

Riverbed Virtual Steelhead

Virtualized WAN Optimization

Data transfer bottlenecks and unpredictability on the wide area network (WAN) can hurt application performance. In addition, the time required to migrate large volumes of data to and from data centers can be a serious concern to business continuity. These limitations can also negatively impact worker productivity, constrain disaster recovery capabilities, and reduce the effectiveness of IT consolidation and virtualization strategies.

Riverbed® WAN optimization based on physical appliances resolves most performance issues, but there are certain specialized deployments where it doesn't quite fit. Hence the need for a Virtual Steelhead™, now available from Riverbed, which fulfills the remaining requirements.

Virtual Steelhead Advantages

Built on the same award-winning Riverbed Optimization System (RiOS®) technology that powers both Steelhead appliances and Steelhead Mobile, the Virtual Steelhead has all the same WAN optimization features and competitive differentiation, plus the advantage of server virtualization on VMware. Additional benefits include:

- Easily deploy and manage Virtual Steelhead into existing virtual server environments in data center and branch office environments, and use the same management tools IT administrators know and trust to standardize management, availability, and flexibility.
- Meet environmental requirements, including physical limitations on server space or the need for ruggedized hardware through custom manufacturing; the Virtual Steelhead fits any form factor.
- Enable managed service providers (MSPs) and system integrators (SIs) to more readily provide scalable WAN optimization as an on-demand product offering.
- Introduce capability to seamlessly scale WAN optimization capacity in number of connections and bandwidth with a simple license key upgrade; there is no need to replace boxes in racks or rewire the network to accommodate future growth.
- Use the Virtual Steelhead as the building block with server virtualization to ensure performance across the WAN for remote offices while maintaining a very small hardware footprint on premise.
- Allow for cost savings in common hardware platforms and higher utilization of pooled resources.

BENEFITS

- Manage WAN optimization as a standard virtual service
- Scale capacity on demand
- Meet special requirements for ruggedness or space limits

