Riverbed® Services Platform

Branch Office Box solution delivering virtualized branch services on Steelhead appliances

Consolidation and virtualization are hot trends in IT, helping organizations increase their flexibility in delivering valuable services and reduce costs. The enhanced Riverbed® Services Platform (RSP) provides customers with the capability to run up to five additional services and applications virtually on VMware in a protected partition on the Steelhead® appliance. This revolutionary approach allows customers to deploy local services in all their branch offices without the need to deploy and maintain full-blown servers to run the applications. The business benefits are minimizing the hardware needed at the branch office, enabling companies to consolidate IT operations even further, reducing costs, and simplifying administration, all while still delivering high quality local services. Combine RSP with the WAN optimization features of Steelhead appliances to achieve an efficient "branch in a box" solution.

IT Consolidation at the Edge

Organizations have widely implemented IT infrastructure consolidation measures to reap many of the well known benefits: simplified management, lower costs, and improved data protection and resource utilization. Despite these efforts, there are still essential "edge" services such as printing, DNS, DHCP and File Services that defy many central consolidation efforts. The RSP now allows organizations to run these services on the Steelhead appliance, so organizations can eliminate these now unnecessary servers to further reduce hardware, software, and maintenance costs and IT complexity.

Game-changing Architecture

The RSP is uniquely suited to branch office server consolidation and virtualization. The Steelhead appliance is the only wide area network (WAN) optimization device to run industry leading technology from VMware as the virtualization platform, taking advantage of the skills companies already have in house. Virtual servers run in a protected zone and do not impact the resources needed for peak Steelhead appliance operations. The RSP also enables customers to run up to five different virtual machines at once, eliminating many more servers from the branch office. And, the RSP runs on most Steelhead appliance models, enabling customers to benefit without having to replace their previous investments in Riverbed.

Overview

With the revolutionary RSP, IT can simplify the management of their distributed infrastructure even further. The ability to run best-of-breed software on Steelhead appliances eliminate the requirement for dedicated servers in remote branch offices enabling an additional layer of server consolidation. The benefits to customers are additional cost savings, a better return on investment for Steelhead appliances, and a reduced hardware footprint in remote offices
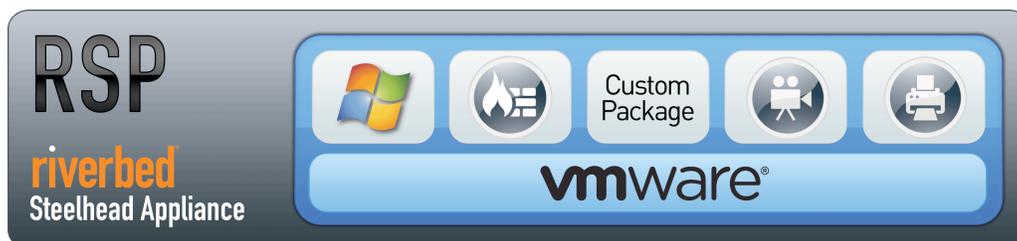

Figure 1: The RSP runs on all xx50's and 520, 1020, 1520, 2020, 3020 and 3520 Steelhead appliance models.

There are a number of features designed to make RSP even better value for customers. The RSP can be further extended by deploying Riverbed packages like the Steelhead Mobile Controller Virtual Edition and Cascade Sensor Virtual Edition on the RSP. The RSP has advanced network rules capabilities, guaranteeing that data travels in and out from the LAN or WAN in a fashion that matches the nature of the application being served. Further, the RSP includes the ability to add virtual disk space to packages to support growth without having to recreate the image. In addition, RSP also has support for iSCSI targets from a hosted windows package thus allowing our customers to extend edge storage by connecting to an iSCSI device. For higher availability RSP has two options. One is the heartbeat process by which failure of individual VMs can be determined and the watchdog process could restart the VM. The second one is where a secondary appliance is used to snapshot VMs from the primary appliance. In case of the failure of the primary appliance, the VMs on the secondary are restarted. All these options make the RSP a great platform for your branch services.

Benefiting from the Riverbed Technology Alliance (RTA), the RSP also supports tested applications from a wide variety of category leading products, as well as any VMware virtual machine.

RTA partners with software that can be run on the RSP

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

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 Services Solution – Enable 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 Solution – 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 Solution – 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 Solution – 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)

HIGHLIGHTS

- VMware as the virtualization platform
- Microsoft SVVP Certified
- Replace up to 5 physical servers with virtual machines on RSP
- Runs on most Steelhead appliance models
- Advanced network rules capabilities
- Run almost any VMware virtual machine

About Riverbed

Riverbed Technology is the IT infrastructure performance company. The Riverbed family of wide area network (WAN) optimization solutions liberates 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. Thousands of companies with distributed operations use Riverbed to make their IT infrastructure faster, less expensive and more responsive. Additional information about Riverbed (NASDAQ: RVBD) is available at www.riverbed.com