STOCK PICKS AND PANS

2/22/18

Position Close Update: F5 Networks (FFIV)

F5 Networks (FFIV: \$\$145/share) - Closing Long Position - Up 23% vs. S&P +6%

F5 Networks was originally selected as a <u>Long Idea on 10/18/17</u> and added to our initial <u>Focus List – Long Model Portfolio</u>. At the time of the report, the stock received a Very Attractive rating. Our investment thesis highlighted a low <u>PEBV</u> ratio that implied pessimistic expectations baked into the stock price despite the firm's multi-year history of profit growth.

During the subsequent 127 day holding period, FFIV outperformed, rising 23% compared to a 6% gain for the S&P 500. FFIV has since been downgraded to Neutral on 2/6/18 after our Robo-Analyst parsed the most recent 10-Q. While FFIV's valuation remains attractive, the stock was downgraded due to a misleading trend in economic earnings vs. reported earnings. Due to this change, we are closing this position and removing it from our Focus List – Long Model Portfolio.

We hope investors were able to participate in the 23% rise in stock price since we first featured FFIV.

Figure 1: FFIV Stock Price and Risk/Reward Rating History

▼ Normalized Rating History - Monthly Average*



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

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Disclosure: David Trainer, Kyle Guske II, and Sam McBride receive no compensation to write about any specific stock, style, or theme.

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To fulfill the Duty of Care, research should be:

- 1. **Comprehensive** All relevant publicly-available (e.g. 10-Ks and 10-Qs) information has been diligently reviewed, including footnotes and the management discussion & analysis (MD&A).
- 2. **Un-conflicted** Clients deserve unbiased research.
- 3. **Transparent** Advisors should be able to show how the analysis was performed and the data behind it.
- 4. **Relevant** Empirical evidence must provide <u>tangible</u>, <u>quantifiable correlation</u> to stock, ETF or mutual fund performance.

Value Investing 2.0: Diligence Matters: Technology is Key to Value Investing With Scale

Accounting data is only the beginning of fundamental research. It must be translated into economic earnings to truly understand profitability and valuation. This translation requires deep analysis of footnotes and the MD&A, a process that our <u>robo-analyst technology</u> empowers us to perform for thousands of stocks, ETFs and mutual funds.



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