

Top 10 Benefits of Implementing Application-Aware Network Performance Management

10. Resolve performance issues before they affect end user productivity. When IT problems occur, don't learn about them from users. Riverbed® Cascade® monitors the network's normal behavior and uses powerful analytics to proactively alert on unusual changes in performance or availability. With Cascade, the average incident duration is cut by half, resulting in a measurable increase in end-user productivity, according to a study by IDC*.

9. Accelerate time to diagnosis. Applications like voice, video and social media bring business benefits, but are resource intensive and therefore increase the risk of network slowdowns. Cascade provides a business-centric, service-level view of application performance with a streamlined troubleshooting workflow that enables IT operations to quickly drill from the dashboard to packet details for faster problem resolution.

8. Consolidate with lower cost. Whether consolidating a few servers or entire data centers, a cost-effective discovery method is necessary to understanding critical application dependencies. Unfortunately, most discovery and dependency mapping tools on the market are expensive to purchase and configure. In contrast, Cascade is an agentless solution that easily identifies application, server and client dependencies, to help understand the impact of proposed IT changes.

7. Gain visibility into load balanced environments. While load balancers and application delivery controllers (ADCs) optimize application delivery, flexibility and resiliency, they also create significant visibility problems, limiting IT's ability to monitor end-to-end application performance and troubleshoot degradations. Cascade automates the discovery and monitoring of load balanced applications, bridging the visibility gap between the client-side and server-side connections to provide IT operations with a unified view of application performance.

6. Identify virtualization candidates. Every server on the network adds to hardware and software maintenance costs. Quickly find which application servers are the least-utilized and who is using them, re-evaluate their business justification, and move to virtualize these applications.

5. Optimize the WAN. Consolidating computing resources into the data center may result in slower performance, increased bandwidth costs and security issues. A WAN optimization solution is an effective way to resolve these concerns. Fortunately all Riverbed Steelhead® WAN optimization appliances can provide performance metrics to Cascade, enabling Cascade to identify strong optimization candidates, validate the benefits of optimization, monitor and troubleshoot QoS classifications over optimized links, and troubleshoot performance across optimized and non-optimized sites.

OVERVIEW

Whether tackling IT initiatives such as private cloud, virtualization, or consolidation, or just trying to provide a consistent and predictable level of service to employees and customers, businesses increasingly find gaps in their ability to manage network and application performance. Riverbed Cascade provides actionable information enabling:

- Proactive, end-to-end service monitoring
- Accelerated troubleshooting
- Fast discovery and dependency mapping
- Effective planning for IT change projects
- WAN optimization analysis
- Enhanced security compliance

It's cost-effective, comprehensive visibility businesses have been looking for.

4. Secure the borderless network. Full visibility into end-to-end network performance and proactive, real-time behavioral analysis means Cascade can examine network traffic to identify threats that generate unusual traffic flows, such as rogue insiders, zero-day threats, certain forms of malware, and policy violations.

3. Increase staff productivity. Cascade's streamlined troubleshooting workflow with seamless transitions between flow and packet data accelerates problem resolution and has a measurable effect on IT staff productivity. According to IDC, Cascade customers enjoy average annual productivity benefits of \$6,632 per 100 users, and the average duration of help desk calls is reduced by 87%. Call duration is shorter because help desk staff can identify the source of a problem and avoid the finger pointing game by escalating to the proper team.

2. Reduce downtime. When critical network connections or business applications fail, every minute counts. IDC finds that Cascade reduces the mean time to resolution (MTTR) of IT incidents by an average of 83%. Also, Cascade customers experience a third fewer downtime incidents per month

1. Save money. With Cascade, the savings quickly add up. Not only does its superior ease-of-use deliver IT productivity gains, but customers have also saved millions of dollars per year by leveraging Steelhead appliances for cost-effective remote visibility, by eliminating the need to purchase additional troubleshooting solutions, and by improving capacity planning and preparation for strategic IT projects.

Riverbed Cascade: Assessing and Accelerating IT Performance

Riverbed Cascade provides cost-effective, application-aware network performance management that enables end-to-end visibility into the performance of critical business applications. Cascade integrates end-to-end monitoring with deep packet capture and packet analysis for proactive alerting and robust network troubleshooting. It also discovers and maps application dependencies, which is essential to building accurate service dashboards as well as planning for consolidation, virtualization, disaster recovery, and cloud projects.

Cascade is the only network performance management solution to combine flow data and packet data into a single logical data store. This results in an elegant and simple design that deploys easily in complex environments and provides true integration across the Cascade family and with Riverbed Steelhead products. This cleaner architecture means superior visibility, management and troubleshooting, saving our customers both capital and operational expenses.

An independent ROI study of Cascade customers, conducted by IDC in April 2010, found a remarkable three-year ROI of 364% and a payback period of just 5.5 months. Find out how Cascade and other Riverbed technologies can accelerate IT performance and save money.

"Instead of having a four- to eight-hour problem, or worse, a phantom issue that we couldn't identify, Cascade helps us identify issues in seconds and fix them in minutes." — Network administrator, Pacific Dental Services

Want to learn more about Network and Application Visibility?

To learn more about Riverbed Cascade, visit www.riverbed.com/cascade for more information.

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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