

Riverbed Virtual Steelhead

Virtualized WAN Optimization

Data transfer bottlenecks and unpredictability on the wide area network (WAN) can hurt application performance. In addition, the time required to migrate large volumes of data to and from data centers can be a serious concern to business continuity. These limitations can also negatively impact worker productivity, constrain disaster recovery capabilities, and reduce the effectiveness of IT consolidation and virtualization strategies.

Riverbed® WAN optimization based on physical appliances resolves most performance issues, but there are certain specialized deployments where it doesn't quite fit. Hence the need for a Virtual Steelhead™, now available from Riverbed, which fulfills the remaining requirements.

Virtual Steelhead Advantages

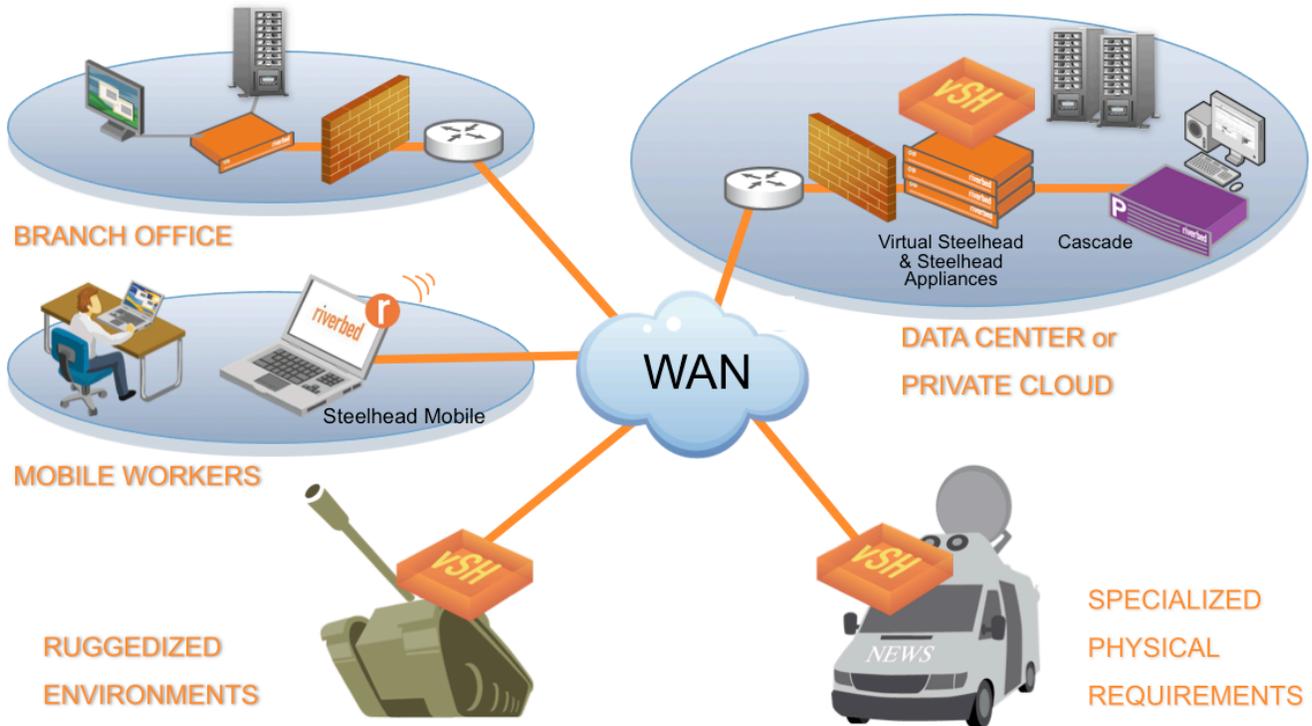
Built on the same award-winning Riverbed Optimization System (RiOS®) technology that powers both Steelhead appliances and Steelhead Mobile, the Virtual Steelhead has all the same WAN optimization features and competitive differentiation, plus the advantage of server virtualization on VMware. Additional benefits include:

- Easily deploy and manage Virtual Steelhead into existing virtual server environments in data center and branch office environments, and use the same management tools IT administrators know and trust to standardize management, availability, and flexibility.
- Meet environmental requirements, including physical limitations on server space or the need for ruggedized hardware through custom manufacturing; the Virtual Steelhead fits any form factor.
- Enable managed service providers (MSPs) and system integrators (SIs) to more readily provide scalable WAN optimization as an on-demand product offering.
- Introduce capability to seamlessly scale WAN optimization capacity in number of connections and bandwidth with a simple license key upgrade; there is no need to replace boxes in racks or rewire the network to accommodate future growth.
- Use the Virtual Steelhead as the building block with server virtualization to ensure performance across the WAN for remote offices while maintaining a very small hardware footprint on premise.
- Allow for cost savings in common hardware platforms and higher utilization of pooled resources.

BENEFITS

- Manage WAN optimization as a standard virtual service
- Scale capacity on demand
- Meet special requirements for ruggedness or space limits

Typical Steelhead Deployment Architecture



Choosing Between Steelhead Appliances and Virtual Steelhead

Customers now enjoy a wider range of choices in deploying Riverbed WAN optimization across the enterprise and in specialized environments. Many will opt for virtual in the data centers where they already use VMware server virtualization widely, but the branch office is an equally attractive location for reducing their hardware footprint. In other cases, the plug-and-play simplicity that has always defined Steelhead appliances will be more compelling. The good news is that both options are fully interoperable and equally capable, so customers can mix and match as it suits their needs. Steelhead appliances and Virtual Steelheads across the enterprise can be managed together from the Riverbed Central Management Console (CMC), and each supports high availability needs.

Additional Specifications

Virtual Steelheads can run on VMware ESX 4.0 and ESXi 4.0 on 64-bit server platforms. They can be integrated into a wide range of networks, either out of path or virtual in-path, and support both Asymmetric Route Detection and Connection Forwarding features. Virtual Steelheads can also be made highly available in active-active configurations with Datastore Synchronization, as serial clusters. Please refer to the Virtual Steelhead deployment guide for detailed sizing, hardware, and design requirements.

About Riverbed

Riverbed is the IT performance company. WAN optimization solutions from Riverbed liberate businesses from common IT constraints by increasing application performance, enabling consolidation, and providing enterprise-wide network and application visibility – all while eliminating the need to increase bandwidth, storage or servers.



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