riverbed

SteelConnect

The Future of Your Network Starts Here.

SD-WAN | Remote LAN | Cloud

The Business Challenge

Delivery of applications is becoming more complex for the enterprise. Businesses want to deliver richer applications like video and new cloud services. Network architects are being asked to do more with less, struggling to provide more bandwidth while ensuring performance, and juggling security concerns such as URL filtering and securing VPNs.

In the past, IT had only to worry about local branch and data center applications and, more recently, SaaS as well as IaaS clouds. Now enterprise edges—fragile and insecure—have become communication hubs, where IT must make decisions around the right transport paths to balance performance, availability, and security for applications. And this is being demanded at a pace that IT is not used to or equipped to deal with. Given cost pressures, IT can't say it's going to cost an extra thousand dollars of monthly recurring cost per branch to be able to deliver these services and then take a month to deploy.

Users—impressed by the agility and ease of use of consumer services like Dropbox, email, ample bandwidths at home or on smart phones—are now demanding that enterprise IT deliver services and changes at the same pace and quality. The result: the consumerization of IT.

IT needs to respond—easily, fast, and cost-effectively— better managing networks, users, and apps to meet the imperative for lower expenses and costs, user productivity, and business agility. The question is how.

The Riverbed Solution

Design First. Deploy When Ready. Change with Ease.

Riverbed® SteelConnect™ is a next-generation SD-WAN solution designed to revolutionize and transform networking in a cloud-centric world. SteelConnect unifies network connectivity and enables orchestration of application delivery across hybrid WANs, remote LANs, and cloud networks. With a fully integrated line of secure WAN gateways, remote LAN switches, and WiFi access points, all managed centrally through an intuitive and graphical user interface, SteelConnect dramatically simplifies and streamlines the process of designing, deploying, and managing distributed networks, enabling organizations to modernize their network architecture to realize the full potential of digital transformation.

SteelConnect provides centralized network management capabilities based on a single intent-and identity-based global policy; automated zero touch provisioning of devices; integrated security; and end-to-end visibility for validating business policy as well as reporting.

The solutions uniquely provides a simple and intuitive, intent-based workflow and virtual, menu-driven network design of sites, zones, uplinks, and rules that allows IT to design first leveraging the concept of "shadow'' appliances as placeholders for physical appliances and deploy quickly a SD-WAN or SD-LAN—remotely from the cloud-based management portal—without ever touching a physical appliance in the branch or remote site.

The solution thus eliminates manual CLI-based configuration of routers, creates network overlays with policy independent of the network underlay, and allows IT to automatically provision resources remotely. As a result, it decreases the time to deployment, reduces the need for IT in branches and remote locations, and increases time to market. Change management across the enterprise requires only a change to the single policy that includes traffic, security, and port policy. Thus, there is one policy for any network (MPLS or Internet) and wherever the resources (private DC or IaaS) are located or the users are working (branch or mobile).

The solution delivers core network services:

Application Intelligence: Identifies and classifies hundreds of applications automatically with high accuracy, reliability, and speed. The app database is used for policy rules, the steering of applications, and metrics-based reporting.

QoS: Prioritizes the delivery of applications based on service quality and network availability. Users can set up the policy rules, app priority (QoS) and the networks to be used (path selection) within a single interface.

Path Selection: Selects the most optimal application path based on business intent-based polices, business criticality, and available bandwidth.

SteelConnect also enables native cloud integration, allowing customers to seamlessly connect private clouds, as well as connect those private clouds to public clouds and to on-premises environments. SteelConnect provides single-click and instant provisioning into cloud environments including Amazon Web Services (AWS) and will support other cloud environments like Microsoft Azure.

The solution is built from the ground up for maximum performance and offers quick boot time, maximum throughput, and a fanless design. And you can provision from an iPhone and Android.

Key Benefits

SteelConnect delivers superior performance of all applications across any network for greater business agility, while reducing IT complexity and cost.

Agility

Deliver the power of SD-WAN and SD-LAN to your business. Pure central management. A simple topology—gateways, switches, and access points. Managed with one global policy and enabling automated zero touch provisioning of devices, cloud connectivity, and fast adaptation to any change you want.

Simplicity

Simplify the design of the network with intuitive workflows and menu-driven design. Easily design organizations, sites, uplinks, zones, rules and shadow appliances—for example, use a single on/off button for AutoVPN, create a self-registration portal with zone-based visitor access, and edit policy rules with a simple mouse click.

Visibility

See into every aspect of your network design (orgs, users apps, WiFi, appliances and devices), its actual performance versus business intent—within an easy-to-use, menu-driven management console.

Reliability

Identify and classify hundreds of apps reliably and accurately with SteelConnect's application intelligence. Eliminate tedious CLI-based configuration and human error with automated provisioning. Define both security and performance for each app with global policy.

Security

Enforce performance SLAs and security for each application regardless of source/destination. Add security with user and zone segmentation, integrated next-generation firewalls, and built-in encrypted VPNs.

Cost savings

Reduce WAN costs with network choice. Enable secure, cost-effective Internet transport. Provision new sites and services 50-80% faster. Reduce the touch required to provision by up to 90%.

Key Features

Unified connectivity and management across WAN, remote LAN and Cloud Networks

- Provides a software-defined and application-centric connectivity fabric that spans WANs, remote office LANs, and cloud infrastructure networks through a line of physical, virtual and cloud-based WAN gateways, as well as remote LAN switches and WiFi access points
- Leverages AutoVPN multi-mesh VPN connectivity. Ensures application delivery from WAN to LAN and works over any network underlay (MPLS, Internet)

Cloud-based management experience

- Provides an intuitive graphical user interface that supports an agile and intent-based workflow for managing networks
- Design every aspect of a distributed network before deploying any hardware

Business-aligned orchestration

- Provides policy-based orchestration using language aligned with business priorities: Applications, Users, Locations, Performance SLAs and Security requirements
- No configuration of individual appliances. No CLI coding.

Business Intent-based policy

- Provides pure central management (SteelConnect Manager) of a network of thousands at huge cost-savings—with a single business intent-based policy
- Enables direct translation of business needs into technical execution based on policy
- Enables policy enforcement based on user identity—not just the IP address, for the same experience on all the user's devices
- Provides control over app performance with easy alignment of all aspects of application delivery

Universal policy automation

- Empowers IT to evolve the infrastructure without having to revisit policy
- Enables cohesive and automated change management
- Uses the same Application Groups, applications, and Web categories for the policy engine and reporting, so the reported results can directly be converted to policy rules

Zero-touch provisioning

- Provides instant deployment of physical devices into a network.
- Reduces configuration and reconfiguration of edge device to zero with automation
- Reduces or eliminates need for on site IT in remote facilities
- Increases speed of deployment and time to market

Ubiquitous and industry-leading visibility

- Provides a unified view of users, devices, and groups of either
- Identifies what traffic is consuming bandwidth and guarantee performance
- Minimizes security risks by easily identifying new devices and users—even if it's not passing through a gateway
- Enables control of traffic flow by devices, user or groups of both
- Will support industry-leading NPM and APM capabilities from Riverbed SteelCentral natively integrated into the SteelConnect central management console
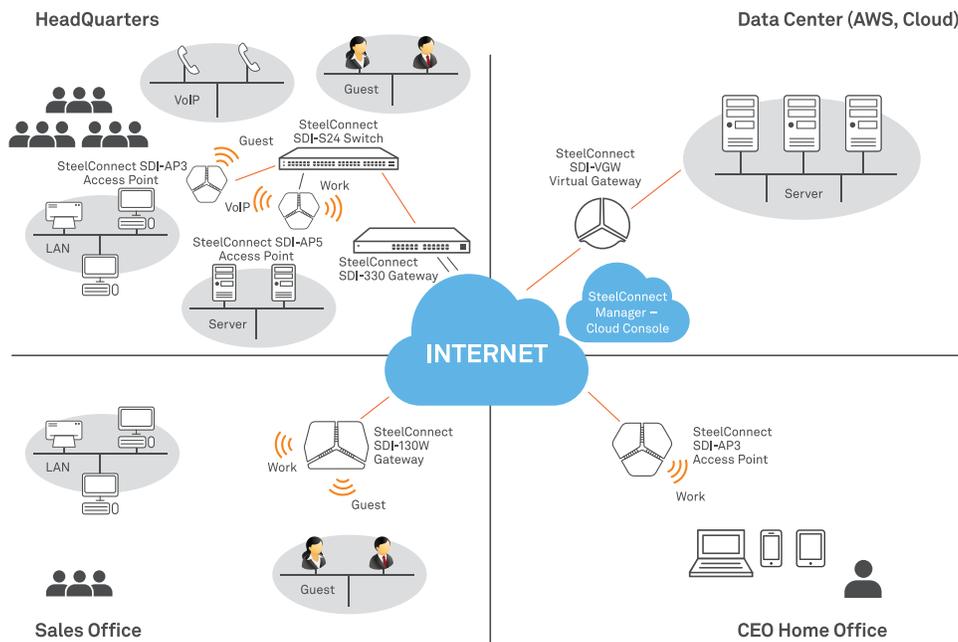
SteelConnect

SteelConnect is the first and only SD-WAN solution to:

- Enable a workflow and virtual design of networks based on plain-language business requirements

- Enable seamless connectivity between infrastructure on-premises and in the cloud with the same global policy engine

- Enforce the performance SLAs and security requirements for each application regardless of source or destination

- Integrates with the Riverbed Application Performance Platform for application delivery in the digital age

SteelConnect components include:

- **SteelConnect Manager:** A centralized and multi-tenant management portal that provides an intuitive and simplified workflow for designing, deploying and managing distributed and hybrid networks

- **SteelConnect Gateway:** A line of physical and virtual secure WAN gateways that provide unified connectivity (point-to-point and full-mesh) and enforcement of global policy across on-premises and cloud network environments, zero-touch provisioning, automated VPN management and next-generation firewall and threat protection capabilities

- **SteelConnect Switches and Access Points:** A line of remote LAN switches and Wi-Fi access points that support zero-touch provisioning, automate global enforcement of access control policies and provide complete visibility into connected users and devices

About Riverbed

Riverbed Technology, the leader in application performance infrastructure, provides 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. Learn more at riverbed.com.