration table may change. ([SOL-21782](#))

NOTE: F5 and ScienceLogic both recommend that virtual servers have unique names.

Chapter

3

F5 BIG-IP Dashboards

Overview

The following sections describe the device dashboards that are included in the "F5 BIG-IP" PowerPack:

This chapter covers the following topics:

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Device Dashboards

The "F5 BIG-IP" PowerPack includes device dashboards that provide summary information for F5 BIG-IP LTM component devices. Each of the device dashboards in the "F5 BIG-IP" PowerPack are set as the default device dashboard for the equivalent device class.

F5: BIG-IP LTM Node

The F5: BIG-IP LTM Node device dashboard displays the following information:

- Vitals (Current)
- Vitals (Average)
- Tickets and Events
- Bytes Sent/Received
- Connections
- Sessions

F5: BIG-IP LTM Pool

The "F5: BIG-IP LTM Pool" device dashboard displays the following information:

- Vitals (Current)
- Vitals (Average)
- Tickets and Events
- Bytes Sent/Received
- Connections
- Requests

F5: BIG-IP LTM Pool Member

The "F5: BIG-IP LTM Pool Member" device dashboard displays the following information:

- Vitals (Current)
- Vitals (Average)
- Tickets and Events
- Bytes Sent/Received
- Packets Sent/Received
- Connections

F5: BIG-IP LTM Virtual Server

The "F5: BIG-IP LTM Virtual Server" device dashboard displays the following information:

- Virtual Server Availability
- Vitals (Current)
- Vitals (Average)
- Tickets and Events
- Bytes Sent/Received
- Packets Sent/Received
- Connections

F5: BIG-IP Root Device

The "F5: BIG-IP LTM Root Device" device dashboard displays the following information:

- Vitals (Current)
- Vitals (Average)
- Tickets and Events
- F5 Component Breakdown
- F5 Memory Vitals
- F5 CPU Vitals

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