

Instant Branch Office Disaster Recovery

RIVERBED STEELFUSION BRANCH CONVERGED INFRASTRUCTURE

Branch offices are the front lines of business. Data and applications are needed by remote users to service customers, build products, and deliver services. Traditional IT infrastructure deployed in the branch to meet local performance needs exposes organizations to the risk of downtime in the event of outages and disasters. For many industries, branch office downtime means a direct impact to revenue and reputation.

Riverbed® SteelFusion™ is branch converged infrastructure that eliminates the headache of branch office backup and restore, simplifying the recovery of servers, applications, and data after disasters occur. With SteelFusion, businesses can restore operations in a matter of minutes rather than days and consolidate branch office servers into the datacenter without sacrificing any of the benefits of having servers at the edge close to users – all at a lower TCO.

The Branch Disaster Recovery Challenge

Enterprises are increasingly distributed, relying on remote and branch offices to access new markets and workforces, and develop new business opportunities. A typical branch office hosts servers and storage to provide local users with fast access to application and data resources required to be productive. Where business data exists, so does a data protection solution intended to support recovery operations.

A typical branch recovery process requires not only physical hardware replacement, but a rebuild and patching of the operating system, reinstallation of applications, virus scanning, and full-data recovery prior to returning to service. Organizations that rely on weekly full and daily incremental backups of branch data face the additional challenge of restoring from multiple tapes and the loss of new data created between the time of the outage and the last captured backup.

As a result, infrastructure in the remote office is not only costly and hard to provision and support, but also, when a disaster occurs, recovery can take days, leaving organizations exposed to long delays and data loss.

Taking the Pain out of Branch Recovery

Riverbed SteelFusion branch converged infrastructure makes it possible to recover branch servers and data in minutes from the data center, expediting a return to service after a disaster or outage. Organizations that previously compromised business continuity in the branch due to recovery cost and complexity can now significantly improve recovery time and recovery point objectives at a lower TCO.

SteelFusion transforms branch recovery by decoupling compute and storage. Branch servers, applications, and data can be centralized and consolidated to datacenter storage platforms yet utilized in branch locations at local speed. SteelFusion enables organizations to centrally backup and secure data in the datacenter, reducing branch operational burden and utilizing best practices and skilled personnel in the datacenter. This architectural approach provides organizations with several recovery advantages:

- **Improves recovery time objectives (RTOs)** – With SteelFusion, branch virtual servers and data are rebooted from data center storage and restored in minutes. Organizations can recover quickly without requiring a server rebuild or time-consuming restore from backups.
- **Improves recovery point objectives (RPOs)** – SteelFusion centralizes branch data in real-time to the data center continuously protecting the latest data offsite. In the past, a restore from a traditional backup meant the loss of data written between the point of failure and the previous backup. With SteelFusion, the branch is returned to service with all of the data up to the point of the outage.
- **Centralizes administration** – With SteelFusion, IT organizations can centrally manage branch recovery, eliminating the cost and delay of sending personnel to remote sites to manually manage an arduous restore operation.

How SteelFusion Works

SteelFusion integrates three capabilities that drive consolidation with local performance:

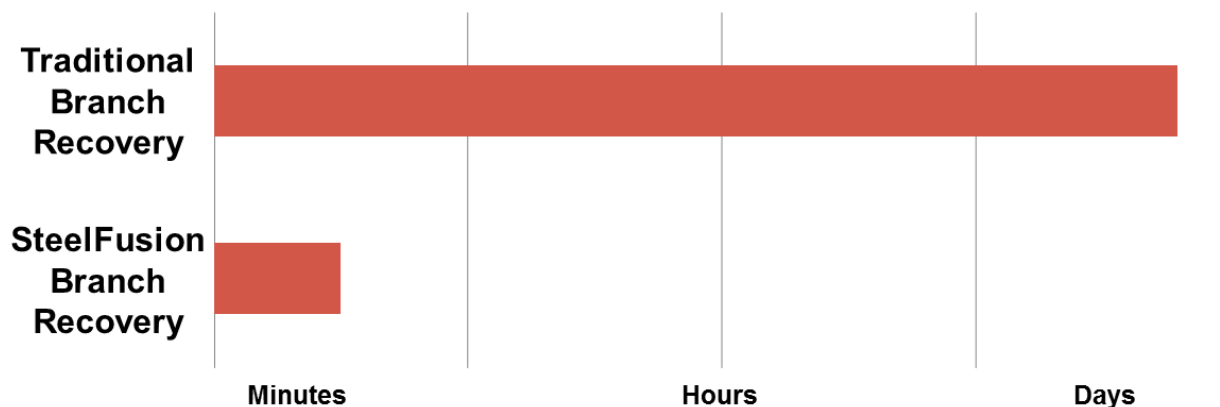
- **BlockStream™** is Riverbed-patented storage delivery technology that centralizes data in the datacenter and projects a working set out to the branch.
- **SteelHead®** is the industry's leading WAN optimization solution that accelerates all user traffic in the branch across the optimal networks at the lowest cost.
- **Virtual Services Platform (VSP)** is a fully integrated instance of the VMware® vSphere® hypervisor, optimized to run remotely on a hardened branch appliance.

To enable the branch to operate at local speed with data stored centrally in the datacenter, BlockStream introduces three key technologies that accelerate access and deliver a local experience to the branch:

- **Authoritative Block Cache** – SteelFusion Edge appliances provide local access to data center storage and store recently accessed and newly written data in the branch. The authoritative block cache capability enables virtual servers and data to be available even when the WAN suffers an outage.

- **Block-level Prefetch** – SteelFusion Core appliances in the data center utilize a patented algorithm that predicts and prefetches storage blocks to deliver a local-speed experience to the remote office.
- **Deduplication** – SteelFusion incorporates industry-leading Riverbed Steelhead® data deduplication to reduce bandwidth utilization up to 95% and further accelerate the delivery of servers and data from the data center to the branch.

SteelFusion empowers IT organizations to centrally provision, manage, and recover branch services from the datacenter in a fraction of time compared to a traditional infrastructure deployment. With SteelFusion, organizations save time, reduce costs, and improve business continuity of remote and branch offices.



Learn More

Riverbed SteelFusion is part of the Riverbed Application Performance Platform™, the most complete platform for location-independent computing that gives companies the flexibility to host applications and data in the locations that best serve the business while ensuring flawless delivery to better leverage global resources, radically reduce costs, and maximize employee productivity.

To learn more about SteelFusion branch converged infrastructure please visit: <http://www.riverbed.com/steelfusion>