K77706009: Using BIG-IQ License Manager to remotely manage BIG-IP Virtual Edition licenses

Non-Diagnostic

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Topic

You should consider using these procedures under the following conditions:

- You have one or more BIG-IP Virtual Edition (VE) systems with active support contracts.
- You want to use BIG-IQ License Manager to assign and revoke standalone BIG-IP VE licenses.

Description

From BIG-IQ Centralized Management 5.1.0, you can assign, revoke, and reassign remote BIG-IP VE device licenses using the License Manager. BIG-IQ License Manager organizes licenses into groups using a **registration key (RegKey) pools** concept. After you create a RegKey pool, you activate new registration keys and begin assigning licenses to your BIG-IP VE devices. In addition, starting from BIG-IQ 5.2.0, F5 offers a specially licensed virtual edition of the BIG-IQ Central Management system, which allows you to use BIG-IQ License Manager as a standalone module. To obtain a free BIG-IQ License Manager license, refer to Obtaining BIG-IQ License Manager.

Note: BIG-IQ supports BIG-IP VE devices running BIG-IP 11.5.0 HF7 and later.

Note: You must use BIG-IQ 5.3.0 or later to assign and revoke licenses for BIG-IP VE systems running in 1NIC mode.

Prerequisites

You must meet the following prerequisites to use these procedures:

- You have one or more registration keys that you have not used to license a BIG-IP VE system.
- Your BIG-IP VE systems have active support contracts.
- You have administrative access to license BIG-IQ devices.
- You have administrative access to the BIG-IP VE systems that you are licensing.

Procedures

- Obtaining BIG-IQ License Manager (Optional)
- Activating a registration key with License Manager (automatic method)
- Activating a registration key with License Manager (manual method)
- Assigning a license from the RegKey pool to a BIG-IP VE device
- Refreshing a license in the RegKey pool to a BIG-IP VE device

- [Revoking a license in the RegKey pool from a BIG-IP VE device](#)
- [Assigning an add-on key to a licensed BIG-IP VE device](#)

Obtaining BIG-IQ License Manager (Optional)

If you do not own a BIG-IQ Centralized Management system, but want to use BIG-IQ License Manager as a standalone module, obtain the free BIG-IQ License Management license by performing the following procedure:

1. Contact your sales representative to request a free BIG-IQ License Manager registration key.
2. Download the virtual edition of BIG-IQ Centralized Management, which is available on the F5 [Downloads](#) page.

   Note: Make sure to obtain BIG-IQ Centralized Management 5.2.0 or later.

3. After you install BIG-IQ Centralized Management, you can license the system. For more information, refer to [K15094: Licensing the BIG-IQ system](#).

Activating a registration key with the License Manager (automatic method)

After you obtain your base registration key from F5, typically in the form of an email, you can create a standalone RegKey pool and add and activate registration keys for that pool. You can automatically contact the F5 license server for activation if the BIG-IQ system meets the following criteria:

- It is connected to the public Internet.
- It can access the **activate.f5.com** site.
- Its existing firewalls allow port 443 to pass through.

Note: You cannot reactivate or import registration keys from currently active BIG-IP VE licenses. For already licensed devices in your network, contact [F5 Technical Support](#) for assistance with transferring the devices to the BIG-IQ system for license management.

Impact of procedure: Performing the following procedure should not have a negative impact on your system.

1. Log in to the BIG-IQ system with your administrator username and password.
2. Select **Devices**.
3. Go to **LICENSE MANAGEMENT > Licenses**.
4. Perform one of the following actions:

   If no RegKey pool exists, select **Add RegKey Pool** and, in the **Name** box, enter a name for the new RegKey pool.

   If a RegKey pool exists, select the name of the RegKey pool for which you want to activate a license.

5. Select **Add RegKey**.
6. In the **Registration Key** box, enter or paste the registration key, and into the **Add-on Keys** box, type or paste an associated add-on key.
7. For the **Activation Method** setting, select **Automatic**.
8. Select **Activate**.

9. Review the end user license agreement, and, if you agree with the terms, select **Accept**.
10. After the activation status displays **Active**, you can assign a license from the pool to a BIG-IP VE device.

Activating a registration key with the License Manager (manual method)

After you obtain your base registration key from F5, typically in the form of an email, you can create a standalone RegKey pool and add and activate registration keys for that pool. If your BIG-IQ system is not connected to the public Internet, you must activate the registration key using the following manual procedure:

Note: You cannot reactivate or import registration keys from currently active BIG-IP VE licenses. For devices in your network already licensed, contact [F5 Technical Support](#) for assistance with transferring the devices to the BIG-IQ system for license management.

Impact of procedure: Performing the following procedure should not have a negative impact on your system.

1. Log in to the BIG-IQ system with your administrator user name and password.
2. Select **Devices**.
3. Go to **LICENSE MANAGEMENT > Licenses**.
4. Perform one of the following actions:

   If no RegKey pool exists, select **Add RegKey Pool** and in the **Name** box, type a name for the new RegKey pool.

   If a RegKey pool exists, select the name of the RegKey pool for which you want to activate a license.

5. Select **Add RegKey**.
6. In the **Name** box, type the name and optional **Description** for the RegKey pool.
7. Select **Add RegKey**.
8. In the **Registration Key** box, type or paste the registration key, and into the **Add-on Keys** field, type or paste an associated add-on key.
9. For the **Activation Method** setting, select **Manual**.
10. Select **Generate Dossier**.
11. Select and copy the dossier.
12. Select **Access F5 manual activation web portal**.
13. On the **F5 Product Licensing** page, paste the dossier into the **Enter your dossier** box, and select **Next**. Alternatively, select **Choose File** and navigate to the location where you saved the dossier.
14. Review the end user license agreement and, if you agree with the terms, select **Accept** .
15. Select and copy the license.
16. Paste the license into the **License Text** box on the BIG-IQ system.
17. Select **Activate**.

Assigning a license from the RegKey Pool to a BIG-IP VE device

After you activate a VE license from the RegKey pool, you can assign the registration key to a BIG-IP VE device. You assign a license from the RegKey pool to a BIG-IP VE device to authorize the device to run F5 services that support your applications.

Impact of procedure: Performing the following procedure triggers the license activation process.
The process may reload the configuration and temporarily interrupt traffic processing on the target BIG-IP system. When licensing redundant BIG-IP systems, F5 recommends that you activate the license on your BIG-IP devices while they are in standby mode.

1. Select **Devices**.
2. Go to **LICENSE MANAGEMENT > Licenses**.
3. Under **Name**, select the name of the RegKey pool that contains the registration key you want to assign.
4. Under **Registration Key**, select the registration key you want to assign by selecting the box next to its name.
5. Select **Assign**.
6. For managed devices, select the BIG-IP device you want from the list, or select **Unmanaged Device**, then type the device **IP Address**, **Port**, **Username**, and **Password** for unmanaged devices.

   Note: BIG-IQ 5.3.0 and later allows you to modify the default service port 443.

   Important: The BIG-IQ system must use service port 8443 to license BIG-IP VE devices running in 1NIC mode.

7. Select **Assign**, and confirm the assignment.
8. Ensure that the **License Status** indicates **Licensed**.

Refreshing a license from the RegKey pool to a BIG-IP VE device

Note: Refreshing the BIG-IP license from the BIG-IQ system is also referred to as reactivating a BIG-IP license

After reactivating the license from the License server, you need to pass the updated license information to the BIG-IP system to ensure it contains a recent service check date.

Impact of procedure: Performing the following procedure triggers the license activation process.
The process may reload the configuration and temporarily interrupt traffic processing on the target BIG-IP system. When licensing redundant BIG-IP systems, F5 recommends that you activate the license on your BIG-IP devices while they are in standby mode.

1. Select **Devices**.
2. Go to **LICENSE MANAGEMENT > Licenses**.
3. Under **Name**, select the name of the RegKey pool that contains the registration key you want to refresh.
4. Under **Registration Key**, select the registration key you want to refresh by selecting the check box next to its name.
5. Select **More**.
6. Select **Refresh**.
7. For unmanaged devices, type the username and password of the BIG-IP system.
8. Select **OK** to confirm the refreshing.

Revoking a license in the RegKey Pool from a BIG-IP VE device

When fewer devices are required for your applications, you can revoke licenses to reassign them to other BIG-IP VE devices, as needed.

Impact of procedure: Performing the following procedure removes the license from the target BIG-IP system.

1. Select **Devices**.
2. Go to **LICENSE MANAGEMENT > Licenses**.
3. Under **Name**, select the name of the RegKey pool that contains the registration key you want to revoke.
4. Under **Registration Key**, select the registration key you want to revoke by selecting the box next to its name.
5. Select **Revoke**.
6. The new page displays the **IP address** and **Offering** (registration key), and you must provide the **Username** and **Password** for the unmanaged BIG-IP device.
7. Select **Revoke** again, and confirm the revocation.

This license is now available for reassignment to another BIG-IP VE device.

Assigning an add-on key to a licensed BIG-IP VE device

When BIG-IQ system manages the registration key, you can associate and activate additional add-on keys to an already licensed BIG-IP VE device, as needed.

Impact of procedure: Performing the following procedure triggers the license activation process.
The process may reload the configuration and temporarily interrupt traffic processing on the target BIG-IP system. When licensing redundant BIG-IP systems, F5 recommends that you activate the license on your BIG-IP devices while they are in standby mode.

1. Select **Devices**.
2. Go to **LICENSE MANAGEMENT > Licenses**.
3. Under **Name**, select the name of the RegKey pool that contains the registration key you want to append the add-on key.
4. Under **Registration Key**, select the registration key you want to append the add-on key by selecting the check box next to its name.
5. Select **More**.
6. Select **Reactivate**.
7. In the **Add-on Keys** field, type or paste an associated add-on key.
8. Select **Reactivate**.
9. To load the reactivated license with the add-on key, perform the license refreshing procedure.

Supplemental Information

- K15612: Connectivity requirements for the BIG-IQ system
- K34133507: BIG-IQ Centralized Management compatibility matrix
- K16307: Troubleshooting BIG-IQ device discovery failures
- K14888: Displaying the BIG-IQ software version
- K14383: Finding the serial number or registration key of your BIG-IQ system

Applies to:

Product: BIG-IQ, BIG-IQ Centralized Management
7.0.0, 6.1.0, 6.0.1, 6.0.0, 5.4.0, 5.3.0, 5.2.0

Product: BIG-IP, BIG-IP AAM, BIG-IP AFM, BIG-IP APM, BIG-IP ASM, BIG-IP DNS, BIG-IP GTM, BIG-IP Link Controller, BIG-IP LTM, BIG-IP PEM
15.X.X, 14.X.X, 13.X.X, 12.X.X, 11.6.X, 11.5.X

Product: Legacy Products, BIG-IP PSM
15.X.X, 14.X.X, 13.X.X, 12.X.X, 11.6.X, 11.5.X