Configuring BIG-IP Advanced WAF: Web Application Firewall

Duration: 4 Days

Course Description:

Deploying F5 Advanced WAF is a curriculum bundle intended for Application Security Administrators responsible for the deployment of F5 Advanced Web Application Firewall to secure web applications from common vulnerabilities and denial of service. Course topics cover the identification and mitigation of web application vulnerabilities on both the client and application sides of the threat spectrum. Subject areas include Advanced WAF fundamentals, mitigating vulnerabilities, defending against Bots and other automated attacks, and additional deployments.

Target Audience:

This course is intended for SecOps personnel responsible for the deployment, tuning, and day-to-day maintenance of F5 Adv. WAF. Participants will obtain a functional level of expertise with F5 Advanced WAF, including comprehensive security policy and profile configuration, client assessment, and appropriate mitigation types.

Prerequisites:

The following free Self-Directed Training (SDT) courses, although optional, are helpful for any student with limited BIG-IP administration and configuration experience:

- Getting Started with BIG-IP
- Getting Started with Local Traffic Manager (LTM)
- Getting Started with F5 Advanced WAF

General network technology knowledge and experience are recommended before attending any F5 Global Training Services instructor-led course, including OSI model encapsulation, routing and switching, Ethernet and ARP, TCP/IP concepts, IP addressing and subnetting, NAT and private IP addressing, NAT and private IP addressing, default gateway, network firewalls, and LAN vs. WAN.

Course Outlines:

Chapter 1: Introducing the BIG-IP System

- Initially Setting Up the BIG-IP System
- Archiving the BIG-IP Configuration
- Leveraging F5 Support Resources and Tools

Chapter 2: Traffic Processing with BIG-IP

- Identifying BIG-IP Traffic Processing Objects
- Understanding Profiles
- Overview of Local Traffic Policies
- Visualizing the HTTP Request Flow

Chapter 3: Overview of Web Application Processing

- Web Application Firewall: Layer 7 Protection
- Layer 7 Security Checks
- Overview of Web Communication Elements
- Overview of the HTTP Request Structure
- Examining HTTP Responses
- How F5 Advanced WAF Parses File Types, URLs, and Parameters
- Using the Fiddler HTTP Proxy

Chapter 4: Overview of Web Application Vulnerabilities

- A Taxonomy of Attacks: The Threat Landscape
- Common Exploits Against Web Applications

Chapter 5: Security Policy Deployments: Concepts and Terminology

- Defining Learning
- Comparing Positive and Negative Security Models
- The Deployment Workflow
- Assigning Policy to Virtual Server
- Deployment Workflow: Using Advanced Settings
- Configure Server Technologies
- Defining Attack Signatures
- Viewing Requests
- Security Checks Offered by Rapid Deployment

Chapter 6: Policy Tuning and Violations

- Post-Deployment Traffic Processing
- How Violations are Categorized
- Violation Rating: A Threat Scale
- Defining Staging and Enforcement
- Defining Enforcement Mode
- Defining the Enforcement Readiness Period
- Reviewing the Definition of Learning
- Defining Learning Suggestions
- Choosing Automatic or Manual Learning
- Defining the Learn, Alarm and Block Settings
- Interpreting the Enforcement Readiness Summary
- Configuring the Blocking Response Page

Chapter 7: Using Attack Signatures and Threat Campaigns

- Defining Attack Signatures
- Attack Signature Basics
- Creating User-Defined Attack Signatures
- Defining Simple and Advanced Edit Modes
- Defining Attack Signature Sets
- Defining Attack Signature Pools
- Understanding Attack Signatures and Staging
- Updating Attack Signatures
- Defining Threat Campaigns
- Deploying Threat Campaigns

Chapter 8: Positive Security Policy Building

- Defining and Learning Security Policy Components
- Defining the Wildcard
- Defining the Entity Lifecycle
- Choosing the Learning Scheme
- How to Learn: Never (Wildcard Only)
- How to Learn: Always
- How to Learn: Selective
- Reviewing the Enforcement Readiness Period: Entities
- Viewing Learning Suggestions and Staging Status
- Defining the Learning Score
- Defining Trusted and Untrusted IP Addresses
- How to Learn: Compact

Chapter 9: Securing Cookies and other Header Topics

- The Purpose of F5 Advanced WAF Cookies
- Defining Allowed and Enforced Cookies
- Securing HTTP headers

Chapter 10: Visual Reporting and Logging

- Viewing Application Security Summary Data
- Reporting: Build Your Own View
- Reporting: Chart based on filters
- Brute Force and Web Scraping Statistics
- Viewing Resource Reports
- PCI Compliance: PCI-DSS 3.0
- Analyzing Requests
- Local Logging Facilities and Destinations
- Viewing Logs in the Configuration Utility
- Defining the Logging Profile
- Configuring Response Logging

Chapter 11: Lab Project 1 Chapter 12: Advanced Parameter Handling

- Defining Parameter Types
- Defining Static Parameters
- Defining Dynamic Parameters
- Defining Parameter Levels
- Other Parameter Considerations

Chapter 13: Automatic Policy Building

- Defining Templates Which Automate Learning
- Defining Policy Loosening
- Defining Policy Tightening
- Defining Learning Speed: Traffic Sampling
- Defining Track Site Changes

Chapter 14: Integrating with Web Application Vulnerability Scanners

- Integrating Scanner Output
- Importing Vulnerabilities
- Resolving Vulnerabilities
- Using the Generic XML Scanner XSD file

Chapter 15: Deploying Layered Policies

- Defining a Parent Policy
- Defining Inheritance
- Parent Policy Deployment Use Cases

Chapter 16: Login Enforcement and Brute Force Mitigation

- Defining Login Pages for Flow Control
- Configuring Automatic Detection of Login Pages
- Defining Brute Force Attacks
- Brute Force Protection Configuration
- Source-Based Brute Force Mitigations
- Defining Credential Stuffing
- Mitigating Credential Stuffing

Chapter 17: Reconnaissance with Session Tracking

- Defining Session Tracking
- Configuring Actions Upon Violation Detection

Chapter 18: Layer 7 Denial of Service Mitigation

- Defining Denial of Service Attacks
- Defining the DoS Protection Profile
- Overview of TPS-based DoS Protection
- Creating a DoS Logging Profile
- Applying TPS Mitigations
- Defining Behavioral and Stress-Based Detection

Chapter 19: Advanced Bot Defense

- Classifying Clients with the Bot Defense Profile
- Defining Bot Signatures
- Defining F5 Fingerprinting
- Defining Bot Defense Profile Templates
- Defining Microservices protection

Chapter 20: Final Projects