

Overview

The sizing assessment will provide a basis for informed decisions about what Steelhead models should be considered, when moving from old to new; and whether an upgrade or downgrade is required based on current loading characteristics with nominal head room.

This assessment is essential for Steelhead xx20 series model users because these go End of Support Hardware and Patch in early 2014. This assessment will help shape a correctly sized replacement estate based on facts so that decisions may be made and budgets secured during 2012 and 2013.

The sizing assessment will also support trouble shooting for any problems that may exist in the environment

Riverbed Health & Sizing Assessment

Ensuring the correct appliance sizing across a Steelhead estate

Riverbed customers that have been running xx20 Steelheads in production for the last years have achieved significant business benefit and competitive advantage through WAN optimization with market leader Riverbed. Careful consideration needs to be given to future Riverbed WAN optimization as the Steelhead xx20 series was End of Support Hardware and Patch in early 2014.

The final major version of RiOS supported on xx20 is 6.5 and this means that any new features in future RiOS releases will not be available for the Steelhead xx20 series. A Steelhead xx20 series migration program should be considered, to ensure that the WAN optimization strategy is consistently delivering maximum value over the long term. Normally deployed for between one and three months, the Riverbed Health & Sizing Assessment will provide the basis for making informed decisions about what models should be considered when moving to a new platform.

The Process

To effectively size an existing Steelhead estate for a Steelhead xx20 series migration program is a three step process, each of which typically takes place over a 30 day period:

1. Run a Steel-Eye assessment with the initial sizing assessment based on current usage profile and patterns.
2. Recalibrate and tune the existing deployment for sizing and load for actual versus strategic traffic profiles and needs and remedy any issues.
3. Run the Steel-Eye assessment and produce a final right sizing assessment based on the tuned environment.

The Benefits

- Recalibrate and tune the existing Steelhead environment to deliver maximum available performance.
- Proactively plan for a Steelhead xx20 series migration with documented facts that remove 'sizing guess work'.
- Ensure that the new Steelhead deployment is 'right sized'.