
SteelCentral NetShark

Continuous, High-Speed Packet Capture, Indexing, and Storage

The Business Challenge

When business-critical applications fail the impact can be serious. You need to be one step ahead with real-time, actionable information to identify and diagnose problems before your business is impacted. Unfortunately, many monitoring tools take slices of data that can omit the most meaningful data set.

Or if the data is captured, it can take a large file transfer in order to conduct analysis, exacerbating network performance problems. You need a better way to ensure that packet level information is always available for troubleshooting and for granular, real-time, and back-in-time analysis.

The Riverbed Solution

Riverbed® SteelCentral™ NetShark quickly captures, indexes, and stores all data packets without the need for file transfers. It exports summarized metrics derived from the packet data to the SteelCentral NetProfiler for the advanced behavioral analysis, monitoring, reporting, and alerting on network and application performance.

Because the metrics from SteelCentral NetShark are deduplicated and integrated with flow-based data from other sources and stored in the same logical record, IT operators can streamline the troubleshooting workflow and accelerate the triage process.

By continuously recording the packets traversing the network, rich troubleshooting details are always available when you need them, saving time and money by minimizing the effect downtime has on business productivity and by reducing or avoiding business-stopping slowdowns or outages. Via the integration with SteelCentral Packet Analyzer software, you can conduct robust analysis and reporting of packet recordings on remote SteelCentral NetShark instances without having to transfer large packet capture files across the network. By continuously capturing and storing multi-terabytes of recordings, SteelCentral NetShark also enhances your productivity since you don't have to wait for problems to appear again or to try to simulate them in order to diagnose issues.



Key Benefits

- Accelerate troubleshooting with fast retrieval and analysis of packet and transaction data
- Solve intermittent performance problems without having to recreate them
- Accommodate any monitoring requirement with flexible storage capacity options

Key Features

Powerful packet capture and storage

- Monitors and troubleshoots complex or intermittent performance and security-related problems, without having to transfer large files across the network
- Add up to 8 Storage Units to a single NetShark 6170 to flexibly extend storage capabilities to a maximum 576TB of packet data
- Capable of sustained line-rate, multi-gigabit per second recording, and storage of network traffic using high-performance 1GB or 10GB copper or fiber interfaces; up to eight 10GB interfaces per SteelCentral NetShark appliance
- Real-time and back-in-time analysis on remote trace files with SteelCentral Packet Analyzer
- Flexible alert options by SNMP for monitoring network devices

Smart packet indexing to unify flow monitoring and packet-based data

- With real-time indexing of packet data, you can easily search terabytes of data for a seamless transition between flow-based information in SteelCentral NetProfiler appliance and packet-level information in SteelCentral NetShark appliance

Allocate capture jobs and packet storage based on application type

- Perform multiple, separate capture jobs on a SteelCentral NetShark appliance and dedicate different amounts of storage to each job to flexibly extend storage time for critical applications

Capture what you need for regulatory compliance or time-sensitive applications

- Selective recording for regulatory compliance: with requirements such as PCI DSS or HIPAA, you can record and store just the right amount of packet data and also extend the amount of packet data and length of time that it can be stored
- Precision time stamping: critical for low-latency trading environments, time-sensitive applications, and multi-segment analysis, SteelCentral NetShark adopts the precision time stamps from network tap aggregators such as Gigamon, cPackets, Ixia-Anue, Arista, and VSS Monitoring

Built-in visibility and packet capture in Riverbed® SteelHead™

- SteelHead and SteelFusion Edge can act as a SteelCentral probe, making it easy to gather packet data and receive flow data from the branch
- Provides remote-site troubleshooting with packet capture; a subset of NetShark capabilities is embedded in every Riverbed SteelHead appliance without affecting core WAN optimization
- Eliminates the need to deploy a dedicated probe—or even a remote site technician—to extend SteelCentral application-aware network performance management to a WAN optimized environment

Deployment flexibility

- Can be deployed in four ways for maximum coverage: dedicated appliance, virtualized software (SteelCentral NetShark Virtual Edition), add-on module (NetShark module on SteelCentral AppResponse) or as embedded functionality in Riverbed SteelHead/SteelFusion Edge products

Application intelligence

- Recognize and monitor application types, including well-known, custom-developed, virtualized, peer-to-peer, VoIP, and Web-based applications with deep packet inspection (DPI)
- Provides support for Financial Services Markets, including supporting market data gap detection and FIX 4.x and 5.x

Product Integrations

- Best used with Riverbed SteelCentral Packet Analyzer and Wireshark for seamless handoff and streamlined troubleshooting
- SteelHead and SteelFusion Edge can run SteelCentral NetShark capture functionality for remote site troubleshooting without affecting WAN optimization or branch converged infrastructure performance
- The AppResponse NetShark module adds rich network intelligence to supplement the existing end-user experience monitoring and transaction analysis provided by Riverbed SteelCentral AppResponse
- Use SteelCentral Transaction Analyzer with NetShark for offline, multi-tier, user transaction analysis for diagnosing root cause quickly and easily

Product Model Comparisons

	SteelCentral NetShark	SteelCentral NetShark Virtual Edition	AppResponse NetShark Module	Embedded NetShark on SteelHead CX	SteelCentral NetShark on SteelHead EX	SteelCentral NetShark on SteelFusion Edge
Continuous Capture	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
On-Demand Capture	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Packet Indexing for Fast Analysis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flow Export to NetProfiler	✓	✓	✓	- ¹	✓	✓
Analysis by SteelCentral Packet Analyzer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitor Live Traffic with Views and Watches	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Monitors Virtual Environment	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓
Supports Real-Time Traffic (VoIP)	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
Package Storage Capacity	8TB to 576TB ²	50GB to 2TB	8TB to 264TB ³	15GB to 119GB	300GB to 4TB ⁴	2TB to 16TB

1. SteelFlow export is performed by SteelHead itself, not embedded NetShark functionality

2. 576TB of storage on NetShark 6170 is achieved with eight 72TB Storage Units (SCAN-SU-72TB)

3. 264TB with ARX 6000—three expansion chassis

4. Packet storage capacity is based on customer allocation via Riverbed Virtual Services Platform (VSP) on Riverbed SteelHead EX series deployment

Product Models

SteelCentral NetShark						
Model	Size	Storage	Supported Storage Units	Maximum Storage Capacity	NIC Slots	NIC Cards
SCAN-02170	1U	8TB	N / A	8TB	1	4x1GE Cu or Fiber or 2x10GE Fiber
SCAN-04170	2U	32TB	N / A	32TB	2	4x1GE Cu or Fiber or 2x10GE Fiber
SCAN-06170	2U	-	8	576TB	2	or 4x10GE Fiber

SteelCentral NetShark 6170 Storage Units		
Model	Size	Storage
SCAN-SU-48TB	2U	48TB
SCAN-SU-72TB	2U	72TB

SteelCentral NetShark Virtual Edition			
Model	VSK-00050	VSK-00200	VSK-00400
Packet Storage	Up to 50GB	Up to 1TB	Up to 2TB
Hypervisor	VMware ESXi 5.0, 5.1, 5.5 Microsoft Hyper-V Server 2012 R2		

SteelCentral NetShark on SteelHead EX					
Model	LIC-RPM-560	LIC-RPM-760	LIC-RPM-1160	LIC-RPM-1260	LIC-RPM-1360
SteelHead EX Model	560	760	1160	1260	1360
Max. Packet Storage	Up to 2TB				
Hypervisor	VMware ESXi 5.0, 5.1, 5.5 Microsoft Hyper-V Server 2012 R2				

SteelCentral NetShark Virtual on SteelFusion Edge			
Model	SCAN-SFED-0020	SCAN-SFED-0030	SCAN-SFED-0040
SteelFusion Edge Model	2100 and 2200	3100	3200 and 5100
Max. Packet Storage	2TB	4TB	16TB
Hypervisor	VMware ESXi 5.0, 5.1, 5.5 Microsoft Hyper-V Server 2012 R2		

Gartner Magic Quadrant Recognition

Riverbed is a two-time leader in the Gartner Network Performance Monitoring and Diagnostics (NPMD) magic quadrant.*

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About Riverbed

Riverbed, at more than \$1 billion in annual revenue, is the leader in application performance infrastructure, delivering 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. Riverbed enables hybrid enterprises to transform application performance into a competitive advantage by maximizing employee productivity and leveraging IT to create new forms of operational agility. Riverbed's 26,000+ customers include 97% of the *Fortune* 100 and 98% of the *Forbes* Global 100. Learn more at riverbed.com.

