

IN BRIEF

Industry

- » Engineering & Construction

Challenges

- » Enable access to file collaboration software
- » Improve employee collaboration
- » Increase user productivity across the organisation

Solution

- » 41 Riverbed Steelhead appliances
- » Riverbed Central Management Console (CMC)

Benefits

- » Avoided a costly server implementation programme
- » Improved employee collaboration and productivity
- » 20x performance improvement in MAPI, CIFS, HTTP and HTTPS

subsea 7



Subsea 7

Leading subsea engineering organisation selects Riverbed to enable employee collaboration across offshore and onshore locations

Subsea 7 is one of the world's leading subsea engineering and construction companies servicing the oil and gas industry. The company has 19 offices in seven countries, and 22 offshore vessels with a highly skilled and experienced workforce of approximately 5,000 personnel in total supporting

its operations in Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa and Asia-Pacific.

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Riverbed as it fully met all
of our requirements.

Subsea 7 offers all the disciplines that make subsea oil and gas development and operation possible, including complete engineering, procurement, installation and

construction (EPIC) services, life of field (LOF), and inspection, repair and maintenance (IRM) services. The offshore vessels provide the full array of capabilities required for the development and maintenance of its clients' subsea oil and gas fields.

Challenge: Improve employee collaboration and support a central data centre

Subsea 7 wanted to improve employee collaboration and increase productivity across its organisation. As part of this strategy the company had begun to implement a single data centre from which all users could access applications, in particular Microsoft SharePoint 2007. Jonathan Douglas, global architect at Subsea 7 was aware of the problems associated with accessing files over the Wide Area Network, as he explains: "We wanted to host all of our global applications at our data centre and so remove local servers and reduce the costs associated with managing those servers. The problem is that employees can experience long delays in downloading files when you start to move documents over the WAN."

For employees working on the vessels the problem was exacerbated by the need to access documents over the WAN via a satellite connection. Douglas wanted to find a solution that would enable file collaboration but without compromising user productivity levels.

With Riverbed it was astonishing.
Files just flew from one location
to another in a matter of seconds.

The company was also advised that it should set up and maintain servers in each regional data centre location, to allow access to SharePoint 2007. This would not only involve the cost of installing and managing those servers, but Subsea 7 would also need to pay Microsoft for coding to enable the systems to work together. As an alternative to increasing the number of local servers Subsea 7 chose to investigate a WAN optimisation solution.

Solution: Riverbed installation results in 20x improvement in application performance

Subsea 7 looked at WAN optimisation solutions from both Blue Coat and Riverbed. However, on further investigation, it was apparent that the Blue Coat solution would not support the company's needs. Douglas recalls: "Having looked at the WAN optimisation solutions available, we chose to test Riverbed as it fully met all of our requirements." Following the selection process, Subsea 7 deployed Riverbed into its live environment. Douglas comments: "It was astonishing. Files just flew from one location to another in a matter of seconds. Files that had taken over five minutes to download could

now be accessed in just a few seconds. Even the most doubting member of the team was impressed."

Benefits: Implemented a file collaboration system at a fraction of the cost

Subsea 7 has now deployed Riverbed Steelhead appliances in 19 office locations and on 22 offshore vessels. As a result, the company has successfully installed Microsoft SharePoint 2007 and employee collaboration and productivity has improved. MAPI, CIFS, HTTP and HTTPS traffic have been accelerated and downloading applications and documents over the WAN is up to 20x faster. As Douglas notes: "We tested the speed

Even the most doubting member of the team was impressed with the results.

at which we could access files on the vessels, and prior to installing Riverbed a 6.7MB PDF file took over eight minutes, with the Steelhead appliances deployed it took just two seconds." The deployment also enabled Subsea 7 to avoid installing servers at each branch office location.

Subsea 7 also installed the Riverbed Central Management Console (CMC), which allows the company to simplify the process of deploying, configuring and managing the Steelhead appliances. "We didn't need to use any specialist resource to deploy the Steelhead appliances. Between the IT department and employees we were able to install the units ourselves and had them up and running in a matter of minutes," says Douglas.

We didn't need any specialist resource to deploy the Steelhead appliances.

The installation has improved Subsea 7's operational capability and efficiency so much that the company is now hosting more applications in the data centre including Microsoft ISA server 2006, Microsoft CRM, Microsoft Exchange 2003 and an in house business management system based on IIS 6.0.

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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SUMMARY

Subsea 7 wanted to enable file collaboration amongst employees using Microsoft SharePoint 2007. As part of this strategy the company set up a central data centre from which all users could access applications. However, accessing documents over the WAN can lead to long download times resulting in employee frustration. Subsea 7 was advised to install servers at each branch office to allow access to SharePoint 2007. However, this conflicted with the current strategy of centralising applications and involved additional cost and complexity at the branch office.

Subsea 7 chose to implement a WAN optimisation solution from Riverbed, which has accelerated application download speeds by 30x, enabled the company to successfully install SharePoint 2007 at its central data centre, and improved employee collaboration and productivity across both its onshore office locations and offshore vessels.