

# CASE STUDY: Wright-Pierce

## SUMMARY

### Industry

- Environmental Engineering

### Challenges

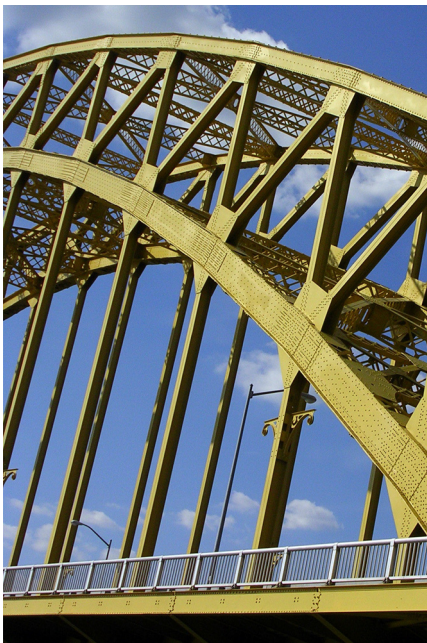
- Centralize data without disrupting end users

### Solution

- Riverbed Steelhead appliance

### Benefits

- Eliminated version control problems caused by copies on local servers
- Improved productivity and collaboration



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## Riverbed Steelhead® Appliances Enable Data Centralization Without Disrupting End Users

Wright-Pierce ([www.wright-pierce.com](http://www.wright-pierce.com)) was founded as an engineering and surveying firm in 1947 by Frank V. Wright, Jr. and William B. Pierce. Today, Wright-Pierce provides in-house expertise in water supply and treatment, waste water collection and treatment, septage and biosolids treatment, solid waste management, environmental services, industrial environmental services and engineering, process automation, air quality and odor control, civil and transportation engineering, environmental laboratory services and operational assistance.

Wright-Pierce's business operations and accompanying IT infrastructure consist of four offices around the New England area. Wright-Pierce engineers in all four locations collaborate daily on project designs.

### Challenge: Collaboration Across the WAN

For Ray Sirois, Wright-Pierce's Director of IT, poor WAN performance has plagued his employees since the company expanded from one location to four offices. "CAD files were too large to simply open over the WAN. So, copies of these files were copied around the various offices where needed. This created revision control problems: Who has the latest version of the correct file? Where did they last save it? You can't even buy enough interstate bandwidth to solve these problems for a company our size. A T1 doesn't cut it on its own."

"Often, one drawing file becomes a base for several other drawings in a plan set. It is critical that all the designers in all our offices base their work on the correct and most current base. This is hard to ensure over a WAN."

### Solution: Steelhead Appliances

Sirois deployed Riverbed's Steelhead appliances at his New England offices. "The Steelhead appliances were refreshingly simple to install and the impact was immediate," says Sirois.

"After installing Steelhead appliances, performance when working with CAD files from the home office server was improved by orders of magnitude. With everyone in every office referencing the same central base file, made possible with the Steelhead, the problem with collaboration over the WAN was eliminated."

### Benefits

Improving performance of access to remote file shares has enabled Wright-Pierce to centralize their server infrastructure.

"Steelhead appliances have enabled us to return to a centralized data model again, just like when we were all in one building. All of our data assets can be better protected, and more efficiently accessed around the country just as if they were on local servers," says Sirois.

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### About Riverbed

Riverbed Technology is the pioneer in wide area data services (WDS), a fast-growing product category that solves the problems of high latency and limited bandwidth that plague a wide variety of applications over distributed networks. Riverbed's Steelhead appliances provide the highest level of WAN performance at a lower cost, reducing WAN traffic by up to 95% and accelerating applications by up to 100 times. By providing optimizations that are orders of magnitude greater than what users experience today, Riverbed is changing the way people work – and enabling, for the first time, a truly distributed workforce. InfoWorld named Steelhead a "Product of the Year" for 2005 as the "Best WAN Accelerator." Steelhead appliances are available worldwide directly from Riverbed and through global partners, including HP.