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# Solutions for Microsoft Office 365

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Businesses are embracing Microsoft Office 365 for ease of administration, known and predictable costs, and the benefits of IT resource reallocation. Growth has been explosive, and today, four out of five Fortune 500 corporations use Office 365<sup>1</sup>.

However, Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) applications, including Office 365, come with risks that include loss of visibility and control over performance as well as a reliance on public Internet and other third-party networks. These risks can negatively impact service availability, application performance, and the productivity of end users.

To realize the many benefits of Office 365, businesses need integrated solutions that provide complete performance awareness of Office 365 applications and make optimal use of network resources.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.ibtimes.com/microsofts-cloud-bets-pay-office-365-sees-big-growth-2021682>

## The Business Challenge

Many organizations have a cloud first policy that includes a goal of moving users of Microsoft productivity applications to the Office 365 suite.

For end users to accept this change, however, the performance and availability of the cloud-based applications must be comparable to the on-premises versions. This can be difficult for distributed enterprises to achieve—particularly for remote users.

Network design is important for application performance and for the migration to Office 365. Organizations that underestimate network requirements may incur project delays and unplanned costs to mitigate performance issues.

Having given up control of the application infrastructure, IT may struggle to identify, troubleshoot, and resolve performance issues. Greater visibility can help to compensate for the loss of control.

Maintaining acceptable levels of application availability and performance over time can be difficult with software updates, changing use patterns, and increasing network traffic.

SaaS provider SLAs typically address only infrastructure uptime and incidence response time; however, CIOs are still accountable for performance to the business.

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## Solutions

Riverbed, the leader in digital performance, can help you plan the transition to Office 365, improve productivity with a better end-user experience, and keep application performance levels consistently high as conditions change over time.

### Planning and Readiness

The network design of your enterprise today may not be adequate for cloud-based applications. This is especially true for geographically dispersed organizations in which all end users access a centrally hosted instance of an application.

Riverbed can help IT identify network-related risks that could lead to performance issues, project delays, and unplanned costs in your transition to Office 365.

Our professional services team will show you how to deliver the best performance and lowest TCO for Office 365 across hybrid networks—even to remote workers.

It starts with a bandwidth and latency analysis from end-user locations to the Microsoft cloud. Then we predict the response times for specific transactions and identify problem areas. We also do dependency mapping, capacity planning, and SLA analysis.

Riverbed can determine whether your network has enough bandwidth to support migration at the desired times and within your target schedule.

Then we can help you evaluate alternatives for any infrastructure changes needed to make a successful transition to Office 365.

### Monitoring and Improving the End-User Experience

End-user satisfaction and productivity are essential to the success of an Office 365 project. However, the experiences of end users in separate geographies can differ greatly with a centralized, cloud application.

IT needs the ability to monitor the performance and availability of applications from the perspective of end users as well as to locate the sources of problems.

Riverbed makes this possible with a set of application and network performance management tools that provide visibility from the end user to the cloud. Although IT no longer controls the application infrastructure, it can get the information needed to find what causes any number of problems and then drive them to resolution.

Riverbed can also help you improve performance by finding the shortest path to the cloud and applying optimization techniques to conserve bandwidth. For example, Riverbed optimization can deliver as much as 33 times faster file downloads and reduce the data sent across links by up to 97 percent with SharePoint Online.

### Ongoing Service Assurance

Maintaining acceptable levels of application availability and performance over time can be difficult with software updates, changing use patterns, and increasing network traffic.

SaaS provider SLAs stop at the edge of the cloud and are limited to application availability and incident response time. IT needs a way to augment cloud provider SLAs with service objectives for application performance that reflect the end-user experience.

Riverbed provides a set of performance management tools that enable IT to monitor applications, networks, and the end-user experience in real time. These tools help you identify issues before they impact end users and reduce guesswork when troubleshooting. You can even spot changing usage patterns and network bandwidth needs to stay ahead with capacity planning.

Solutions for Office 365 are built on the Riverbed® Digital Performance Platform™, which transforms the way IT runs powerful applications and services that connect people, businesses, and experiences in our digital world.

<b>Riverbed® SteelCentral™</b>	<b>Riverbed® SteelConnect™</b>
<b>Improve business performance with application visibility</b>	<b>The future of your network starts here—SD-WAN   Remote LAN   Cloud</b>
See apps end-to-end, from server to device, and drill down into any infrastructure component with HD clarity.  Learn more at <a href="http://riverbed.com/SteelCentral">riverbed.com/SteelCentral</a>	Rethink Networking. Ensure fast, agile and secure delivery of applications across the hybrid enterprise.  Learn more at <a href="http://riverbed.com/SteelConnect">riverbed.com/SteelConnect</a>
<b>Riverbed® SteelFusion™</b>	<b>Riverbed® SteelHead™</b>
<b>How to build a better branch office (like a smartphone)</b>	<b>Visibility, optimization and control for hybrid WANs</b>
Centralize and secure branch apps and data in your data center and extend the services, resilience, and security to the branch.  Learn more at <a href="http://riverbed.com/SteelFusion">riverbed.com/SteelFusion</a>	Transform the network into a living, breathing thing that adapts dynamically to application needs.  Learn more at <a href="http://riverbed.com/SteelHead">riverbed.com/SteelHead</a>

## Learn More

Let Riverbed, the leader in digital performance, help ensure a successful Office 365 experience, whether you are in the planning phase, have already started the transition or are looking to increase user adoption. Learn more at [riverbed.com/Office365](http://riverbed.com/Office365).

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### About Riverbed

Riverbed®, The Digital Performance Company™, enables organizations to maximize digital performance across every aspect of their business, allowing customers to rethink possible. Riverbed's unified and integrated Digital Performance Platform™ brings together a powerful combination of Digital Experience, Cloud Networking and Cloud Edge solutions that provides a modern IT architecture for the digital enterprise, delivering new levels of operational agility and dramatically accelerating business performance and outcomes. At more than \$1 billion in annual revenue, Riverbed's 30,000+ customers include 98% of the *Fortune* 100 and 100% of the *Forbes* Global 100. Learn more at [riverbed.com](https://riverbed.com).

The logo for Riverbed, featuring the word "riverbed" in a lowercase, orange, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol (®) at the end.