

F5 **CERTIFICATION GUIDE 2026**

**Your 2026 roadmap to BIG-IP Administrator, Technology Specialist
and Solution Expert credentials.**

Build practical F5 skills. Prepare for certification. Advance your role.
A concise guide for network administrators, application delivery engineers,
security professionals and cloud infrastructure teams.

The F5 Certification Pathway in 2026

F5 certification is progressive: candidates establish BIG-IP administration capability first, then move into product specialisations and advanced solution design. The current BIG-IP Administrator credential uses five modular exams, replacing the older 101/201 route for new candidates.

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
F5-CA, BIG-IP Certified Administrator Build competence in day-to-day BIG-IP operations, deployment, management, security and support.	F5-CTS Technology Specialist Specialise in LTM, DNS, ASM/Advanced WAF or APM after meeting the relevant certification prerequisites.	F5-CSE Solution Expert Demonstrate advanced solution architecture expertise across F5 technologies, including Security and Cloud.

At a glance

Credential	Exam route	Best suited to
F5-CA, BIG-IP	F5CAB1 - F5CAB5	Administrators & operations engineers
F5-CTS, BIG-IP LTM	301a + 301b*	LTM deployment & troubleshooting engineers
F5-CTS, BIG-IP DNS	302*	Global traffic / DNS engineers
F5-CTS, BIG-IP ASM	303*	Application security engineers
F5-CTS, BIG-IP APM	304*	Access policy / VPN engineers
F5-CSE, Security	401 + prerequisites	Senior security architects
F5-CSE, Cloud	402 + prerequisites	Cloud / hybrid solution architects

*Eligibility and transition rules can change; confirm your current candidate status in the F5 Education Services portal before scheduling.

Start Here: F5 Certified Administrator, BIG-IP

For new candidates, the F5-CA, BIG-IP is earned through five focused 30-minute exams. Together they validate practical knowledge across installation, the data plane, the control plane, operations and troubleshooting.

Exam	Focus
F5CAB1	Install, initial configuration and upgrade
F5CAB2	Data plane concepts
F5CAB3	Data plane configuration
F5CAB4	Control plane administration
F5CAB5	Support and troubleshooting

Recommended foundation

Administering BIG-IP is the natural training starting point for professionals building the core operational knowledge used across the administrator exam domains. F5 also recommends practical experience and a sound understanding of TCP/IP, HTTP/S and DNS.

A practical preparation approach

- 01** Build the networking foundation - TCP/IP, HTTP/S, DNS, load balancing and application delivery concepts.
- 02** Train on BIG-IP administration - initial setup, objects, traffic processing, high availability and operational workflows.
- 03** Practise in labs - configuration, verification, fault isolation and troubleshooting should be hands-on.
- 04** Use the official exam blueprints - map your preparation to the objectives for each modular exam.
- 05** Schedule exams in a sequence that matches your strongest domains and current work responsibilities.

Build Depth: F5 Technology Specialist

After establishing administrator-level capability, the specialist track lets engineers deepen expertise in the BIG-IP technologies most relevant to their role.

BIG-IP LTM | 301a + 301b

For engineers who design, deploy, maintain and troubleshoot Local Traffic Manager environments. Focus areas include virtual servers, SSL, persistence, traffic management and structured troubleshooting.

BIG-IP DNS | 302

For engineers responsible for intelligent DNS and global traffic management across distributed or multi-region environments, including GSLB and DNS-related resilience.

BIG-IP ASM | 303

For application security professionals working with web application protection. F5's current preparation resources map this exam to Configuring F5 Advanced WAF training.

BIG-IP APM | 304

For engineers designing and operating access policy, identity federation, SSL VPN and secure application access.

Important 2026 transition note

F5 has been transitioning the LTM specialist certification. Official F5 guidance states that exam 301a was retired for new candidates in May 2026 while eligible candidates who previously passed 301a may still complete 301b within their eligibility window. Before booking, verify the current LTM pathway shown in your F5 candidate portal.

Advance Further: F5 Solution Expert

Solution Expert credentials are aimed at experienced engineers and architects who need to design integrated solutions across multiple F5 technologies and align technical architecture with business requirements.

F5-CSE, Security Centres on enterprise security architecture and the ability to combine F5 capabilities into a coherent security solution. Exam 401 is the Security Solutions exam. Typical audience: Senior security engineers, solution architects, consultants.	F5-CSE, Cloud Centres on cloud and hybrid architecture. Exam 402 is the Cloud Solutions exam, with emphasis on designing F5 solutions for modern distributed environments. Typical audience: Cloud architects, platform engineers, senior infrastructure consultants.
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Choose training that matches your role

Your role / goal	Suggested CLC F5 training direction
New BIG-IP administrator	Administering BIG-IP -> Troubleshooting BIG-IP
Application delivery / LTM engineer	Administering BIG-IP -> Configuring BIG-IP LTM -> Troubleshooting
Global traffic / DNS engineer	Administering BIG-IP -> Configuring BIG-IP DNS
Application security engineer	Administering BIG-IP -> Configuring BIG-IP Advanced WAF
Access / identity engineer	Administering BIG-IP -> Configuring BIG-IP APM

Train for F5 Skills with CLC Training

CLC Training offers F5 courses for professionals who want practical BIG-IP capability and a structured route toward certification. Training can support individual career development as well as enterprise upskilling across network operations, application delivery, security and infrastructure teams.

Instructor-led learning

Learn through structured, expert-led sessions focused on practical technology skills.

Hands-on focus

Reinforce concepts through configuration and troubleshooting activities.

Flexible delivery

Choose delivery options suited to individuals, teams and organisations.

Regional reach

CLC Training serves learners and organisations across Africa and the Middle East.

READY TO PLAN YOUR F5 TRAINING PATH?

Explore F5 courses ,check the training schedule or send an enquiry to CLC Training.

www.clc-training.com

UAE

Computer Learning Centre-LLC-FZC
19th Floor , Conrad Business Tower,
Sheikh Zayed Road,
Near World Trade Centre Metro, DUBAI, UAE
Tel:+971 52 247 9487 Email: info.me@clc-training.com

KENYA

Computer Learning Center
Address: 87 Muthithi Road ,
2nd Floor Museum Hill Centre,
Nairobi ,Kenya.
Tel: (+254) 20 5135 250 Email:info@clc-training.com