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Get comprehensive app visibility with

SteelCentral NetProfiler and SteelHead

A big challenge for IT managers is the need to prioritize and protect business-critical applications, with no clear picture of which applications are running across the network and who's using them. How can an organization gain that critical end-to-end visibility?

Using Riverbed® SteelCentral™ NetProfiler network performance management (NPM) and Riverbed® SteelHead™ WAN optimization together provides an integrated solution that provides real-time application intelligence and network visibility while accelerating application delivery and enhancing end-user experience.

The solution provides:

Application Visibility Anywhere—Deep application intelligence and network visibility to see all applications, everywhere they run

Responsiveness and Control—Real-time application visibility to ensure applications get the levels of service the business demands

Accelerated Business—Deliver application optimization anywhere while enhancing end-user experience and visibility to increase productivity levels, optimize resources, and reduce TCO

Application-Level Visibility Across the Hybrid Network

Network operations teams are increasingly being asked to measure and ensure application performance for end users across their networks—whether that network is a traditional WAN or a complex hybrid network that includes Internet connections in addition to MPLS connections from the branch office to the data center and public Internet connections to the cloud. Without complete application awareness, these teams are handicapped by limited application visibility. The result is inefficient performance troubleshooting, longer time to resolution, and an overall lack of critical application intelligence.

With SteelCentral NetProfiler and SteelHead, you gain deep packet inspection of application traffic to help you quickly and accurately identify the applications that are running across the network—whether the WAN or hybrid network—to distinguish between business-critical and nonessential Web traffic, so you can troubleshoot problems and get to answers for your most important applications faster.

- Gain insight into application type and usage— who used it, when they used it, and from where.
- Distinguish between and prioritize essential business over recreational applications.
- Classify any custom Web application using URLs.

Customers already taking advantage of SteelHead WAN optimization technology will find additional benefits from this tight integration with SteelCentral technology. In remote sites with SteelHeads deployed, the integrated SteelCentral solution will help to reduce remote branch costs and extend visibility.

In fact, when comparing ROI solutions for SteelCentral with and without SteelHead in various size environments, ESG calculations[1] demonstrate anywhere between a 35% to over 50% improvement when a SteelHead is already deployed. In fact, our model highlights that the more remote locations with SteelHead already in place, the greater the benefit.

[1] Source: Riverbed SteelCentral Economic Value Analysis calculator prepared by ESG

How SteelCentral Enhances SteelHead

NetProfiler provides a number of features and capabilities that enhance the power of the SteelHead solution for troubleshooting remote sites and providing application visibility and optimization:

- Deep packet inspection of more than 1,100 popular applications, consolidated from SteelHead devices to accurately identify applications by name so it is easy to determine business-critical from recreational traffic
- Align Quality of Service (QoS) with business objectives using QoS rules based on NetProfiler data. Understand whether your quality of service settings are meeting expectations by application or where, when changes should be made to ensure end-user performance. Ensure that your investment in expensive bandwidth is returning the business value you expect.

- Quickly drill down into application data for faster and easier branch remote-troubleshooting, using built-in NetFlow monitoring (Riverbed® SteelFlow™), as well as built-in NetShark on-demand packet capture (in SteelHead CX models) and optional, continuous packet capture (with SteelHead EX models).
- Path selection identifies specific application traffic flows across the network and among branch offices. SteelHead sends enhanced application-aware intelligence to NetProfiler for analysis and reporting, enabling organizations to quickly identify, prioritize, and properly route business-critical versus noncritical applications.

Gain Insight into Application Type and Usage

Not every business application deserves the same level of handling, service, or prioritization. Some are simply more important than others. In fact, it is more essential than ever to be able to monitor and manage business-critical Web transactions, and it is no longer viable to simply identify Web traffic as port 80 or port 443 traffic; more insight into the proverbial "application black hole" is a necessity.

In NetProfiler, charts are easy to read and contain predictive analytics and detailed WAN network usage information by application type. This enables you to understand minute-by-minute consumption of applications, report application-specific performance, and make path and quality of service decisions quickly.

The Bottom Line—Application Visibility with Acceleration and Control

- Leverage your existing investment in SteelHead for acceleration, bandwidth reduction, and cost-effective, remote visibility.

- Understand the end-to-end picture of your network and application performance for faster troubleshooting.

- Keep critical applications running at peak performance—all the time, in all places .

- Identify performance issues earlier, as soon as they start, to avoid business-impacting issues.

- Troubleshoot problems quickly and efficiently, no matter where they occur.

- Prioritize business-critical applications and constrain non-critical traffic to side step WAN capacity issues.

- Report on SteelHead ROI and uncover additional optimization opportunities to keep your remote users happy and productive.

What Our Customers Are Saying About the Solution

"We were receiving an increasing number of reports regarding the poor performance of our applications, especially from employees based at remote sites. I now receive very few complaints, and the conversation about setting up a local infrastructure has died down as a result of the benefits brought by Riverbed."

Tom Brady
Chief Information Officer
Zumtobel

"As a result of our Riverbed deployment we now have the confidence to deploy our important business applications from France out to all our global sites and be sure that our users won't see any degradation to the service. In some places like Malaysia, we've improved the response time of some our applications by more than 80%."

Nicolas Stab
Performance Manager
Veolia Water Technologies

Longtime partners—SteelHead and SteelCentral

Riverbed has a long history of integration between the SteelHead WAN optimization product family and the SteelCentral NPM product family. You can see in Figure 1 below the different capabilities associated with each version of a SteelHead appliance.

Figure 2 shows examples of the type of advanced behavioral analytics available in NetProfiler.
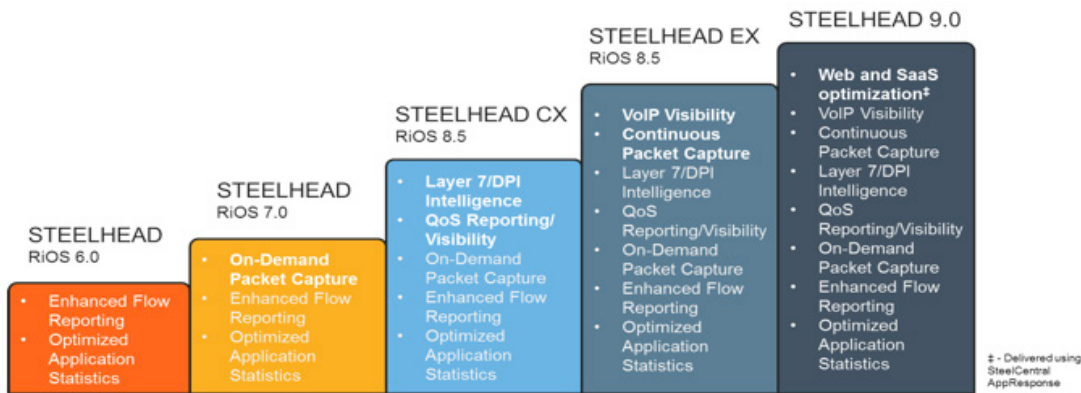

Figure 1

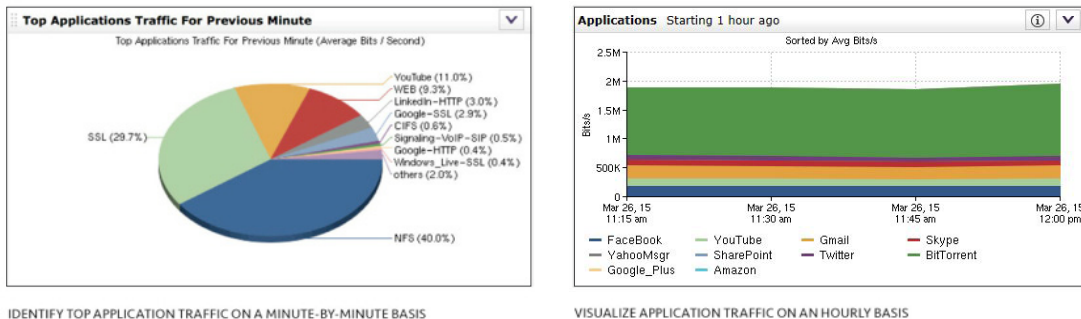SteelHead has steadily increased in capability with each successive version.

IDENTIFY TOP APPLICATION TRAFFIC ON A MINUTE-BY-MINUTE BASIS

VISUALIZE APPLICATION TRAFFIC ON AN HOURLY BASIS

Figure 2

Examples of how SteelHead and NetProfiler work together to provide deep application visibility

About Riverbed

Riverbed, at more than $1 billion in annual revenue, is the leader in application performance infrastructure, delivering the most complete platform for the hybrid enterprise to ensure applications perform as expected, data is always available when needed, and performance issues can be proactively detected and resolved before impacting business performance. Riverbed enables hybrid enterprises to transform application performance into a competitive advantage by maximizing employee productivity and leveraging IT to create new forms of operational agility. Riverbed's 26,000+ customers include 97% of the *Fortune* 100 and 98% of the *Forbes* Global 100. Learn more at riverbed.com.

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