
SteelHead Interceptor

Optimization, Visibility, and Control with Scalability and High Availability

Business Challenge

The traditional enterprise has quickly evolved into a hybrid enterprise with people, apps, and data everywhere. With a combination of applications on- premise, in the cloud or Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) all traversing a hybrid network (MPLS, private VPN, and public Internet) the complexity that IT must manage is constantly exploding.

With this, comes reduced visibility, control, and manageability of application performance which can further challenge IT and put users of applications at risk for performance issues resulting in a loss of business productivity. While optimization solutions help improve application performance, many organizations need to easily scale across a large enterprise and ensure that the solution remains highly available while keeping management under control, while streamlining and centralizing management efforts and ensuring availability of optimization services across the enterprise.

The Riverbed Solution

Today's Riverbed delivers not only best-in-class optimization—but essential visibility and control as companies transition to the hybrid enterprise. The Riverbed® SteelHead™ Interceptor helps amplify the power of SteelHead investments by clustering multiple solutions together and providing dynamic load-balancing intelligence that further enhances optimization for even greater throughput and bandwidth reduction. Whether you want more throughput or connections than just one SteelHead can provide—or if you desire a higher availability option—SteelHead Interceptor helps manage and scale SteelHead solutions.

By clustering groups of SteelHeads to work together seamlessly, SteelHead Interceptor enables organizations to scale optimization solutions to support millions of end-users across an enterprise as well as very high bandwidth connections into the data center. Additionally, the SteelHead Interceptor offers load-balancing intelligence that helps further reduce bandwidth and improve application performance to end-users by routing traffic to the most appropriate SteelHead device while protecting the overall performance of the cluster.

SteelHead Interceptor makes it easy to extend the benefits of SteelHead solutions across a large enterprise while streamlining and centralizing management efforts and ensuring availability of optimization services across the enterprise.

Key Benefits

Optimization scalability and high-availability

- Increases scalability to accelerate more users and applications in high bandwidth environments
- Continues high availability operations by diverting to fully functional SteelHeads in the event of either a SteelHead or network failure
- Offers fair peering load—balancing intelligence that steers traffic to the optimal SteelHead with consideration to affinity, capacity, and health of the SteelHeads in the cluster
- Exclusively delivers the only load-balancing solution capable of assessing SteelHead pressures—the granular health information of the SteelHead—to most efficiently balance traffic

Simplified management for large enterprises

- Leverages the familiar SteelHead user interface
- Integrates with Riverbed® SteelCentral™ Controller for centralized management and upgrades
- Automatically load-balances the entire SteelHead cluster, picking up the load of any SteelHead when necessary to ensure continued optimization
- Uniquely leverages understanding of Scalable Data Referencing to eliminate transmission of redundant data to offer the most bandwidth reduction

Optimization, visibility, and control

- Increases application and data transfer performance up to 100x
- Delivers improved visibility with end user monitoring for all optimized traffic on premise and now including optimized Web and SaaS applications

Key Features

TCP connection forwarding

- Ensures connection continuity between SteelHeads in very large environments with asymmetrically-routed networks
- Supports one to four Interceptor appliances, and up to 25 SteelHeads

Multiple configuration options

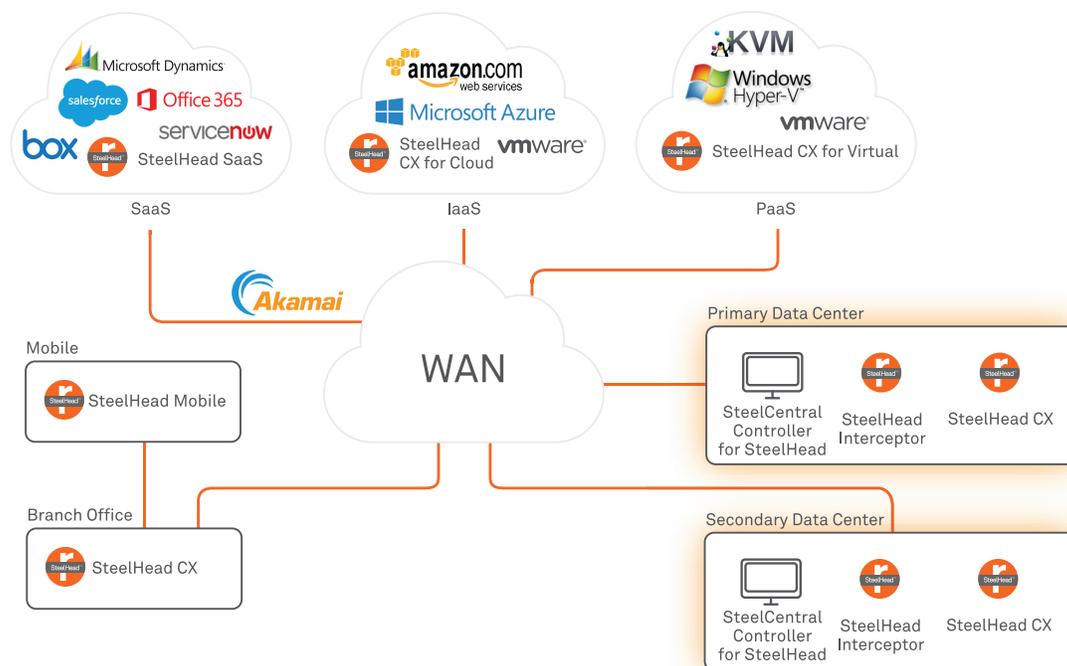
- Offers multiple configuration options including in series, in parallel, and in quad
- Delivers multiple in-path clustering and flexible network failure options to accommodate re-routing for continued optimization or simple pass through of data

Detailed visibility

- Supports up to 10 rules, tracing up to 1,000 connections to assist in troubleshooting network issues
- Works with the Full IP Address and Port Transparency feature in SteelHead solutions to deliver more visibility into network traffic

Speed with finely-tuned control

- Supports 2.5 Million optimized connections
- Exclusively provides hardware assist pass through—non-optimized traffic immediately passes through the SteelHead Interceptor without limit to amount or speed
- Delivers fine grain control of what traffic gets optimized and how, with configurable load-balancing rules
- Allows real-time cluster management for additions, modifications, or removal of SteelHead solutions in a connection distribution group, without disruption to services



Learn More

Riverbed delivers not only optimization of all applications (on prem, SaaS and cloud)—but essential visibility and control across the hybrid enterprise. Riverbed SteelHead solutions support location-independent computing for organizations of all sizes. A broad Riverbed product portfolio delivers a SteelHead appliance or software for every laptop, branch office, or data center providing the highest performance for data and application acceleration, back up, replication, and recovery across the hybrid network. What's more, you can upgrade your solutions within a model family as your demand grows.

To learn more about Riverbed SteelHead solutions, including the Riverbed SteelHead Interceptor solution, please visit: <http://www.riverbed.com/SteelHead>.

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 27,000+ customers include 97% of the *Fortune* 100 and 98% of the *Forbes* Global 100. Learn more at riverbed.com.

The Riverbed logo consists of the word "riverbed" in a lowercase, bold, orange sans-serif font.