



“It’s good equipment to own. We praise it from all sides of our business.”

James McGhee,
Lead Network Engineer

Thomson Scientific and Healthcare Relies on F5’s BIG-IP for Local and Global Traffic Management and High Availability of Their Database Applications

Industry:

Information Services

Challenges:

- Local and global application high availability
- Reduce costs
- Business continuity
- Ease of maintenance

Solution:

BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager and BIG-IP Global Traffic Manager

Benefits:

- Ease of management and maintenance
- Comprehensive reporting
- Improved application performance
- Robust and reliable operation

Overview

Thomson Scientific and Healthcare is one of four market groups within the Thomson Corporation (2005 revenues of approximately \$8.5 billion), a global leader in providing integrated information solutions to business and professional customers. Thomson’s information solutions assist professionals in research and development—from discovery to analysis to product development and distribution. Thomson’s integrated solutions are used by researchers, information specialists, and professionals in the fields of: biotechnology, chemistry, engineering, healthcare, law, financial services, higher education, reference information, corporate training, and assessment.

Access to Thomson Scientific and Healthcare’s databases can be achieved through a variety of Internet platforms, plus several different online hosts. Recognizing the need for products that ensure high availability and reliable delivery of their data to a far-reaching global community, Thomson Scientific and Healthcare relies on F5’s BIG-IP Global Traffic Manager (formerly 3-DNS) and F5’s BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager.

Challenge

Thomson Scientific and Healthcare’s customers subscribe to various databases to help them at every stage of research and development. The databases need to be available 24x7 across all continents, time zones and data centers. Many of Thomson Scientific and Healthcare’s customers are academics ranging from small two-year schools to large consortiums of universities that require round the clock access to the critical data Thomson offers. Needless to say, interruption or slow delivery of these services “would seriously impact our business,” said James McGhee, Lead Network Engineer for Thomson Scientific. The need for a robust and reliable solution to ensure high availability for their customers, both at the local and global level, was a key requirement to Thomson’s continued business success. The solution they chose was the BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager, paired with BIG-IP Global Traffic Manager, both from F5.

Solution

Thomson Scientific’s network consists of three data centers located in various parts of the world, with over 120 top level



