

BIG-IQ[®] Centralized Management and Linux[®] KVM: Setup

Version 4.6



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Legal notices

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This product conforms to the IEC, European Union, ANSI/UL and Canadian CSA standards applicable to Information Technology products at the time of manufacture.

Getting Started with BIG-IQ Virtual Edition

What is BIG-IQ Virtual Edition?

BIG-IQ[®] Virtual Edition (VE) is a version of the BIG-IQ system that runs as a virtual machine in specifically-supported hypervisors. BIG-IQ VE emulates a hardware-based BIG-IQ system running a VE-compatible version of BIG-IQ[®] software.

***Note:** The BIG-IQ VE product license determines the maximum allowed throughput rate. To view this rate limit, you can display the BIG-IQ VE licensing page within the BIG-IQ Configuration utility. Lab editions have no guarantee of throughput rate and are not supported for production environments.*

About BIG-IQ VE compatibility with KVM hypervisor products

Each time there is a new release of BIG-IQ[®] Virtual Edition (VE) software, it includes support for additional hypervisor management products. The Virtual Edition and Supported Hypervisors Matrix on the AskF5[™] website, <http://support.f5.com>, details which hypervisors are supported for each release.

***Important:** Hypervisors other than those identified in this guide are not supported with this BIG-IQ version; any installation attempts on unsupported platforms might not be successful.*

About the hypervisor guest definition requirements

The KVM virtual machine guest environment for the BIG-IQ[®] Virtual Edition (VE), at minimum, must include:

- 2 x virtual CPUs
- 4 GB RAM
- 3 x virtual network adapters
- 1 x 55 GB disk

***Important:** Not supplying at least the minimum virtual configuration limits will produce unexpected results.*

***Important:** Although you can successfully deploy BIG-IQ software with as few as 2 CPUs and 4 GB RAM, this configuration should only be used for evaluation purposes. For production use, F5 Networks recommends either 4 CPUs and 16 GB RAM, or (for higher performance) 8 CPUs and 32 GB RAM.*

There are also some maximum configuration limits to consider for deploying a BIG-IQ VE virtual machine, such as:

- CPU reservation can be up to 100 percent of the defined virtual machine hardware. For example, if the hypervisor has a 3 GHz core speed, the reservation of a virtual machine with 2 CPUs can be only 6 GHz or less.
- To achieve optimum performance limits, all allocated RAM must be reserved and virtual disks should be deployed Thick (allocated up front).

Deploying BIG-IQ Virtual Edition

About VE KVM deployment

To deploy the BIG-IQ[®] Virtual Edition (VE) system on KVM, you perform these tasks:

- Verify the host machine requirements.
- Deploy a BIG-IQ[®] system as a virtual machine.
- Deploy a BIG-IP[®] system.
- After you have deployed the virtual machines, log in to the BIG-IQ VE system and run the Setup utility. Using the Setup utility, you perform basic network configuration tasks, such as assigning VLANs to interfaces.
- Configure secure communication between the BIG-IQ system and the BIG-IP device.

Host machine requirements and recommendations

To successfully deploy and run the BIG-IQ[®] VE system, the host system must satisfy minimum requirements.

The host system must include these elements:

- RHEL, Ubuntu, Debian, or CentOS with the KVM package. The *Virtual Edition and Supported Hypervisors Matrix*, published on the AskF5[™] web site, <http://support.f5.com> identifies the Linux versions that are supported.
- Virtual Machine Manager
- Connection to a common NTP source (this is especially important for each host in a redundant system configuration)

Important: *The hypervisor CPU must meet the following requirements:*

- Use a 64-bit architecture.
 - Have support for virtualization (AMD-V or Intel VT-x) enabled.
 - Support a one-to-one thread-to-defined virtual CPU ratio, or (on single-threading architectures) support at least one core per defined virtual CPU.
 - Intel processors must be from the Core (or newer) workstation or server family of CPUs.
-

Deploying a BIG-IQ VE virtual machine

The first steps in deploying BIG-IQ[®] VE are to download the Zip file and then extract the `.qcow2` file, and save it to the KVM server. Next, you configure the virtual machine using Virtual Machine Manager.

Important: *Do not modify the configuration of the KVM guest environment with settings less powerful than the ones recommended in this document. This includes the settings for the CPU, RAM, and network adapters. Doing so might produce unexpected results.*

1. In a browser, open the F5 Downloads page (<https://downloads.f5.com>).

- Download the BIG-IQ BIG-IQ v4.x/Virtual Edition file package.

There are two options to choose from.

Option	Description
Large: the file name ends in .LARGE - qcow2.zip	The large option creates a 500GB disk footprint at installation. This choice supports larger log files required for data analytics.
Normal: the file name ends in .qcow2.zip	The standard option creates a 55GB disk footprint at installation. This choice should be the normal working BIG-IQ installation unless data analytics functionality is required.

- Extract the file from the Zip archive. Extract the file where your qcow2 files reside on the KVM server.
- VNC in to the KVM server, and then start Virt Manager.
- Right click **localhost (QEMU)**, and from the popup menu, select **New**. The Create a new virtual machine, Step 1 of 4 dialog box opens.
- In the **Name** field, type a name for the connection.
- Select **import existing disk image** as the method for installing the operating system, and click **Forward**. The Create a new virtual machine, Step 2 of 4 dialog box opens
- Type in the path to the extracted qcow file, or click **Browse** to navigate to the path location; select the file, and then click the **Choose Volume** button to fill in the path.
- In the **OS type** setting, select **Linux**, for the **Version** setting, select **Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6**, and click **Forward**. The Create a new virtual machine, Step 3 of 4 dialog box opens.
- In the **Memory (RAM)** field, type the appropriate amount of memory (in megabytes) for your deployment. (For example 4096, for a 4GB deployment). From the **CPUs** list, select **2**, and click **Forward**. The Create a new virtual machine, Step 4 of 4 dialog box opens.
- Select **Customize configuration before install**, and click the **Advanced options** arrow.
- Select the network interface adapter that corresponds to your management IP address, and click **Finish**. The Virtual Machine configuration dialog box opens.
- Click **Add Hardware**. When The Add New Virtual Hardware dialog box opens, select **Network** to access controls for specifying a new network interface device.
- From the **Host device** list, select the network interface adapter that corresponds to your external network, and from the **Device model** list, select **virtio**. Then click **Finish**.
- Repeat the last two steps, but this time select the network interface adapter that corresponds to your internal network.
- From the left pane, select **Disk 1**.
- Click the **Advanced options** button.
- From the **Disk bus** list, select **Virtio**.
- From the **Storage format** list, select **qcow2**.
- Click **Apply**.
- Click **Begin Installation**.
Virtual Machine Manager creates the virtual machine just as you configured it.

Powering on the virtual machine

You must power on the virtual machine before you can begin assigning IP addresses.

- Open Virtual Machine Manager.
- Right click the virtual machine that you want to power on, and then from the popup menu, select **Open**. The virtual machine opens, but in a powered-off state.

3. From the toolbar, select the **Power on the virtual machine** (right-arrow) button.
The virtual machine boots and then displays a login prompt.
4. Log in as root, and then type `config`.
The Configuration utility starts so that you can set up the IP address for the management interface. Once the management IP address is set, you can use a browser and the web interface to configure the BIG-IQ system.

Assigning a management IP address to a virtual machine

The virtual machine needs an IP address assigned to its virtual management port.

***Tip:** The default configuration for new deployments and installations is for DHCP to acquire the management port IP address.*

1. At the login prompt, type `root`.
2. At the password prompt, type `default`.
3. Type `config` and press Enter.
The F5 Management Port Setup screen opens.
4. Click **OK**.
5. If you want DHCP to automatically assign an address for the management port, select **Yes**. Otherwise, select **No** and follow the instructions for manually assigning an IP address and netmask for the management port.

***Tip:** F5 Networks® highly recommends that you specify a default route for the virtual management port, but it is not required for operation of the virtual machine.*

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