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CONTACTS: Alane Moran   Holly Hagerman
                      F5 Networks, Inc.   Connect PR
                      206/272-6859   801/373-7888
                      a.moran@f5.com   hollyh@connectpr.com

F5 Networks Unveils iControl Integration for Microsoft Operations Manager 2004

F5 Solution for Microsoft's Premier Server Management Tool Promotes Self-Tuning, Self-Healing Networks for More Performance and Availability with Less Human Intervention

SEATTLE, MARCH 16, 2004 -- F5 Networks, Inc. (NASDAQ: FFIV), the leading provider of Application Traffic Management products, today announced that its iControl integration solution for Microsoft Operations Manager (MOM) 2004 will be available when MOM 2004 ships this summer.

This solution will feature the BIG-IP® local area application management solution that integrates F5's unique iControl™ architecture with MOM 2004 for comprehensive network device monitoring, management and control. This powerful combination helps IT professionals gain a unified view of both networks and the applications that depend on those networks' performance and availability, including enterprise, mobile and Web services applications. Plus, with management complexity reduced via automatic resolution of application alerts at the network layer, they save time and effort while gaining valuable peace-of-mind that their network and application infrastructures are delivering optimal 24x7 performance.

"As more and more businesses deploy mission-critical applications across the Microsoft Windows environment, it's critical that they and their users be able to count on those applications performance, security and availability," said [INSERT F5 EXECUTIVE, TBD]. "F5 Networks takes very seriously its role in providing Microsoft's MOM 2004 customers with these benefits while also helping them avoid the overhead associated with the human monitoring that would otherwise be required."

As a member of the Microsoft Management Alliance, F5 has worked closely with Microsoft to ensure the tight integration of the iControl architecture with MOM 2004. "We designed MOM 2004 to dramatically improve its ease of deployment and use," said [APPROPRIATE MICROSOFT EXECUTIVE, TBD]. "Integration with F5 will add that much more potential value to MOM 2004 customers, who can use the two to optimize the performance and availability of their networks and applications, while reducing the associated overhead."

F5's SOAP-based iControl architecture enables developers to create "application-aware" networks that provide communications between the applications and networks. This is done by intercepting, inspecting and directing application and Web services requests, based on values

found in packet headers or payloads. By monitoring the health of networks and applications at the packet level, problems can be diagnosed, alerts issued and automated responses invoked before significant performance degradation can occur – without human intervention. These vital "self-tuning, self-healing" capabilities help to ensure business continuity, security and performance.

About F5 Networks

F5 Networks keeps IP-based traffic flowing and business continued innovations help businesses optimize and protect their IT investments. Our mission is to ensure the availability, scalability, performance, and security of IT resources that enterprises information always available to any user from any device, anywhere in the world. Our products ensure secure and reliable access to servers and the applications that run on them. F5 also provides tools to automate communications between applications and the network, eliminating tedious, manual processes.

As the pioneers of intelligent load balancing, F5's require to successfully do business. Over 6,000 enterprises and service providers rely on F5 solutions to keep their businesses running. The company is headquartered in Seattle, Washington with offices worldwide. For more information go to www.f5.com.