Distributed Cloud Services Release Notes

December 2023

Welcome to the product release notes for F5® Distributed Cloud Services. Each month, the product team provides additional details on key features and enhancements in this release.

APPLICATION SECURITY

Web Application and API Protection (WAAP)

Enhancement to Malicious User Detection

The algorithm for [Malicious Users detection](#) now considers bot defense and rate-limiting activity from the client, when these features are enabled for the HTTP load balancer, to effectively detect bad actors. This adds additional data sets to the algorithm providing a more context aware risk scoring engine to better monitor and score client interactions, helping to identify highest priority threats.

Empty State Handling of XC Bot Defense Dashboards

This update will improve the experience and your visibility when no data is present. The empty data states feature ensures that you have clear visibility, even when data is absent, preventing confusion and improving the overall experience. It provides intuitive indicators and messages to signify when data is not available, maintaining transparency and providing context within the user interface.

Bot Defense Peer Reporting

The new Peer Comparison report enables customers to compare their bot traffic metrics to those of other F5-protected organizations. Enterprises can see how they compare in total traffic protected, bot traffic, and breakdown by types of bots.
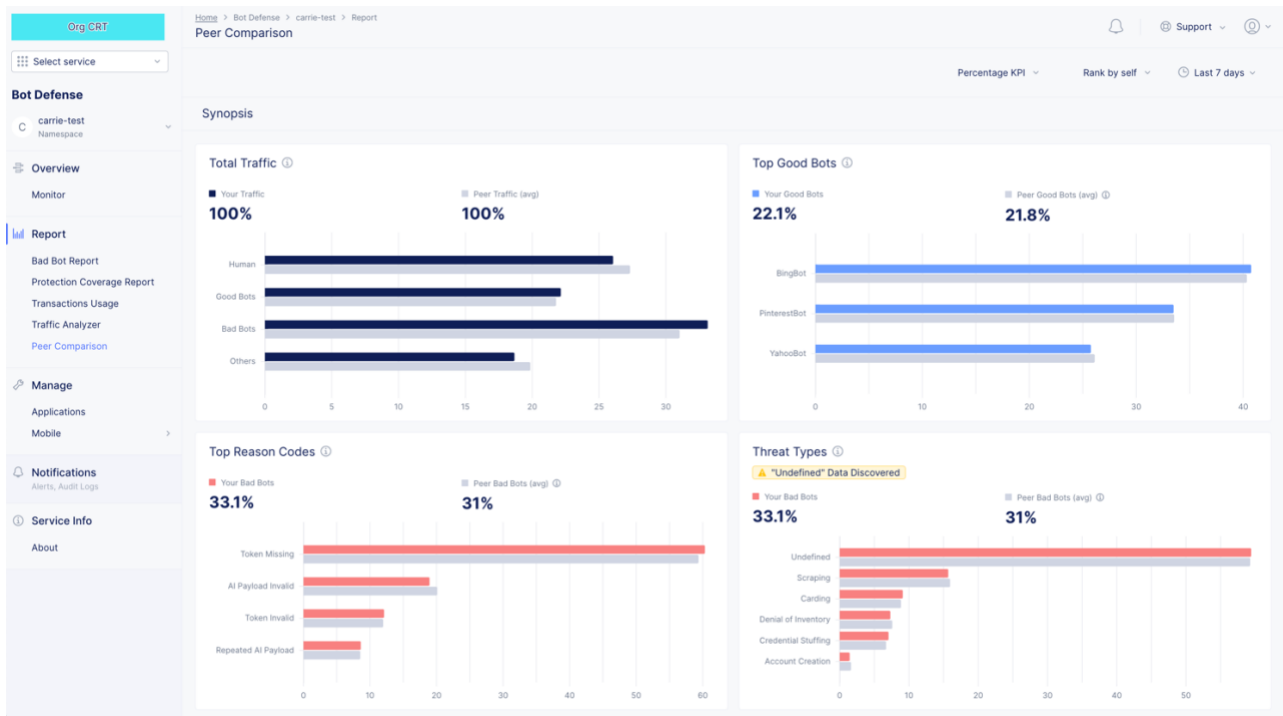
Peer Comparison report shows how organization compares to peers for bot traffic and types of bots.
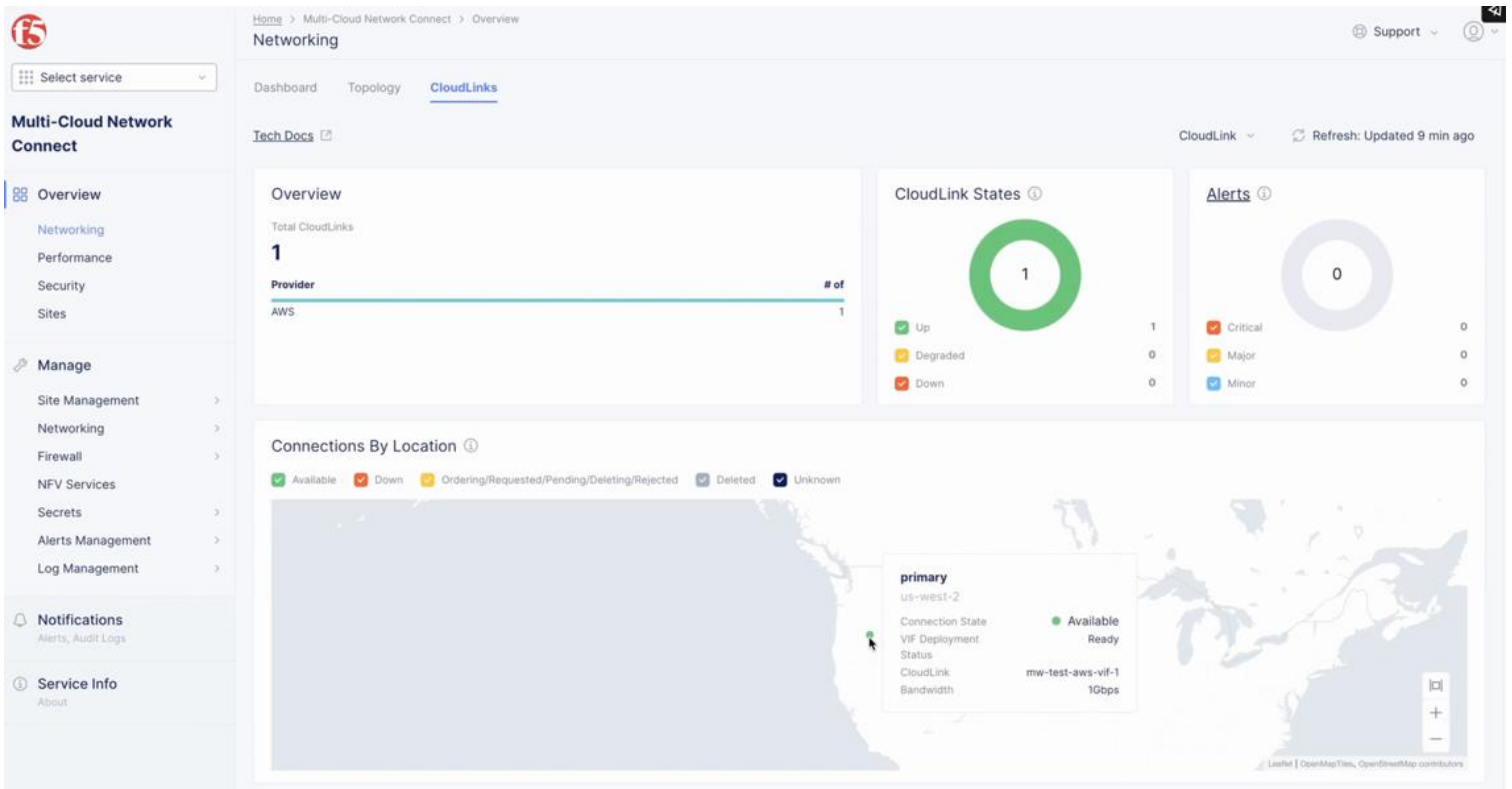
SECURE MULTI-CLOUD NETWORKING

Network Connect

CloudLink BYOC

This feature helps provide cloud network orchestration to establish seamless private network connectivity into public cloud deployments from Customer Edge sites. For customers operating in a hybrid environment who need a private connection from their on-prem data centers to cloud instances (once a virtual connection is provisioned from an existing network vendor to establish the private connection), CloudLink can orchestrate all connectivity between each cloud region and their on-prem data centers within that private connection. Customers also have the option to configure a Private ADN to establish private connectivity between their sites and the F5 Global Network.

CloudLink BYOC is available to all F5XC customers for AWS and GCP (with Cloud Router connectivity already set up). Support for Azure and further GCP network orchestration will be added in future releases.

An overview of the CloudLink dashboard in the Multi-Cloud Network Connect dashboard, showing how many links exist in the network, their health, location, and performance metrics.

APPLICATION PERFORMANCE

DNS

Create & Send single Resource Record (RR)

This feature release will enable customers to create, delete, or update single DNS records using the F5XC API. Previously, a customer would have had to resend the whole DNS zone to update it, costing considerable time and effort if a large zone (i.e. >100 resource records) needed to be updated.

Added Observability: View DNS Query Logs in XC Console

This release for the XC DNS solution line will enable customers to view the DNS query logs in the F5 Distributed Cloud Console, giving them enhanced visibility into their DNS traffic. Customers will be able to monitor the following information:

- Date/time
- Source IP (either from DNS resolver or end-client if using EDNS-client-subnet
- Source country
- DNS name queried
- RR type
- Return code

Customers may select from two options when choosing the UX flow to display the logs: 1) adding a new entry into "Dashboard" (e.g. "Query Logs") which will display all DNS zones and query logs for a selected zone; or 2) Including query logs in the same location as the DNS dashboard with a specific "DNS Query Log" at the top.

F5 XC DNS Management Dashboard displaying query log records

DNSLB

Added Notion of "Fallback Pool"

This release for the XC DNSLB solution line will enable customers to add the "fallback pool" notion, allowing them to explicitly define a matching pool if no other pools match. Configuring a fallback pool may help improve availability, increase performance, and reduce downtime since fallback pools are groups of servers that route traffic when servers in the primary pool are unavailable.

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Please see the full F5 Distributed Cloud Changelog for additional information, including more new enhancements plus known issues and caveats. We hope you find the information contained in these release notes useful. If you have any feedback, please email: CS_DistributedCloudTeam@f5.com