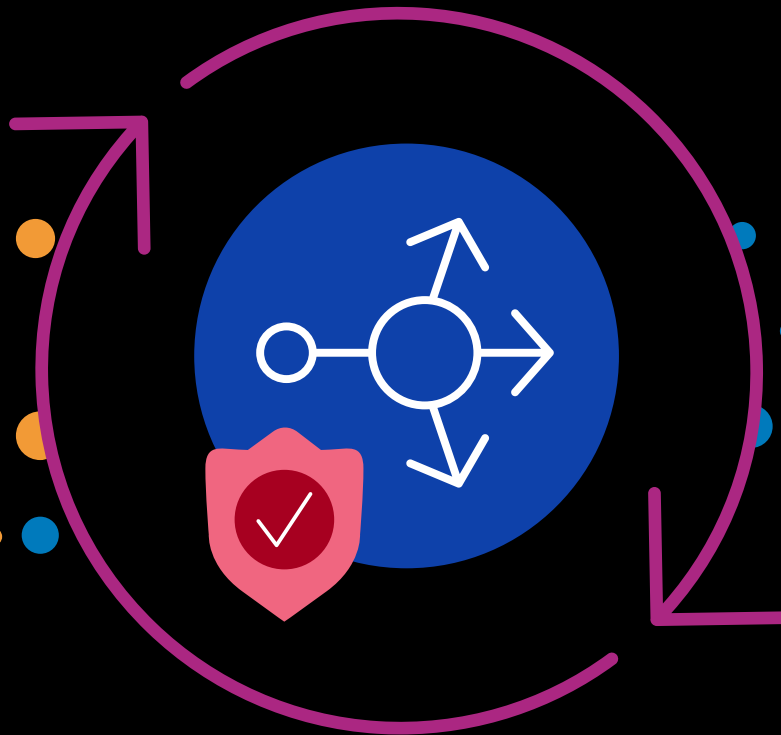


Control App Traffic with Precision with iRules in BIG-IP Next LTM

The evolution of iRules—our unique traffic programming tool—simplifies custom application traffic management across data center and cloud deployments. With new iRules capabilities, users can easily clone, modify, iterate, aim, identify, test, and roll back across multiple applications.



Key Benefits

Identify with precision

Take the guesswork out of iRules management. See exactly which app(s) an iRule is attached to and which version of that iRule is active.

Roll back safely

Revert to a known-good version of an iRule in the event of a scripting or deployment error.

Reduce time-to-action

Implement new iRules configurations and immediately attach them to applications.

Teams need the ability to customize how traffic interacts with their applications depending on business, environment, and demand needs.

Your Applications Deserve Efficient, Versatile Tools

Because unique applications exist in a dynamic digital world, teams need the ability to customize how traffic interacts with their applications depending on business, environment, and demand needs. The ability to precisely control application traffic flow can mean the difference between a secure, efficient application and an inaccessible, unusable one.

The F5® iRules® scripting language—our traffic scripting interface native to F5® BIG-IP®—exists to help manage the flow of traffic, enabling programmatic analysis, manipulation, and detection of all aspects of network traffic. iRules empowers users to rapidly implement security mitigation rules, support new protocols, and fix application-related errors across multiple applications in real time.

Organizations rely on apps to “[create great digital experiences and capture fresh revenue streams](#).”¹ They can’t afford inefficiencies around how those applications are managed, delivered, and brought to market, so their teams need tools that can tackle daily demands with speed and precision.

To address the evolution of applications, environments, and other demands, F5® iRules in BIG-IP Next™ Local Traffic Manager™ (LTM) includes enhancements in precision, efficiency, ease of use, and safety, while maintaining the flexibility and control that iRules provided in previous versions of BIG-IP.

Gain Enhanced Control, Visibility, and Efficiency When Creating Custom Traffic Rules

Granular visibility

Enhancing visibility in iRules for BIG-IP Next LTM enables precise identification of which application an iRule attaches to, as well as which version of that iRule is in use. This takes the guesswork out of deploying, testing, and troubleshooting iRule functionality—while providing greater visibility into and control over the impact radius of any given iRule. Users can also see the last time an iRule was modified and who modified it, granting more visibility and granular control, as well as more efficient troubleshooting if an error occurs.

Heightened efficiency

Users can now build new iRules from existing, known-good versions of an already deployed iRule. This evolution means you don't need to copy an iRule to a separate document before making edits when creating a new version. BIG-IP Next LTM users can also roll back an iRule to a known-good version to minimize traffic disruption. This ability aids in troubleshooting, as different versions of iRules can be compared side by side in real time to expedite change analysis [see Figure 1].

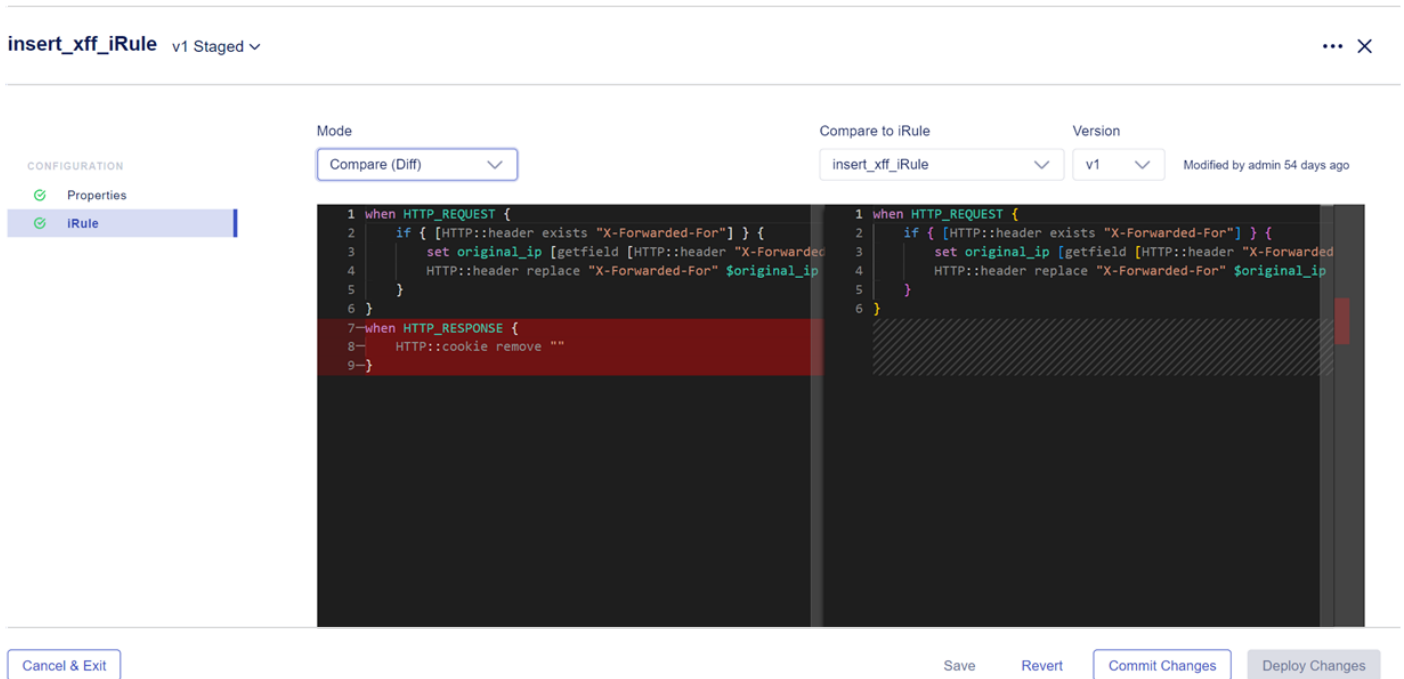


Figure 1: Compare differences in separate versions of an iRule side by side to spot changes, aid in troubleshooting, and iterate forward.

Impactful control

An iRule implementation error can spell disaster for an application. That's why iRules evolved for BIG-IP Next LTM with the goal of reducing the likelihood of an iRule implementation error. A tool that enables control over critical application traffic must provide its users with a high level of precision over how, where, and when it goes into effect. To that end, iRules in BIG-IP Next LTM provides administrators with numerous safety checks that ultimately limit the likelihood that an iRule will be deployed in error.

BIG-IP Next LTM users can also roll back an iRule to a known-good version to minimize traffic disruption.

Commit options [see Figure 2] are one such check that allow users to determine how an iRule is deployed and when it's attached to an application. This way, an iRule can be created but not attached to an application if further testing or deployment guidance is needed.

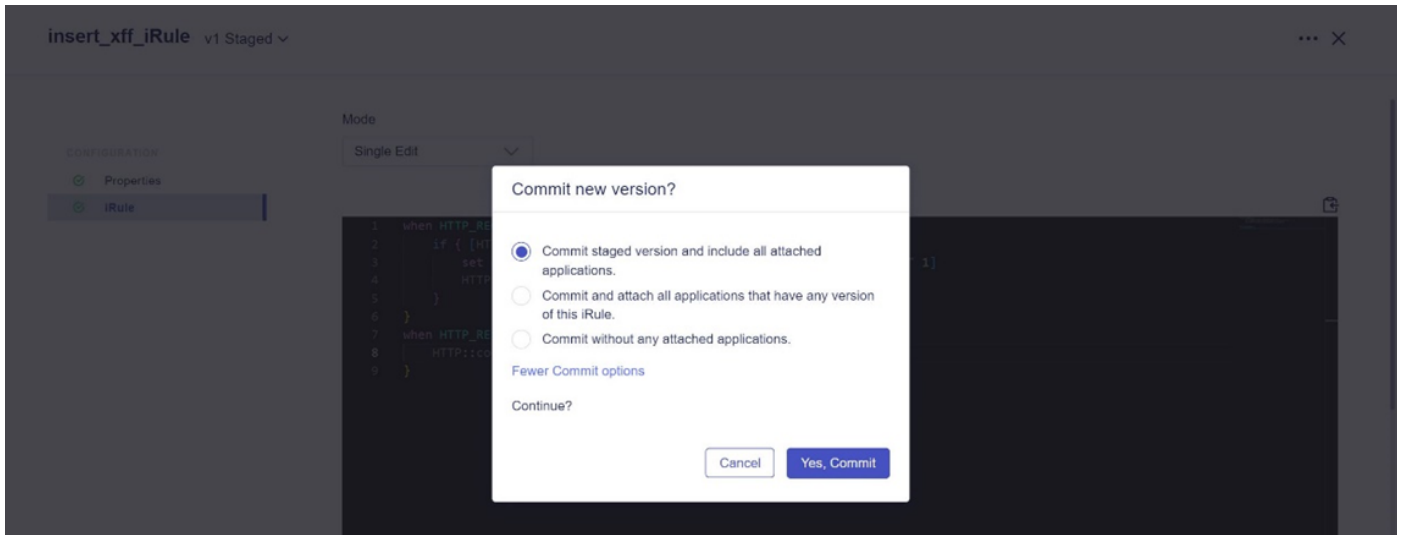


Figure 2: Control the impact radius of a new iRule with Commit options, letting you decide when, where, and how an iRule gets deployed.

Safe discard is another check on the impact radius of an iRule. This solution provides a roll-back scenario where any applications using a draft version of an iRule will revert to a previous version of that iRule, ensuring that the application always has a relevant iRule attached to it [see Figure 3].

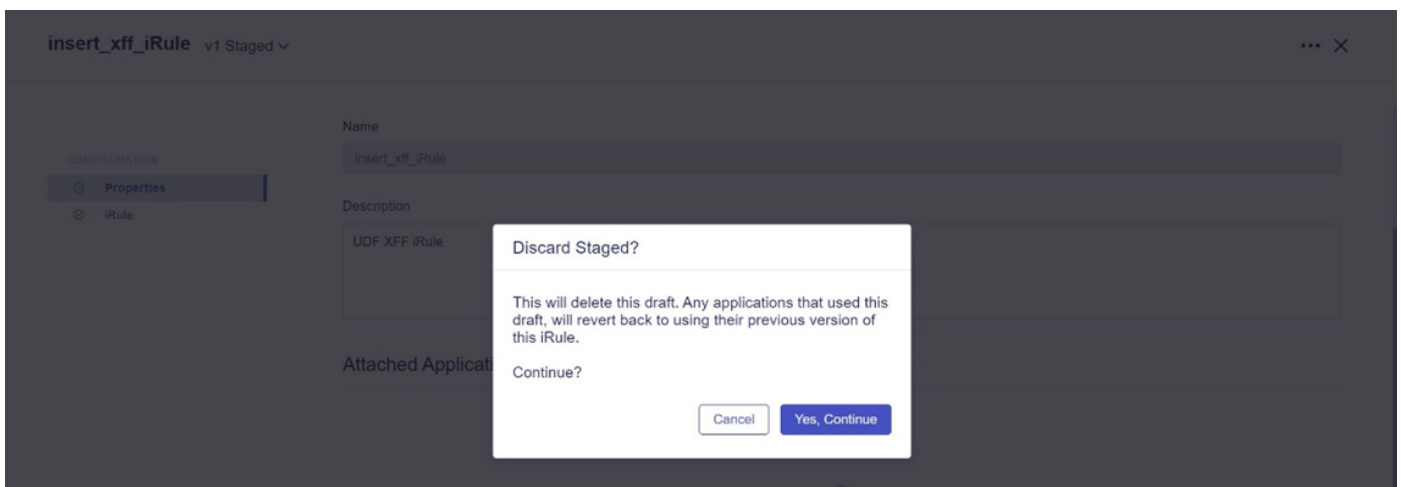


Figure 3: Discarding a draft of an iRule keeps the original iRule in place, avoiding disruptions to traffic flow and keeping apps online.

Key Features

Side-by-side comparison

Easily spot changes by comparing different versions of an iRule side by side and examining the differences with highlighted script alterations.

Commit options

Gain more control over when and where a completed iRule deploys with Commit options, so you can monitor the impact radius of any newly scripted iRules.

Staging and versioning

Streamline the iRule creation and refinement process by building a new iRule from a previous, proven version.

Conclusion

More Efficient, More Powerful, More Precise

iRules as they existed in BIG-IP TMOS® set a precedent for providing users with control over the traffic within their networks; they provided a level of oversight and flexibility that went beyond standard configuration options, acknowledging and welcoming the fact that applications wouldn't always interact with traffic in the same ways, and thus, needed to give their stewards enhanced control over application traffic.

Delivering highly performant, responsive applications in today's ever-changing digital world merits an evolution of the traffic programming tools that BIG-IP users know and trust. iRules in BIG-IP Next LTM provide that toolset of network control with maximum flexibility. By doing so, they empower organizations to deliver today's applications—interacting with diverse and complex traffic demands—with speed, efficiency, and control.

Next Steps

Experience iRules

See how iRules can reduce your labor load.

[Click through our demo](#)

Find out more

Learn everything you need to know about upgrading to BIG-IP Next LTM.

[Get in touch with us](#)

Try BIG-IP Next LTM

Get started with a FREE 30-day trial of BIG-IP Next LTM today.

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¹F5. "State of Application Strategy Report." Accessed September 10, 2024.
<https://www.f5.com/resources/reports/state-of-application-strategy-report>.

