

# Riverbed SteelCentral and Ixia

IXIA NETWORK VISIBILITY SOLUTIONS PROVIDES COMPLETE NETWORK ACCESS FOR RIVERBED STEELCENTRAL

Riverbed SteelCentral™ gives you the visibility and actionable insight to deliver the application performance users and the business demand. The unique combination of end-user experience monitoring, transaction tracing, deep component monitoring, and IT infrastructure / network management maximizes the performance, availability, and productivity of critical applications.

IXIA Network Visibility Solutions (NVS) complements Riverbed SteelCentral by extending access to all the physical & virtual network packets and flows needed for analysis. The joint solution provides complete visibility into network and application traffic in a highly scalable system that is easy to deploy.

## Accurate and Efficient Monitoring

Ixia NVS works in concert with Riverbed SteelCentral to capture and analyze traffic in a scalable solution that accurately and efficiently monitors network and application deployments of any size. Ixia NVS passively directs out-of-band network packets from multiple access points – SPAN, TAPs, Virtual TAPs (also sold by Ixia) – in the network to Riverbed® SteelCentral™ NetShark and Riverbed® SteelCentral™ AppResponse for analysis. Ixia NVS can also generate NetFlow application information and send to Riverbed® SteelCentral™ NetProfiler. Traffic is aggregated from all needed access points in the network to provide comprehensive visibility and to address shortages in monitoring access points. The SteelCentral appliances then record and analyze the traffic to monitor end-user experience, and speed network and application troubleshooting.

The Riverbed SteelCentral solution ensures that the end-user experience is consistent and reliable, regardless of location or device. Riverbed SteelCentral not only provides information required at the transaction level, but also the next steps typically required by analysis. This allows IT teams to breakdown end- user experience data and drill down into various parts of the application infrastructure to understand the contributors to delay. By providing a set of common views and metrics, Riverbed SteelCentral products enhance IT collaboration and efficiency. Analytics-based notifications help identify problems before they impact the business, and when issues do occur, it speeds problem identification and resolution, minimizing downtime.

## BENEFITS OF JOINT SOLUTION

- Full network visibility – Ixia NVS delivers packet & flow traffic from anywhere in the physical or virtual network for analysis by Riverbed SteelCentral appliances
- Simplified deployment – Flexible solution that can work in any networking environment and share access with tools that are already deployed.
- Easily scalable – Additional ports can be added to meet bandwidth requirements and traffic can be load balanced across multiple Riverbed SteelCentral appliances.
- Maximum efficiency – Ixia NVS filters and removes unneeded traffic allowing the Riverbed appliances to work at full efficiency.

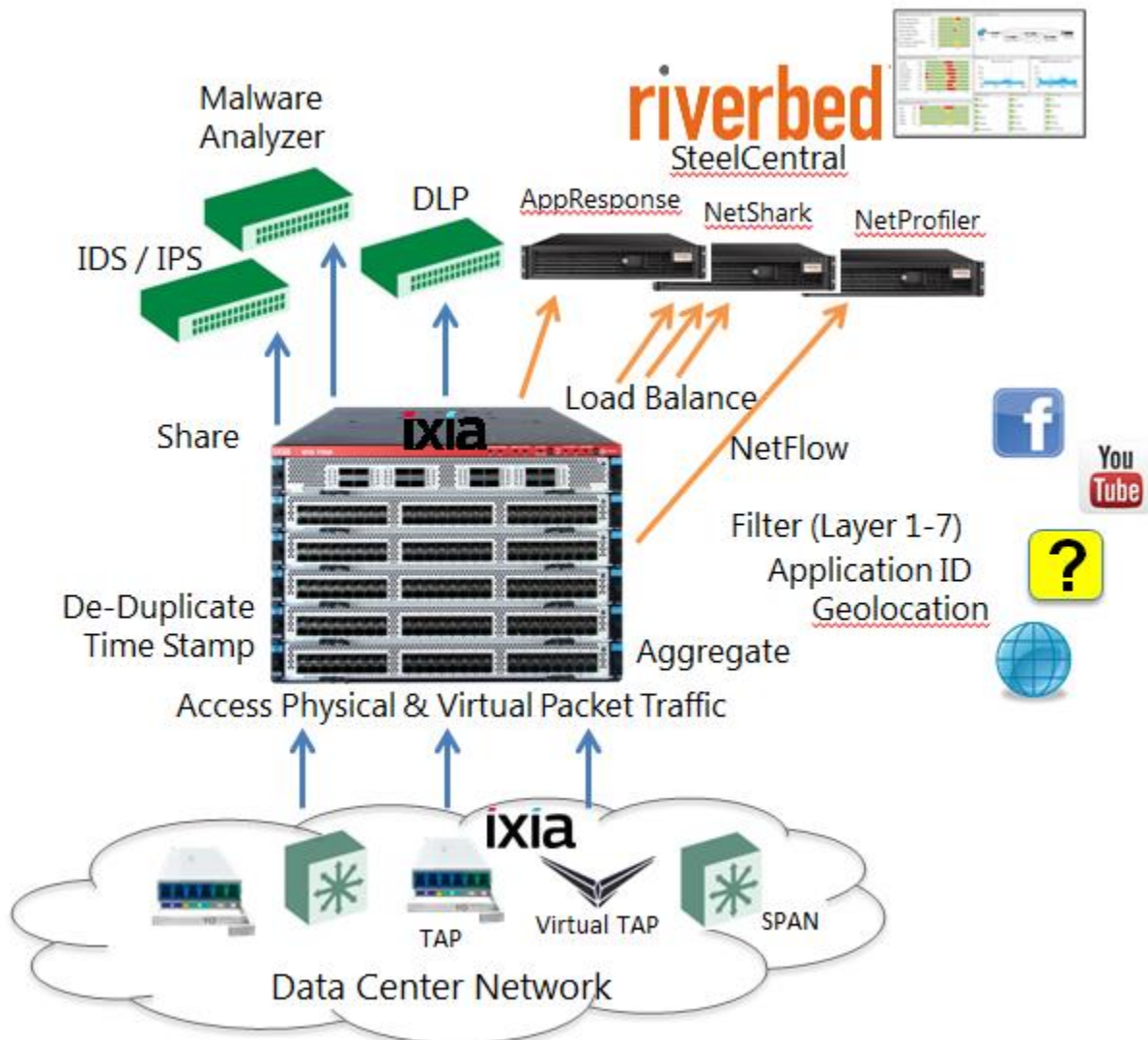


Figure 1. Ixia NVS efficiently directs traffic to SteelCentral AppResponse, NetShark and NetProfiler devices for rich network and application performance analysis.

## Application-aware network performance and end-user experience management

Your infrastructure and network exist for one reason, to deliver the applications that matter to your business. You need to understand dependencies between your applications and network, be alerted to issues before business is impacted, and accelerate troubleshooting. SteelCentral provides the performance management solutions you need to manage network performance from the application perspective. The Riverbed solutions include the following capabilities:

- Application performance monitoring based on actual end-user experience
- Application code-level tracing and high-level performance monitoring
- End-to-end monitoring reporting and analytics
- High-speed packet capture, flow collection, and expert analysis
- Unified communication management

SteelCentral provides IT with the visibility and actionable insight to help deliver the application performance that users and business demand.

## **Ixia NVS efficiently directs traffic to security, network, and application monitoring tools**

Ixia NVS complements the Riverbed SteelCentral solution by providing access to all needed physical & virtual network traffic. Ixia NVS sits between access points in the network that require monitoring and Riverbed SteelCentral products such as NetShark & AppResponse. Ixia NVS simultaneously aggregates traffic from multiple SPANs, plus TAPs and Virtual TAPs (also sold by Ixia) in the network and directs it to SteelCentral. This approach provides efficient access to asymmetric traffic across large heterogeneous networks. Ixia NVS also helps SteelCentral consume fewer resources by filtering out traffic not needed for analysis before it can get to SteelCentral. The Ixia NVS hardware timestamp feature is fully integrated in SteelCentral NetShark appliances; this provides high-precision timing information for troubleshooting of time sensitive applications such as automatic trading systems.

Ixia NVS allows for the sharing of traffic from a network access point with multiple monitoring tools. This capability eliminates the SPAN/TAP shortages that occur when another tool is attached to a needed access point. Additionally, by removing duplicate packets, Ixia NVS can enhance the throughput and storage capacity of Riverbed SteelCentral. Scaling to very large SteelCentral deployments can be accomplished with help of IXIA NVS load balancing. Ixia NVS's graphical user interface (GUI) makes it easy to set up and use. Simply drag-and-drop a connection between SPANs/TAPs and Riverbed SteelCentral to make a live connection.

NEW for 2014, IXIA NVS can now also generate NetFlow application layer information to SteelCentral NetProfiler, for enhanced traffic reporting. Corresponding packets captures can be automated and correlated with the flow information for faster trouble resolution.

## **About Ixia Network Visibility Solutions**

Ixia's Network Visibility Solutions (NVS) provides complete network visibility into physical and virtual networks, improves network security and optimizes monitoring tool performance. Ixia NVS ensures that each monitoring tool gets exactly the right data needed for analysis. This improves the way you manage your data center and maximizes return on investment. Our customers include large enterprises, service providers, educational institutions and government agencies. For additional information: <http://www.ixiacom.com/solutions/network-visibility/>

## **About Riverbed**

Riverbed Technology is the leader in Application Performance Infrastructure, delivering the most complete platform for location-independent computing. Location-independent computing turns location and distance into a competitive advantage by giving IT the flexibility to host applications and data in the most optimal locations while ensuring applications perform as expected, data is always available when needed, and performance issues are detected and fixed before end users notice. Riverbed's 24,000+ customers include 97% of the Fortune 100 and 95% of the Forbes Global 100. Learn more at [www.riverbed.com](http://www.riverbed.com).

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