

# BEST WAN ACCELERATOR



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## How can using Riverbed's WAN Accelerator help companies create business success?

Companies are becoming more dispersed, forcing enterprises to rely on WANs for communications between headquarters and branch offices. At the same time, IT is moving toward recentralization because of security,

economic and compliance pressures. These opposing forces mean application performance across WANs must improve dramatically if globalization and data centralization are to truly succeed.

Riverbed provides the only solution that addresses all the key factors that affect WAN performance: high latency, limited bandwidth, and "chatty" transport and application protocols. Riverbed Steelhead™ appliances accelerate applications by up to 100 times, and expand bandwidth ten-fold, allowing geographically-dispersed teams to run applications off central servers and share large documents as if they were all working in the same office.

Such dramatic improvements in WAN performance enable IT architects to consolidate remote file servers and other infrastructure into centralized data centers. In addition, organizations can quickly and securely back up and replicate data across the WAN from systems that are hundreds, or even thousands of miles from the data center.

Riverbed Steelhead 3010	
<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>9.0</b>
Performance (40%)	9
Protocol Support (25%)	9
Reliability (15%)	9
Setup (10%)	9
Value (10%)	9

## What are the top differentiators between Riverbed's WAN Accelerator and the competition?

Riverbed Steelhead appliances provide the highest level of optimization for the broadest range of application types. Unlike competing approaches that are built on either a network or storage philosophy (like compression, WAFS-only, or cache-based architectures), Steelhead appliances are based on Riverbed's Universal Transport Acceleration (UTA) architecture that optimizes for latency and bandwidth constraints for all TCP-based applications – including Windows file sharing, email, databases, backup & replication, HTTP, and FTP – while adding incremental application-specific optimizations to minimize the impact of latency on key applications.

Steelhead appliances intercept all TCP traffic using Riverbed's patented RiOS (Riverbed Optimization System) software. Since the product is TCP-based and not application-specific, all traffic is optimized yet no application is disrupted. Riverbed continues to innovate, offering customers a scalable product that delivers LAN-like quality over WANs.

## Why is winning the *InfoWorld* Technology of the Year award so important to Riverbed?

The *InfoWorld* Technology of the Year award is a reflection of the success Riverbed has enjoyed with customers since launching Steelhead appliances in April of 2004. In real-world tests, we beat out our competition on a daily basis. In only 19 months, Riverbed has acquired more than 500 customers and deployed more than 3,500 appliances worldwide.

*InfoWorld* launched its WAN Accelerator category last year and has chosen Steelhead as the category leader two years in a row. These results clearly show that Riverbed is dominating the market with the highest performance and most complete solution for distributed enterprises—despite facing competition from some of the largest networking companies in the world.

For more information, visit [www.riverbed.com](http://www.riverbed.com)

## riverbed

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**"Riverbed Steelhead appliances continue to provide exceptional performance and time savings on WAN circuits, especially those with high latency and low bandwidth."**

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