

# ACCELERATING MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 WITH RIVERBED STEELHEAD SAAS

## BENEFITS

- » Improve performance of Office 365 by 30x
- » Optimize encrypted Exchange and SharePoint Online traffic
- » Dramatically increases available bandwidth so you avoid network upgrades
- » No client software to install
- » Improved routing to Office 365 data centers from remote locations
- » Cloud-based optimization and routing is automatically deployed

## INTRODUCTION

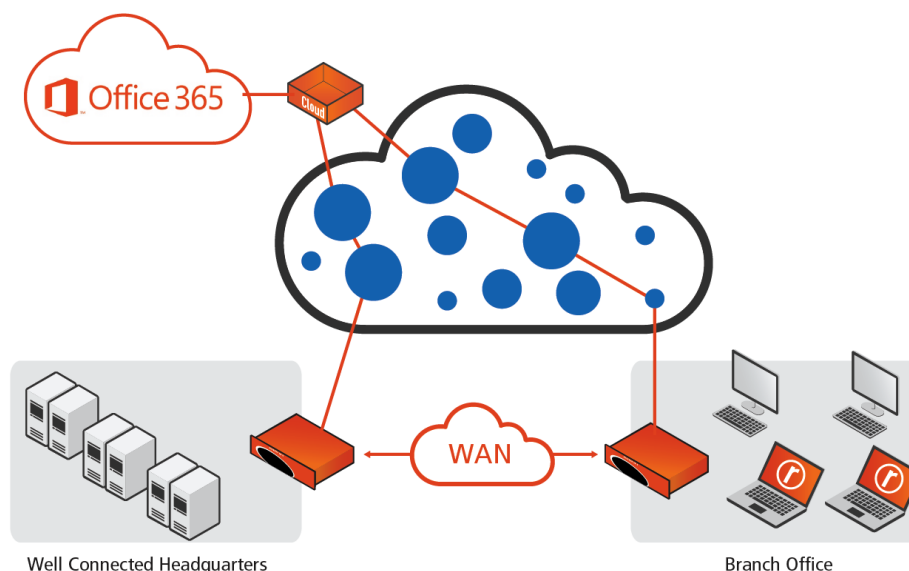
Riverbed® SteelHead™ SaaS addresses cloud services/software as a service (SaaS) performance challenges by providing an easy-to-deploy optimization solution that meets customer needs for application performance over WAN and Internet connections.

Combining private wide area network (WAN) and public internet optimization, the SteelHead SaaS is a first-of-its-kind solution, which optimizes traffic across the public Internet with Riverbed's award-winning SteelHead optimization system (formerly RiOS or Riverbed Optimization System) technology to accelerate data and application protocols. SteelHead SaaS delivers optimized performance up to 30x for cloud services/SaaS applications, such as Microsoft Office 365 or Salesforce.com, regardless of where the end user is located.

This brief focuses on performance gains when using SteelHead SaaS with Office 365 for multi-tenant cloud services.

## PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENTS

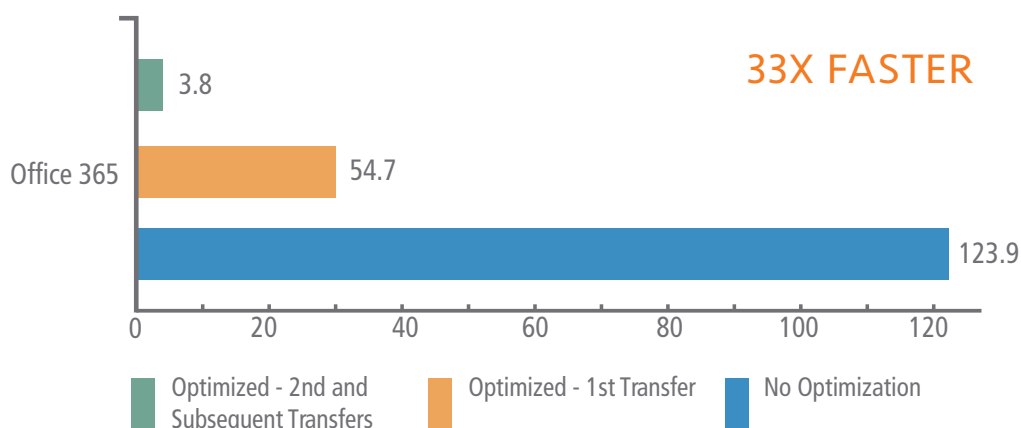
SteelHead SaaS is a software add-on to existing SteelHead solution deployments and does not require changes in the way SteelHead solution are deployed. Once SteelHead SaaS is enabled, the SteelHead solution deployed within the enterprise network will communicate with a secured, dedicated SteelHead CX instance hosted on an Internet optimization platform – the Akamai Intelligent Platform. The result is end-to-end optimization for your Office 365 traffic – with a reduction in application latency and bandwidth consumption. The Akamai technology identifies the fastest path from your location to the SteelHead CX device at a location closest to your Microsoft data center. In this way, efficient routing of your services traffic is improved resulting in increased network performance especially in geographies that experience routing latency.



Typical SteelHead SaaS Deployment Model

## RESULTS

Time required: Seconds to download a 20.8MB file from Sharepoint Online



### EXAMPLE TESTING PARAMETERS

This performance test covers acceleration and bandwidth savings for Office 365.

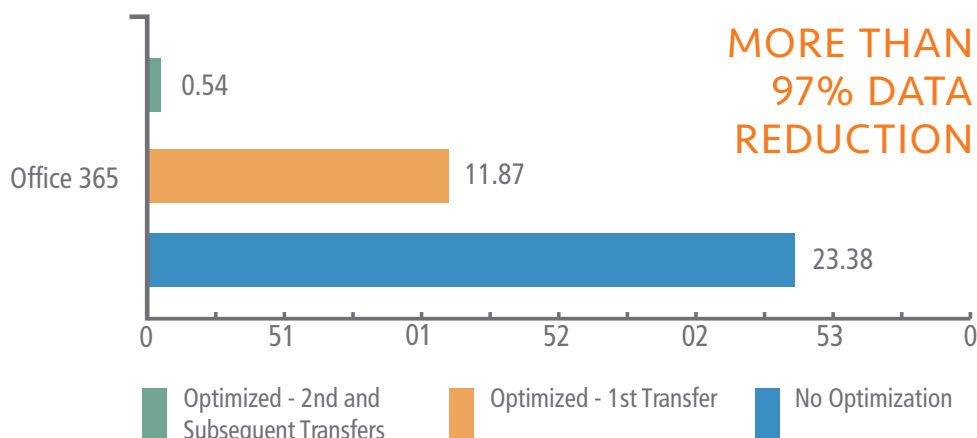
A WAN simulator was used to simulate a 1.5Mbps WAN link with 100ms RTT to Office 365.

A local SteelHead solution at the office is set to optimize with automatically-provisioned SteelHead CXs at the edge of the Akamai network closest to Microsoft.

The same Microsoft Word document is downloaded from SharePoint Online, in an example collaboration environment. The size of the document is 20.8MB.

The test calculates the time to download the file in seconds and the total WAN bytes in the WAN simulator in both directions in MB.

Bandwidth: MBs used to download a 20.8MB file from Sharepoint Online



These graphs demonstrate the significant productivity and user experience benefits that are possible when using SteelHead SaaS with Office 365. The first graph shows file transfer accelerated 33x faster than without optimization. The second graph shows a 97% bandwidth reduction for the same file transfer.

## OPTIMIZATION USE CASES

Optimization occurs for file uploads as well as downloads. In addition, SteelHead WAN optimization technology recognizes bit patterns from files that have been renamed or modified. By accelerating uploads and downloads of renamed and modified files, significantly more optimized events occur than are otherwise possible.

But more than file transfers are optimized. When browsing Office 365 web pages, including Outlook Web App, Office Web Apps, and SharePoint Online websites, most users experience bandwidth reductions from 10 – 97%. With Outlook, SteelHead SaaS typically conserves 20 – 35% or more of the non-optimized bandwidth. The solution accelerates routing, browsing, file transfers (even for modified or renamed files), email, and attachments, significantly boosting your overall Office 365 user experience, satisfaction, and productivity.

Specific benefits for your organization are dependent on content, use scenarios, and network conditions.

## LEARN MORE

The SteelHead SaaS delivers optimized performance up to 30x for cloud services/SaaS applications, such as Microsoft Office 365 and Salesforce.com, regardless of whether the end user is located. To learn more, please visit [riverbed.com/products/wan-optimization/saas-acceleration.html](https://riverbed.com/products/wan-optimization/saas-acceleration.html).