

CASE STUDY: Endwave

SUMMARY

Industry

- Manufacturing

Challenges

- Improve file sharing performance between distributed offices

Solution

- Riverbed Steelhead appliances

Benefits

- Improved productivity and collaboration among distributed employees
- Quicker design times, faster delivery to marketplace



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Riverbed Steelhead® Appliances Improve Employee Productivity by Accelerating File Sharing between Distributed Offices

Endwave Corporation (NASDAQ: ENVV) is a leading supplier of RF (radio frequency) subsystems and components to the wireless telecommunications infrastructure markets. The company designs, develops and manufactures a wide range of custom microwave and millimeter wave products for a base of government and global customers.

Endwave's business operations and accompanying IT infrastructure consist of a main headquarters located in Sunnyvale, CA, a design and sales center in Andover, MA, a domestic manufacturing facility in Diamond Springs, CA, and an offshore contract manufacturing facility in Lamphun, Thailand.

Endwave engineers in all locations collaborate daily on product designs. One common method of collaboration is to use file servers to store design files. When a design file is created or updated and is saved to a file server, users located in a remote office pull down the updated file over the WAN. If the file is small, it might also be emailed.

Challenge: Improve File Sharing Performance between Distributed Offices

For Patrick O'Sullivan, Endwave's Director of IT, connecting his distributed employees with high performance read and write access to shareable data was seemingly impossible. "We have servers located at each site for the local users, but employees outside of the office that need to collaborate over the WAN from those servers suffered from poor performance," said O'Sullivan. "Employees would start copying a large CAD file from a remote server and impatiently wait for the operation to complete. This was killing employee productivity."

Solution: Steelhead Appliances

In early 2005, Patrick deployed Riverbed's Steelhead appliances at one of his California offices and his Massachusetts office. "The Steelhead appliances were remarkably simple to install and were completely transparent to our IT infrastructure," said O'Sullivan. "In less than 10 minutes we had the appliances unpacked, racked, and performing their duty. It really helped that there was no client or server side configuration required."

"Test results for basic operations over the WAN link between our Sunnyvale and Diamond Springs offices were initially unbelievable," said O'Sullivan. "A 5MB CAD file that previously took minutes to copy over our WAN now takes less than two seconds!"

"Slow performance is no longer a roadblock to productivity. We cannot wait to deploy Steelhead appliances at our other offices."

"The Steelhead appliances have been installed in our Sunnyvale and Diamond Springs offices for some time and our users have enjoyed a dramatic performance improvement in a variety of use-cases ranging from copying large files from remote file shares to downloading large email attachments in Microsoft Outlook. As a result, slow performance is no longer a roadblock to productivity. We cannot wait to deploy Steelhead appliances at our other offices."

Benefits: Quicker Design Times, Faster Delivery to Marketplace

With Steelhead appliances installed and improving file sharing performance, Endwave employees are more productive. "Speeding up our employees' method of collaborating means quicker design times, which results in potentially a faster delivery to the marketplace," said O'Sullivan.

About Riverbed

Riverbed Technology is the pioneer in wide area data services (WDS), a fast-growing product category that solves the problems of high latency and limited bandwidth that plague a wide variety of applications over distributed networks. Riverbed's Steelhead appliances provide the highest level of performance across the broadest range of applications over the WAN, accelerating applications by up to 100 times, and reducing WAN traffic by up to 95%. By providing optimizations that are orders of magnitude greater than what users experience today, Riverbed is changing the way people work – and enabling, for the first time, a distributed workforce that can collaborate as if they were local. InfoWorld named Steelhead "Product of the Year: Best WAN Accelerator," and The Wall Street Journal selected Riverbed for a Technology Innovation award.