SteelFusion Introduces NFS Storage Support

Why support NFS? Customers value the simplicity, efficiency, and ease of deployment that NFS provides for VMware workloads. NFS accounts for 36% of all virtualized storage deployments today\(^1\). By 2019, enterprise NAS will grow to 50% of the market share\(^2\). With VMware storage as the primary use case for SteelFusion, this announcement is critical for SteelFusion to address NFS adoption trends.

With SteelFusion 5.0, Riverbed SteelFusion enhances flexibility for IT organizations delivering a Software-Defined Edge by extending NFS storage from the data center to the SteelFusion Edge at remote sites. Organizations can achieve unprecedented value from centralized investments in storage (SAN and NAS), virtualization, backup, and IT resources by taking advantage of SteelFusion’s unique ability to extend their capabilities over a distance to any location in the business.

In addition to the primary features that exists today for iSCSI and FC support, such as intelligent prefetch and instant provisioning, NFS capabilities also include:

- Simplicity to deploy and administer NFS storage from the SteelFusion Core to the Edge
- Support for market-leading NAS storage systems in NetApp Cluster Mode and Dell EMC Isilon
- Data protection integration with supported arrays for array-based snapshots and backup with key backup software vendors

Challenge of Deploying IT at the Edge

In today’s digital age of business, the edge is where business gets done. The edge is defined as remote locations within a company’s distributed environment that are key to enabling transactions, revenue streams, service delivery and other business critical activities.

While the importance of operating at the edge is becoming clearer to the business, the approach in delivering the IT services crucial to the day-to-day business at the edge has not evolved. IT innovations and investments focus on the data center. As a result, IT teams are spread thin to maintain remote islands of complex, multi-vendor infrastructure that serve critical applications while protecting an exploding volume of corporate data. It is not uncommon for companies to have IT at the edge running at an extremely high cost—traveling to support remote sites, IT personnel, time from deployment to business value, and business impact from tedious and lengthy disaster recovery processes and data loss.

\(^1\) 2016 State of Storage Virtualization Survey

\(^2\) Infiniti Research Limited: Global Enterprise NAS Market 2016-2020
Riverbed SteelFusion Overview

Riverbed SteelFusion delivers a modern, cloud-like experience to IT organizations managing an increasing number of remote locations in today’s digital world. Only SteelFusion can decrease capital and operating expenses, while increasing the data security of the corporate data. SteelFusion delivers these business benefits by providing the following technical capabilities:

- Convergence of compute, network, storage, and security into a single appliance.
- Centralization of administration of edge IT infrastructure back to the data center.

Benefits of SteelFusion NFS

Deploying and administering NFS storage is easy, simple, and quick with just six steps in a single wizard to discover storage from the NAS storage system, mount the export(s), and map it to a SteelFusion Edge. See the screenshots of the NFS Export Wizard in Figure 2.

SteelFusion’s initial support for NFS includes support for NetApp Cluster Mode and Dell EMC Isilon storage systems. Clients and hosts, such as ESXi hosts, will continue to benefit from the local-like performance the SteelFusion solution provides via the built-in WAN optimization from SteelHead technology as well as the intelligent prefetch that helps provide optimum performance for the applications running on the SteelFusion Edge.

With snapshot and backup integration, SteelFusion can leverage the array-based snapshot technology to create application-consistent snapshots from the SteelFusion Edge for on-array data protection and disaster recovery.

Please see the SteelFusion 5.0 Interoperability Guide to find the supported software versions for the NetApp Cluster Mode and Dell EMC Isilon storage systems, as well as the list of backup software vendors that Riverbed has validated.