

Accelerate Your Virtual IT Environment with Riverbed®

Problem: Firms frequently experience long wait times when opening Microsoft Office documents across a Wide Area Network (WAN). Information Technology (IT) staff is forced to move the data closer to the end user; resulting in recreating Local Area Network (LAN) infrastructure at each remote office. This solution increases expenses, duplicates files, leads to a lack of file sharing, and the ever-elusive remote office nightly tape backup.

Testing: A series of Office files are stored at the data center server (VPN connection), as well as on the local workstation of the machine running applications. Testing is performed on a “warm” open and then Riverbed optimization is turned off to open from the same drive on our data center server. We finish by opening the file from the local hard drive.

Equipment Used: On the server side, a Riverbed® Steelhead® 510 device is installed. This device is two generations old and “feeds” data out at a capacity of 512Kb per second. Steelhead Mobile client software is used on the remote side. Microsoft® Word® 2007, Microsoft® Excel® 2007, and Adobe® Reader® 9 are the applications used. A Hewlett-Packard® Elitebook 8530w Mobile Workstation runs the software.

Timed Testing

Microsoft Word 2007 file (35 MB file)

Warm open from data center server (VPN connection)	12.94 seconds
Open from data center server without Riverbed	3 minutes, 54 seconds
Open from local hard drive	3.7 seconds

Microsoft Excel 2007 (4MB file)

Warm open from data center server (VPN connection)	5.67 seconds
Open from data center server without Riverbed	34.57 seconds
Open from local hard drive	1.72 seconds

Acrobat Reader 9 (38.4MB file)

Warm open from data center server (VPN connection)	1.20 seconds
Open from data center server without Riverbed	10.34 seconds
Open from local hard drive	1.09 seconds

Riverbed & Microsoft Office Performance Brief (continued)

Conclusion: Different Office applications produce different results based on the type of file, associated application compression, and the content of the document. Having Riverbed installed on each side significantly increases the speed in which a file is opened and provides an environment where all data can be stored on a central server. This eliminates remote office servers and storage, provides real-time data sharing, and reduces costs.

Test the Riverbed solution on your own network through our no-risk, onsite Proof of Concept program. Please contact ModernTech AEC Solutions at 877.531.6090.

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