

Leading Biotechnology Company Migrates F5 BIG-IP Configurations in Minutes

Client Information

The client is a biotechnology product development company serving more than 350,000 clients at pharmaceutical and biotech companies, hospitals and clinical diagnostic labs, universities, research institutions, and government agencies. It acquired a new biotech corporation to become a leading company in the genetic testing and precision laboratory equipment markets.

Business Challenges

The company has been expanding on a large scale, and the new acquisition created a need for an automation solution to address below business challenges.

1) Consolidation of two data centers

- With the new acquisition, the company wanted to decommission the acquired company's data center to reduce the overhead costs of managing two data centers
- The consolidation required the migration of device configurations from the acquired entity's data center (A) to the existing data center (B)
- The project also required scaling and the addition of new devices in data center B. The company had to migrate 700+ applications that were load-balanced in data center A to data center B
- The migration process involved critical e-commerce applications that end users use for purchasing and payment transactions

2) Potential errors, delays, and costs due to manual migration

- The client anticipated that the configuration migration process would be manual, which would be slow and potentially error-prone
- The cost estimates for manual migration were high and required additional highly skilled resources. It would be feasible only after the resources got a full knowledge transfer on the infrastructure and change process which was time-consuming.
- Defining, planning, and implementing the migration of major applications is difficult with a manual process. The anticipated process would be arduous and complex and would have resulted in delays.

Industry

Biotechnology

Challenges

- Consolidation of data centers
- Errors, delays, and costs of manual migration

Benefits

- Significant cost savings
- Reduction in migration time from 30 minutes to 5 minutes

Solution

Automating the migration process with simple, self-service templates

The company's network engineer used the Application Provisioning System (APS) module of AppViewX's Application Delivery Automation solution to create several self-service templates to automate the various steps involved in data center migration. The templates were created by architects using defined standards.

- The AppViewX Platform generated a configuration report for F5 devices with complete details of the associated IPs in data center A that had to be migrated to data center B
- By integrating with SolarWinds, the APS module got free IPs to create new VIPs in the new data center B
- After fetching the free IPs, APS provisioned new virtual servers in data center B. The APS migration template was triggered to migrate single/multiple VIPs (100–300) from F5 devices in data center A to F5 devices in data center B. They used APS to upgrade the existing version 9 of F5 BIG-IP LTM devices to version 11.
- APS paved the way to configuration agility, where users can automate modification of existing VIPs, clone an existing VIP with varying parameters, and perform post-validation checks and other configuration changes in data center B to meet business demands.

Solution Highlights

- Simple self-service templates to automate migration process
- Bulk migration of virtual servers
- Faster implementation

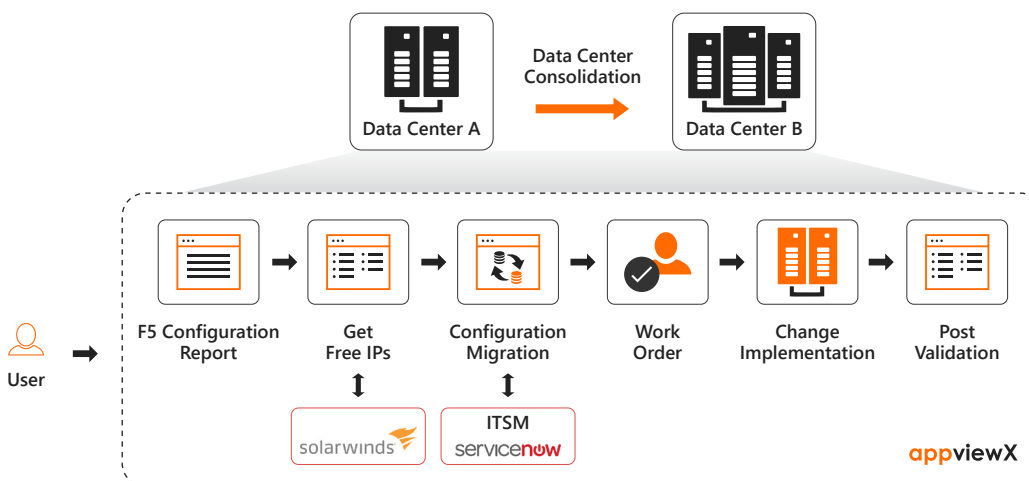


Fig 1. Seamless Configuration Migration

Achieving faster implementation through bulk migration

Using APS, the client gained the flexibility to migrate individual virtual servers or, in some instances, to perform a bulk migration. The configuration is hardcoded in the template, but the device names and other specifics can be dynamic data that the user enters at the time of migration. The biggest advantage is that users do not have to go through the strenuous process of typing out entire configurations from scratch. Since the AppViewX Platform stores entire device configurations, the formerly manual effort is automated, saving time and effort. From a situation where even a single migration had constraints, the company is now able to do bulk migrations without any problems using AppViewX's Application Delivery Automation solution.

Business Benefits

- The time it took to migrate 125 virtual servers associated with the company's most critical business application was reduced from two days to 15 minutes, drastically reducing downtime
- Per-application configuration migration time has been reduced from 30 minutes to 5 minutes
- With no more manual migrations, the project was completed with existing team, resulting in significant cost savings

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The team at AppViewX helped build new automation and functionality on the fly with the APS templates, and helped us crunch the bulk of the F5 migration work to meet all of our deadlines and requirements. I'm extremely lucky to have partnered with such a valuable friend and ally. AppViewX and the people at your company exceed all of my expectations.

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**Sr. Staff Engineer, F5 Manager
Global Infrastructure Services**

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About AppViewX

AppViewX is revolutionizing the way NetOps and SecOps teams deliver services to Enterprise IT. The AppViewX Platform is a modular, low-code software application that enables the automation and orchestration of network infrastructure using an intuitive, context-aware, visual workflow. It quickly and easily translates business requirements into automation workflows that improve agility, enforce compliance, eliminate errors, and reduce cost. AppViewX is headquartered in Seattle with offices in the U.S., U.K., and India. To know more, visit www.appviewx.com.

AppViewX Inc.,

500 Yale Avenue North, Suite 100, Seattle, WA 98109

✉ info@appviewx.com

🌐 www.appviewx.com

☎ +1 (206) 207-7541

☎ +44 (0) 203-514-2226