Distributed Cloud Services Release Notes

May 2024

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.

New Cloud Status Updates

The [F5 Cloud Status page](#) provides up to the minute information on the current availability of services on the Distributed Cloud Platform across our global network, as well as planned maintenances as services status history. Customers can now subscribe for notifications regarding any service incidents that take place either via email, webhooks or RSS feeds. F5 highly recommends customers to subscribe to those updates, as they allow them to be informed about any ongoing incident and planned maintenance.

APPLICATION SECURITY

Web Application and API Protection (WAAP)

API Security now detects configurations where the GraphQL query size is not limited and where GraphQL endpoints support introspection

This introduces a new security enhancement that detects when the size of GraphQL queries is not limited, potentially exposing systems to performance issues or security risks. Additionally, another critical update is the detection of GraphQL endpoints that support introspection. By identifying these, our security posture helps you mitigate risks associated with exposing detailed schema information that could be leveraged in malicious attacks.

WAAP Scheduled Reports now supports trends

Any WAAP Scheduled Reports that users enable will be enhanced to show trends, that provide context into the change in percentage of attacks detected and mitigated from the previous time period.

New Tenant level dashboards for Web App and API Protection (WAAP) workspaces

The WAAP workspace now supports a new namespace to provide visibility into security and performance metrics aggregated across an organizations tenant including all namespaces without having to view each one individually. Customers will also now be able to export the security, performance metrics and load balancer configuration details in a csv format from the Security and Performance dashboards for their complete set of namespaces. These capabilities drastically simplify the configuration review and attack investigation for organizations, by providing a single unified view of all load balancers and events. In addition, The Tenant Search page provides the ability to search for example a source IP or request ID across the tenant and navigate to that specific load balancer. Please note that only specific roles would be able to view these dashboards.

JWT Matcher for API Protection and Rate Limiting Rules

The goal of this feature is to introduce JWT (JSON Web Token) matching capabilities within our API Protection and Rate Limit Rules framework. This feature will allow the system to apply specific rules based on the presence and content of JWT claims in API requests. By examining JWT claims, we can apply more granular and context-aware rules, enhancing security and control over API access and usage.

SECURE MULTICLOUD NETWORKING

Network Connect

Network Segmentation

Network Segmentation (now in Early Access) provides network isolation and enhanced security across multi-region and multicloud deployments. This enables users to align VPCs to specific segments and ensure that they cannot communicate with any VPC not in that specific segment. In order to enable communication between different segments, segment connectors must be configured, meaning that connectivity is not on by default. This provides users with more granular controls, while still abstracting the underlying networking. This also enables users to set up extranet connections to their partners and keep traffic segmented.

This release supports AWS TGW and on-premises sites.

Cloud Connect

Cloud Connect (now in Early Access) enables users to seamlessly discover and connect VPCs on the cloud. Users can connect their credentials to their F5 Distributed Cloud Services tenant, and Cloud Connect will automatically onboard VPCs from those accounts. This speeds up the onboarding process and allows users to deploy networking and security policies to these VPCs more quickly.

This release supports AWS VPCs, with functionality for other cloud providers coming in later releases.

APPLICATION PERFORMANCE

Distributed Cloud DNS Load Balancer (DNSLB)

IP-Prefix for Global Server Load Balancing (GSLB)

An IP prefix is a way to group several IP addresses together, enabling more efficient management and organization of those IP addresses. F5 Distributed Cloud DNSLB will support the use of IP prefixes as criteria to match incoming DNS queries. This allows DNSLB to make load balancing decisions based on that specific IP prefix. Support for IP-Prefixes comes in addition to DNSLB's existing support for AS Numbers and Geo-IP locations, as outlined in previous releases.

Support for IP prefix routing gives DNSLB users more options to direct traffic to specific locations (i.e. a specific DNSLB pool) thus enhancing app delivery efficiency and user flexibility and eliminating the need to rely on an external database which may have outdated records. Currently, some users may employ Geolocation for routing purposes. Geolocation uses Geo-IP, and Geo-IP uses IP databases which may not always be up to date. Supporting IP prefixes gives customers another tool to ensure that the resources they are pointing traffic to are accurate and available.

Distributed Cloud DNS

Import BIND DNS configuration

With this release, F5 Distributed Cloud DNS supports the ability to import BIND DNS configurations, allowing for an easier onboarding process for customers migrating their DNS zones to F5 Distributed Cloud DNS.

Often, customers use BIND with their on-prem DNS servers. This stores their configurations in "*named.conf*" files and "*zonefiles db*" files. This new ability will take an archive file (i.e. a *.zip* extension), extract it, and then import and create the corresponding DNS zones and records automatically.

Importing an existing configuration in this way ensures that all DNS settings and records are transferred accurately without having to manually recreate them. Importing and then automatically creating the DNS configuration helps avoid errors and ensures consistency in DNS responses before and after the migration.

Limit Permissions to a DNS API Group

With this release, F5 Distributed Cloud DNS will increase control and security with new options for role-based permission controls. Customers may, on occasion, need tailored access levels; this feature release introduces three permission groups to cater to various operational roles within an organization:

- **Monitor**: this group provides read-only access, ensuring users can track Distributed Cloud DNS configurations and changes without altering them.

- **User**: this group enables read/write access to designated areas. This allows for a balance between operational flexibility and security control.

- **Admin**: the admin group grants read/write access across all areas of the Distributed Cloud DNS platform. This level of access ensures that system administrators can efficiently manage and safeguard their Distributed Cloud DNS infrastructure.

Domain Delegation Migration

In this release, F5 Distributed Cloud DNS is initiating the migration of Delegated Domains off of the current nameservers. Customers using Delegated Domains today can submit a support ticket to request a migration. On October 1, 2024, the F5 Distributed Cloud support team will begin migrating remaining Delegated Domains & IP addresses for existing nameservers.

Customers will benefit from migrating sooner rather than later, as a successful migration will:

- Grant better visibility into their domain, thanks to the DNS Dashboard and access to Requests Logs
- Provide the ability to add additional records above and beyond the HTTP Load Balance (HTTPLB) records supported now

After migrating, records will point to Distributed Cloud nameservers. For more information on this migration, please refer to this Zendesk article.

<center>***</center>

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