

Riverbed Virtual Services Platform

Virtualized Branch Services on the Steelhead EX Series

The Riverbed® Virtual Services Platform (VSP) runs in a dedicated partition on Riverbed Steelhead® EX series appliances to give organizations the opportunity to consolidate services onto a high-performance branch office box. VSP is built with VMware's market leading virtualization technology to run instances of a company's existing services or to take advantage of applications designed for VSP by a Riverbed Technology Alliance Partner. VSP features ample dedicated memory and disk to ensure virtual machine performance without compromise. Management has never been easier thanks to tightly integrated, fine-grained configuration of data rules which allow virtualized services to run in or out of path, all without any impact on core WAN optimization performance. Using this approach, IT leaders can virtualize their edge services at all of their branch offices without having to deploy and maintain standalone servers to run applications. Consolidating and virtualizing with the Riverbed Steelhead EX series streamlines operations, helps cut costs, and simplifies management, without any effect on service delivery.

IT Consolidation at the Edge

Consolidation and virtualization have helped organizations increase their flexibility, improve service delivery, and reduce costs. Unfortunately, many of these benefits haven't extended to some local services. Even with most applications and file services centralized, services like print, DNS, DHCP, and firewalls needed to remain in the branch office. Maintaining onsite servers dedicated to each service increases the overhead of each branch and creates additional management complexity. With the Steelhead Virtual Services Platform (VSP) customers can run additional services and applications virtually on a protected partition on the Steelhead EX series appliance without compromising performance.

Branch Office Box Architecture

The VSP is uniquely suited to branch office server consolidation and virtualization. The Steelhead EX series comes standard with a dedicated VMware virtualization platform to deliver the benefits of WAN optimization and virtualization on a single branch office appliance. Architected to deliver the best of both worlds, virtual servers run in a protected zone and do not impact the resources needed for Steelhead appliance operations. VSP takes advantage of the high performance specifications to run multiple virtual machines on a single Steelhead EX series appliance, eliminating servers from the branch office. Management of VSP reflects the simplicity built into every Riverbed product. Close integration with Steelhead management tools allows IT leaders to leverage their existing management expertise to lower the cost to operate each branch. VSP offers advanced network rules capabilities to guarantee that data travels in and out from the LAN or WAN in a fashion that matches the nature of the application being served. VSP also has support for iSCSI targets, which allow customers to extend edge storage by connecting to an iSCSI device. All these options combine to make the VSP a true enterprise-class branch office box.

Overview

The Riverbed VSP simplifies the management of distributed infrastructure by consolidating services onto a VMware platform running on a Steelhead EX series appliance. VSP eliminates the need for dedicated servers in the branch office. VSP allows organizations to get more from their Steelhead EX appliance investment by offering:

- Enhanced ROI—VSP is standard on Steelhead EX series appliances, combining WAN optimization and branch office services onto a single appliance.
- A dedicated VMware hypervisor—Take full advantage of VMware expertise and hypervisor capabilities to lower branch office capital and operational costs.
- iSCSI targets - Enable organizations to add external storage to VSP.
- Granite – Access and write to centralized storage over the WAN at local speeds.
- Advanced network rules capabilities.
- Centralized monitoring of virtual instances with Riverbed management tools.
- Application flexibility – Run existing virtual services or Riverbed Technology Alliance Partner packages.

The flexibility of VSP allows organizations the freedom to run their own applications as well as a rich selection of tested applications from a variety of category leading vendors in the Riverbed Technology Alliance (RTA),

Sample Riverbed Technology Alliance Partner Packages

Riverbed Packages:

Riverbed Steelhead Mobile Controller VE - Manages Steelhead Mobile licenses and controls the deployment, management, and reporting of Steelhead Mobile software clients.

Riverbed Cascade® Sensor VE - Enables seamless performance measurement and delivers network visibility in both optimized and non-optimized environments - without requiring expensive physical probes in every branch office.

Edge Service Solutions: Enables services like DC, AD, file and print serving, streaming media and BranchCache while delivering LAN-like performance for end users around the globe.

PARTNERS: Microsoft (Windows Server 2008 R2, 2008 or 2003) – Print Server, AD, DC, File Serving

Security Solutions: Delivers an end-to-end security solution with the flexibility to choose the best-of-breed security vendors.

PARTNERS: McAfee (Firewall Enterprise Virtual Edition, McAfee Web Gateway), Microsoft (Threat Management Gateway), Checkpoint (Security Gateway R70 – Firewall, VPN), Websense (Web Filtering),

Video Solutions: Delivers a complete video communications and streaming solution that captures and manages live and on-demand video, distributes Flash and Windows Media formats, and reduces the impact of video bandwidth consumption on the network.

PARTNERS: Microsoft (Windows Media Services), Polycom, Qumu (MediaNet), Accordent

Networking & Management Solutions: Helps deliver routing and end-to-end visibility into application performance. Also provides the ability to manage and monitor application response times and SLA requirements at the branch office.

PARTNERS: SkipWare (SCPS), Infoblox (DNS, DHCP, IPAM, RADIUS, TFTP, NTP), OpNet(ACE Live), Vyatta(Router)



Figure 1: The VSP runs on all Steelhead EX series appliances.

About Riverbed

Riverbed delivers performance for the globally connected enterprise. With Riverbed, enterprises can successfully and intelligently implement strategic initiatives such as virtualization, consolidation, cloud computing, and disaster recovery without fear of compromising performance. By giving enterprises the platform they need to understand, optimize and consolidate their IT, Riverbed helps enterprises to build a fast, fluid and dynamic IT architecture that aligns with the business needs of the organization. Additional information about Riverbed (NASDAQ: RVBD) is available at www.riverbed.com.



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