

A Joint Solution by Riverbed and



Advantage Alliance Partner

Paul Hastings

IN BRIEF

Industry

- » Legal Services

Challenges

- » Enable fast access to documents across the WAN
- » Accelerate replication of large data sets between sites to meet recovery point objective

Solution

- » The firm rolled out Riverbed Steelhead appliances to 19 locations worldwide and deployed NetApp® storage at all major data center locations; use NetApp SnapMirror® to replicate critical data.

Benefits

- » 60-70% reduction in bandwidth requirements for document access across the WAN
- » 75-90% reduction in bandwidth usage for NetApp SnapMirror replication
- » LAN-like access to documents from remote offices
- » Achieved 1-hour recovery point objective (RPO) without upgrading 20 megabit WAN link between Los Angeles and New York
- » Reduced reliance on courier services because documents can be sent quickly and securely over the WAN
- » Enabled consolidation of global IT architecture without requiring document stores at each site

Paul Hastings

Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker Provides Global LAN-Like Access to Documents with Riverbed Steelhead Appliances

Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker is a leading global law firm with offices in Asia, Europe, and the United States. It provides innovative legal solutions to financial institutions and Fortune 500 companies.

Challenge

The firm's most business-critical software applications are its Microsoft Exchange email system and its Autonomy Interwoven document management system. Although email is hosted locally at the various worldwide locations, the firm recently consolidated its document management system files. Los Angeles and New York now host all of the Autonomy content for sites in the United States, accessed via CIFS. New York serves the eastern hub cities, while Los Angeles serves the west.

“For law firms, it’s all about email and document management. Attorneys need fast access to both, and it’s critical to optimize that network traffic.”

“For law firms, it’s all about email and document management,” says Director of Engineering Searl Tate, who oversees operations at the firm’s Los Angeles network operations center. “Attorneys need fast access to both, and because most of the document access now takes place remotely over the WAN, it’s critical for us to optimize that network traffic.”

The firm also wanted to meet a recovery point objective (RPO) of no more than 60 minutes of data loss by regularly replicating data between New York and Los Angeles—without upgrading a redundant, 20-megabit Ethernet WAN connection.

Because Paul Hastings uses NetApp storage arrays at its Los Angeles and New York locations—as well as all locations that require centralized storage for Microsoft Windows-based environments—the firm was able to leverage NetApp SnapMirror software to asynchronously replicate data between NetApp arrays over the WAN. However, to meet the one-hour RPO, that replication would also have to be optimized.

Solution: Riverbed Steelhead Appliances

The firm chose Riverbed® Steelhead® appliances to optimize the performance of applications and data between its 18 offices and Los Angeles network operations center. Powered by the Riverbed Optimization System (RiOS®), Riverbed Steelhead appliances are the most scalable approach to accelerating applications across a WAN. Both NetApp and Autonomy are members of the Riverbed Technology Alliance (RTA), so Paul Hastings benefits from complementary technologies.

“Riverbed is now the leader in this industry,” says Tate. “They were hungry and tenacious about making their product better. We also made our decision based on Riverbed’s customer service and support, which is fantastic.”

The Riverbed Steelhead appliances turned out to be a key enabler of Paul Hastings’ network architecture, allowing the firm to keep lawyers productive without maintaining a local document management infrastructure at each site. All the Steelhead appliances—19 in total—are managed out of Los Angeles.

SOLUTIONS COMPONENTS

Applications

Autonomy iManage document management system; Microsoft Exchange Server 2003

Databases

Microsoft SQL Server 2005

Platform

VMware ESX Server 3.5 and vSphere 4, Microsoft Windows Server 2003, 2008, and 2008 R2

Storage

NetApp FAS6080 active-active systems, NetApp FAS3070 storage systems, Data ONTAP 7G operating system, NetApp Single Mailbox Recovery for Microsoft Exchange software, NetApp SnapDrive® for Windows software, NetApp SnapManager for Microsoft Exchange software, NetApp SnapManager for Microsoft SQL Server software, NetApp SnapRestore software, NetApp Snapshot software

Storage Protocols

FC SAN, iSCSI, CIFS, NFS

Benefits

Making a WAN Act Like a LAN

Because the Riverbed Steelhead appliances deduplicate data and increase the efficiency of the TCP connection, data can traverse the WAN much faster. At Paul Hastings, the end result is performance over the WAN that feels very much like a LAN. Instead of accessing documents stored locally, lawyers access the documents from centralized data stores that are located in many cases hundreds of miles away, with no degradation in performance.

“NetApp SnapMirror works very well with our Riverbed Steelhead appliances to quickly mirror changes in our data from coast to coast.”

“For a global, distributed organization such as ours, providing document access across the WAN would not be a feasible strategy without Riverbed Steelhead appliances,” says Tate. “We would need more servers at more sites. We’re seeing a 60-70% reduction in bandwidth requirements for CIFS document access.”

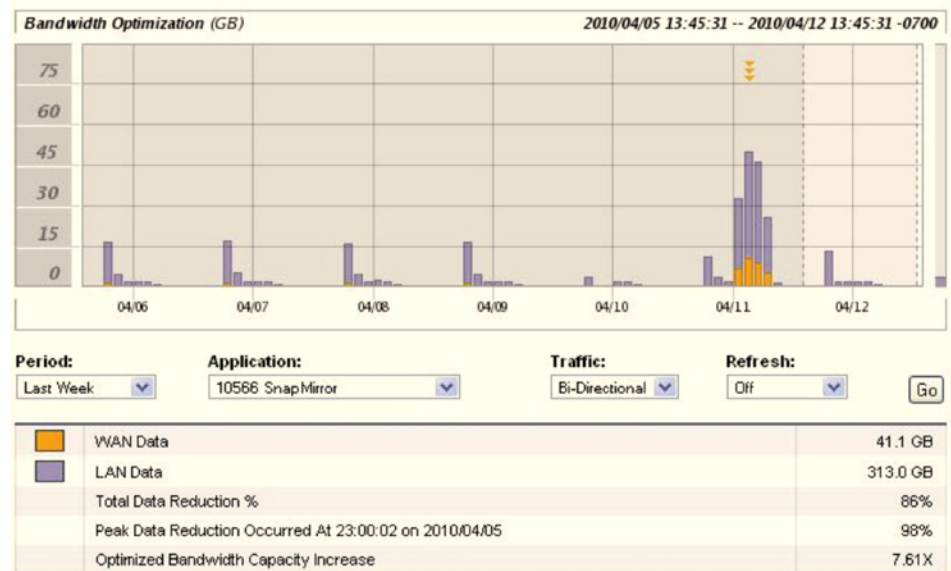
Tate also appreciates the fact that the Steelhead appliances are easy to manage and do not add a significant layer of complexity to the network. “You implement it, install it in minutes, and you’re able to forget about it because it just works,” he says. “The Riverbed Steelhead appliances work exactly as advertised, and there are very few products I can say that about.”

To monitor bandwidth usage, Paul Hastings uses NetFlow analyzer software, which uses the NetFlow data exported by the Riverbed Steelhead appliances. “The Steelhead appliances support the NetFlow protocol,” Tate explains, “which gives us a very powerful bandwidth analysis platform.”

Effective, Timely Replication

In addition to improving application performance over the WAN, the Riverbed Steelhead appliances are allowing the firm to achieve its RPO of no more than 60 minutes of data loss without requiring an upgrade to its WAN links.

“NetApp SnapMirror replication works very well with our Riverbed Steelhead appliances to quickly mirror changes in our data from coast to coast,” says Tate. “We’re seeing a 75-90% reduction in bandwidth usage for the SnapMirror replication, which allows us to replicate every half hour. We’re realizing significant cost avoidance. With our data requirements, we would need two to three times the bandwidth to accommodate our RPO if we didn’t have Riverbed Steelheads.”



Enabling a Global Consolidation

The firm is also using VMware for server virtualization as part of a global data center consolidation and Green IT initiative that was partially made possible by the Riverbed Steelhead appliances and NetApp storage. VMware is also a member of the RTA.

“WAN optimization coupled with server virtualization has enabled us to better scale our network operations to match our fast-growing success,” says Tate. “With the Steelhead appliances, we can send large files over the WAN in minutes. Courier services are a major expense for law firms, and whatever IT can do to reduce those costs is much appreciated by the Firm.”

“Steelhead appliances are part of the bedrock that supports the network architecture at Paul Hastings. They have a permanent place in our infrastructure.”

“For a global, distributed organization such as ours, providing document access across the WAN would not be a feasible strategy without Riverbed Steelheads. We would need more servers and more data centers.”

Steelhead appliances are now a critical component of Paul Hastings’ network — as important as the servers, storage, and switches to the functioning whole.

“Steelhead appliances are part of the bedrock that supports the network architecture at Paul Hastings,” concludes Tate. “They have a permanent place in our infrastructure.”

SUMMARY

Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP, a large, international law firm with 18 offices around the world, wanted to optimize WAN traffic to enable fast document access to centralized data stores from remote locations via CIFS. It also wanted to accelerate data replication over the WAN to achieve its recovery point objective (RPO) of no more than 60 minutes of data loss.

The firm was able to achieve both objectives and enable a global data center consolidation using Riverbed Steelhead appliances and NetApp storage.



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About Riverbed

Riverbed Technology is the IT performance company. The Riverbed family of wide area network (WAN) optimization solutions liberates 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 with distributed operations use Riverbed to make their IT infrastructure faster, less expensive and more responsive. Additional information about Riverbed (NASDAQ: RVBD) is available at www.riverbed.com.



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