

Faster analysis, diagnosis, and resolution with SteelCentral NetShark and SteelCentral Packet Analyzer

Riverbed® SteelCentral™ packet capture

Riverbed understands the need for broad and deep visibility into application performance across the network. The right visibility allows you to proactively monitor the performance of key business applications and troubleshoot network problems. Today, SteelCentral is saving customers thousands, and in some cases, millions of dollars by improving the day-to-day operations and management of their IT infrastructure.


SteelCentral NetShark provides always-on, high-speed packet capture for granular, real-time, and post-event analysis. NetShark is capable of sustained, multigigabit per second recording of network traffic on 1GB and 10GbE interfaces. Having packet-level information readily available means data is always on hand to troubleshoot performance and security-related issues.


NetShark is unique in its ability to support:

- Mixing of 1GbE and 10GbE interfaces on the same appliance for convenience and flexibility
 - Modular and extensive storage options to meet a variety of packet capture and storage needs
 - Multiple concurrent capture jobs on a single appliance, each capable of sustained line-rate recording, to flexibly extend the storage time of critical applications
 - Smart file indexing that accelerates packet analysis by up to 10,000x
 - Distributed analysis, which leverages the smart file indexing to eliminate the need to export large trace files across the network for local analysis
 - Custom file system optimized for time-based queries
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SteelCentral Packet Analyzer is robust packet analysis software that enables users to quickly analyze multiterabyte packet recordings on remote NetShark and Riverbed® SteelHead™ appliances without having to transfer large packet captures files across the network, potentially clogging an already slow pipe even further. Its extremely intuitive graphical user interface maximizes user productivity by enabling drag-and-drop, multilevel drill-down for local and remote analysis. Fully integrated with Wireshark®, the de facto standard for network analysis, Packet Analyzer enables network managers and engineers to:


- Quickly open and analyze remote or local, live and offline, multigigabyte trace files
- Easily isolate traffic of interest through an extensive collection of network analysis Views and metrics
- Define flexible triggers and alerts to detect abnormal traffic
- Create professional reports directly from Views



Research by  TechValidate

Easier to Isolate Root Cause

"Riverbed SteelCentral™ [AppResponse and Transaction Analyzer] helps me and my team every day to resolve several types of problems or incidents. They make it easier to isolate root cause and specify the origin of slowness of an application or the "weak-link" of the production chain."

Source:  Cecric Cratere, IT Specialist, BNP Paribas

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Key Benefits

- Always-on, high-speed packet capture means the data is available for post-event analysis when you need it.
- Multiple capture jobs on a single appliance provides recording flexibility.
- Smart packet indexing means you can quickly open and analyze multiterabyte trace files without crashing.
- Intuitive, visual interface with broad selection of interactive views reduces learning time.
- Seamless integration with Wireshark accelerates fault resolution.

Why SteelCentral Accelerates Troubleshooting

Riverbed understands packet capture and analysis better than any other company. Riverbed brought together three innovators in this field—Steve McCanne, co-creator of TCPDUMP; Loris Degioanni, creator of WinPcap®; and Gerald Combs, creator of Wireshark—to create a network performance management solution that enables complete end-to-end visibility and analysis for network and application performance. Below are some of the advantages that SteelCentral provides:

Smart packet indexing

- Efficient indexing of packets in real time, allowing you to search terabytes of data faster, reducing the time it takes to identify the root cause of problems
- Quick and seamless transition between flow-based information and packet-level information streamlines and accelerates the troubleshooting workflow when NetShark is used in conjunction with SteelCentral NetProfiler.

Flexible storage options

- Selective recording of all or a portion of the packets extends the amount of data that can be recorded and the length of time it is available for analysis.
- Multiple capture jobs on NetShark appliances enable you to dedicate differing amounts of storage to each job to flexibly extend storage time for critical applications.

Distributed analysis

- Remote analysis of multiterabyte packet recordings directly on the packet capture device removes strain on the network caused by transferring large packet captures files for local analysis.
- Robust analysis Views simplify investigations. Views include LAN and Network troubleshooting (MAC, VLAN, ARP, ICMP, DHCP, DNS), bandwidth usage (micro-bursts, IP, TCP, WEB, VoIP), talkers and conversations (IP, subnets, countries, TCP, WEB, VoIP, database, financial), performance and errors (IP, TCP, Web, VoIP, database, financial) and user activity (Web, VoIP, database, financial).

Wireshark integration

- Tight integration and seamless hand-off to Wireshark streamlines troubleshooting and leverages your network staff's expertise with Wireshark.

SteelHead integration

- Leverage SteelHead WAN optimization products for packet capture and monitoring to cost-effectively extend visibility into remote sites without having to deploy stand-alone capture devices.
- Monitor end-user experience for SteelHead-optimized Web and SaaS apps for faster, more effective troubleshooting.

“I’ve used Wireshark all my life; I love [Packet Analyzer]. It has helped me reduce the time it takes to sift through terabytes of data. Justifying additional expenditure on [NetShark] and more [Packet Analyzer] software became a no brainer to our management.”

Senior Network Operations Engineer
Global Financial Institution

About Riverbed

Riverbed, at more than \$1 billion in annual revenue, is the leader in application performance infrastructure, delivering the most complete platform for the hybrid enterprise to ensure applications perform as expected, data is always available when needed, and performance issues can be proactively detected and resolved before impacting business performance. Riverbed enables hybrid enterprises to transform application performance into a competitive advantage by maximizing employee productivity and leveraging IT to create new forms of operational agility. Riverbed's 26,000+ customers include 97% of the *Fortune* 100 and 98% of the *Forbes* Global 100. Learn more at riverbed.com.

The Riverbed logo consists of the word "riverbed" in a bold, lowercase, orange sans-serif font.