



Joint Solution Brief

Drive Performance Insight with Riverbed SteelCentral and the Gigamon Visibility Fabric

The Challenge

The complicated new world of interconnectedness—inclusive of cloud, mobile, and virtual environments—is challenging IT organizations to maintain and ensure performance of critical business applications and IT services.

Integrated Solution

Integrated with the Gigamon Visibility Fabric™ for intelligent traffic filtering and manipulation, Riverbed SteelCentral provides an end-to-end solution that combines infrastructure, application, and network monitoring with user experience for a holistic view of application performance.

Joint Solution Benefits

- Monitor physical and virtual traffic from a single source for unified insights into the end-user experience
- Mask sensitive packets according to industry regulations before sending them to SteelCentral
- Aggregate, filter, and slice packets to maximize utilization of SteelCentral's processing power

Introduction

Hindsight is 20/20. Then again, so is Riverbed's performance insight—and that's even better than hindsight.

Instead of looking in the rearview to figure out how business-critical applications and services could have been performing better, organizations can use Riverbed's SteelCentral platform to understand how your users are experiencing application performance, to resolve network and application performance issues more quickly, and to improve service performance.

Leveraging the Gigamon Visibility Fabric's ability to capture and intelligently route high-fidelity streams of network traffic, Riverbed SteelCentral enables a new and proactive approach to network and application performance management and is comprised of:

- SteelCentral AppResponse—Network-based APM for end-user experience monitoring
- SteelCentral NetProfiler—Network reporting and analytics
- SteelCentral NetExpress—All-in-one network performance monitoring

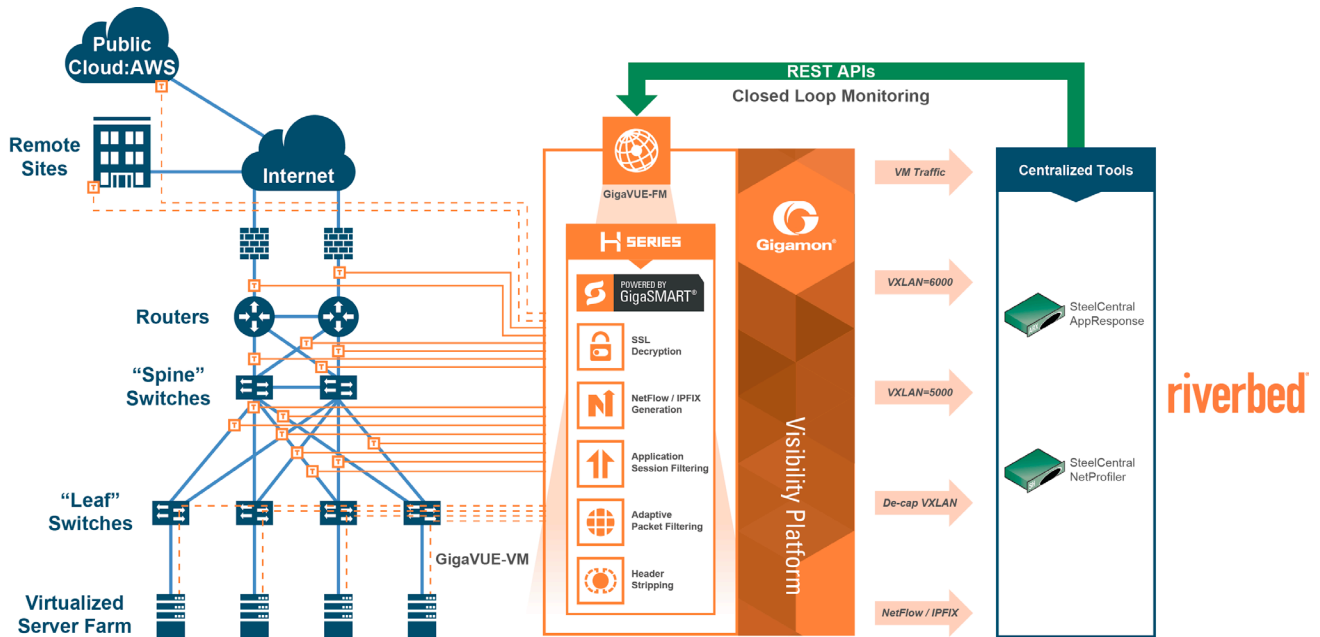
The Gigamon and Riverbed Joint Solution

A comprehensive and integrated performance management platform, Riverbed SteelCentral provides centralized visibility and insight for optimal performance of enterprise applications while also maximizing IT efficiency and productivity. Connected to the Gigamon Visibility Fabric, it captures and analyzes performance data—deeply and broadly—across networks and applications and monitors end-user experience. Thanks to the platform's modular nature, organizations can begin with any aspect of performance monitoring and grow that into a unified performance view.

The plug-and-play architecture of the integrated solution deploys easily in complex environments, providing performance teams or IT operations teams with the vital insight required to proactively and effectively govern IT infrastructures and ensure continuous network and application availability.

Key Gigamon Visibility Fabric features that augment the value of Riverbed technology include:

Easy access to traffic from physical and virtual networks: Gigamon manages traffic from across the network and delivers it to Riverbed SteelCentral solutions, efficiently and in the correct format. To monitor east-west data center traffic, Gigamon taps virtual traffic and incorporates it into the Gigamon Visibility Fabric for delivery to Riverbed solutions, so that the traffic can be monitored and analyzed together.



Traffic filtering: The Visibility Fabric can send specific traffic or sessions to connected Riverbed solutions so they do not become overloaded with irrelevant traffic.

Load balancing to spread traffic across multiple devices: When traffic flows are larger than a single tool can handle, the Visibility Fabric can split the flow across multiple tools while also ensuring sessions are kept together and tool numbers can be incrementally grown by adding new devices to those already connected.

Aggregation to minimize tool port use: Where links have low traffic volumes, the Visibility Platform can aggregate these together before sending them to Riverbed tools to minimize the number of ports needed. By tagging the traffic, the Visibility Platform enables the identification of the traffic source.

Header stripping for efficiency: As needed, the Visibility Fabric eliminates the need for Riverbed tools to decipher protocols, thus reducing their processing load and increasing efficiency.

Masking for compliance: The visibility platform masks sensitive data (e.g., credit card numbers in e-commerce and patient identification in healthcare) within packets before sending them to other tools where operators or other unintended recipients may see them.

De-duplication: Pervasive visibility requires tapping or copying traffic from multiple points in the network, which, in turn, means tools may see the same packet more than once. To avoid the unnecessary packet processing overhead on Riverbed tools, the Visibility Fabric has a highly effective de-duplication engine that removes duplicates before they consume resources.

SSL decryption: Real-time SSL decryption integration increases traffic visibility for Riverbed solutions.

Learn More

For more information on Riverbed and Gigamon solutions, contact:

