Riverbed® SteelHead™ CX for Virtual Deployments

Virtualized WAN optimization

Data-transfer bottlenecks and unpredictable WANs impair application performance, while migrating large volumes of data to and from datacenters can seriously impede business continuity. The result: lower productivity, constrained disaster-recovery capabilities, and reduced effectiveness of IT consolidation and virtualization strategies.

Physical Riverbed SteelHead WAN optimization appliances meet the needs of most organizations facing such challenges, but for some IT deployments physical appliances are unsuitable. For these deployments, SteelHead CX virtual appliances deliver the same award-winning Riverbed WAN optimization, while eliminating the footprint of a physical SteelHead appliance.
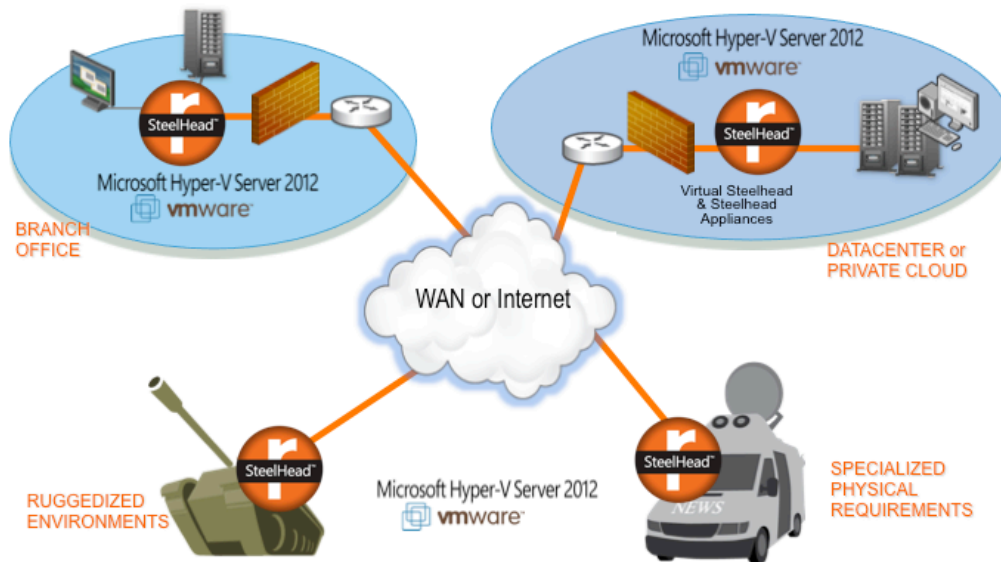
Advantages of SteelHead CX virtual appliances

Built on the same Riverbed Optimization System (RiOS®) technology that powers physical, cloud, and mobile deployments, SteelHead CX virtual appliances deliver industry-leading WAN optimization features and value, combined with the advantages of VMware ESX or Microsoft Hyper-V server virtualization. Additional benefits include:

BENEFITS

- ➢ Deploy WAN optimization as a standard virtual service
- ➢ Integrate with switches, router blades, ruggedized hardware, and other unique form factors
- ➢ Easily scale capacity on demand

- Optimize up to 1Gbps of traffic with a single virtualized 1G appliance deployed on a standard server, thus accommodating the 100Mbps and 1Gbps circuits, which are now standard for connecting enterprise sites. This reduces network complexity and simplifies deployment in private cloud architectures and enterprise-scale virtualized datacenters.

- Easily deploy SteelHead CX virtual appliances into existing virtual-server environments in datacenters and branch offices, 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, as the SteelHead CX virtual appliance fits any form factor.

- Run WAN optimization on advanced intelligent switches and routers that feature an integrated virtualization platform.

- Enable managed service providers (MSPs) and system integrators (SIs) to more readily provide scalable WAN optimization as an on-demand product offering.

- Seamlessly scale WAN optimization capacity in number of connections and bandwidths with a simple license-key upgrade, with no need to replace boxes in racks or rewire the network to accommodate future growth.

- Use a SteelHead CX virtual appliance as a building block with server virtualization to ensure performance across the WAN for remote offices while maintaining a small on-premise hardware footprint.

- Save money by standardizing on common hardware platforms and by utilizing pooled resources.

Deploying SteelHead CX virtual appliances in virtual environments

Enjoy a wide range of options for deploying Riverbed WAN optimization across the enterprise and in specialized environments. Start by deploying SteelHead CX virtual appliances in datacenters where you already use VMware ESX or Microsoft Hyper-V server virtualization. Branch offices will also benefit from the reduced hardware footprints that come from virtual appliances. And feel free to mix and match physical and virtual SteelHead CX appliances to fit your environment — both options are fully interoperable and equally capable. Manage everything — and help ensure high availability — with the SteelCentral™ Controller for SteelHead.

Additional specifications

SteelHead CX virtual appliances can run on VMware ESX or Microsoft Hyper-V platforms. You can integrate them into a wide range of networks, either out of path or virtual in-path, with support for both Asymmetric Route Detection and Connection Forwarding features. You can make SteelHead CX virtual appliances highly available in active-active configurations with Datastore Synchronization as serial clusters. Please refer to the SteelHead CX Virtual Appliance Deployment Guide for detailed sizing, hardware, and design requirements.

About Riverbed

Riverbed Technology is the leader in Application Performance Infrastructure, delivering the most complete platform for location-independent computing. Location-independent computing turns location and distance into a competitive advantage by giving IT the flexibility to host applications and data in the most optimal locations while ensuring applications perform as expected, data is always available when needed, and performance issues are detected and fixed before end users notice. Riverbed's 24,000+ customers include 97% of the Fortune 100 and 95% of the Forbes Global 100. Learn more at www.riverbed.com.

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