

Fast Facts: 10 Reasons to deploy Riverbed WAN optimization for Data Center scale and performance

- 10. Scale for higher traffic throughput requirements.** Data centers typically have higher traffic throughput requirements than branch office deployments, as they need to support the sum total of user connections from branches as well as data center to data center replication traffic. Riverbed's Steelhead appliances can scale for both these use cases.
- 9. Flexible deployment.** Riverbed Steelhead appliances can be deployed both in the path of traffic or out of path depending on requirements. When deployed out of path, Steelhead appliances work with redirection mechanisms like WCCP or PBR.
- 8. Unified architecture for optimization.** Regardless of the size of the Steelhead appliance, it is built with a uniform architecture – i.e., the universal data store, taking scalability into account from very early stages of design.
- 7. Clustered deployments.** It is possible to deploy multiple Steelhead appliances as a cluster if traffic throughput requirements are higher than the capacity of an individual appliance.
- 6. Accounting for network anomalies.** In a large and complex deployment scenario as frequently seen at the data center, Riverbed Steelhead appliances have features like "asymmetric route detection" and "connection forwarding" which take into account the different network paths that application traffic may traverse.
- 5. Solid State Drives (SSDs).** Riverbed's data center size appliances are equipped with solid state drives that reduce the latency introduced by mechanical disk drives. This is crucial for high throughput data replication environments like DR.
- 4. High Availability.** Data centers are at the heart of any business today. Even a minimal amount of down time results in huge financial implications. Steelhead appliances support a host of HA features like "Data Store Synchronization" where the data on the Steelhead appliance is synced with its backup appliance to ensure maximum performance in case the primary appliance goes down.
- 3. The Interceptor appliance.** The Interceptor is a "Steelhead aware" load balancer. Designed from the ground up specifically to load balance across Steelhead appliances, it takes into account the health of each individual appliance before redirecting new connections appropriately. This ensures maximum performance across a clustered data center deployment.
- 2. Single pane of glass management.** With the Central Management Console (CMC), administrators are able to manage

their entire enterprise wide Steelhead deployment from a central location – the data center. The CMC reduces management overhead by aggregating reports and alerts from all Steelhead appliances into a single dashboard.

1. A referencible architecture. Many enterprises have deployed Riverbed Steelhead appliances for their enterprise wide consolidation needs. These consist of hundreds of branches offices consolidated into a centralized data center serving thousands of enterprise users. The best way to measure the success of a product is to seek references and Riverbed has references ranging from pharmaceutical companies to financial institutions and even government organizations.

Summary

When planning for a data center deployment with WAN optimization appliances, the key factor is performance. Riverbed Steelhead appliances deliver application and data replication performance regardless of whether the traffic in question is from a branch to a data center or between a data center and a disaster recovery (DR site). In addition to performance, there are other pieces as well, that are needed to deliver a complete data center solution. This includes everything from a supporting cast of products like the Central Management Console (CMC) and the Interceptor appliance, down to the high-availability features on the Steelhead appliances themselves. Thus, for complete coverage of all your data center needs, Riverbed's portfolio of appliances delivers best in class WAN optimization for the enterprise.

About Riverbed

Riverbed is the IT performance company. WAN optimization solutions from Riverbed liberate businesses from common IT constraints by increasing application performance, enabling consolidation, and providing enterprise-wide network and application visibility – all while eliminating the need to increase bandwidth, storage or servers. Thousands of companies trust Riverbed to deliver greater productivity and cost savings by making their IT infrastructure faster, less expensive and more responsive. Riverbed solutions are also available as managed services through select providers. Additional information about Riverbed (NASDAQ: RVBD) is available at www.riverbed.com.



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