

# Ground-Breaking Data Acceleration for the AI Era

Unleash Unmatched Performance, Security and Agility with SteelHead 90 Series

## The Riverbed SteelHead 90 Series

The new SteelHead 90 series appliances provides enhanced performance, advanced security, scalability, improved data movement efficiency, resilient networking, and proven customer success.

These benefits make the SteelHead 90 series a strategic investment for enterprises looking to optimize their network infrastructure and stay ahead in the era of AI.

### Enhanced Performance

The new SteelHead 90 series of appliances deliver significantly improved performance compared to previous models.

- SteelHead 4090 delivers 2.5x the performance of the 3080, delivering up to 5 Gbps data movement (500 Mbps optimized traffic).
- SteelHead 8090 provides 2x the performance of model 7080, delivering up to 60 Gbps of data movement.
- For customers who are on our legacy 70 series platforms, the 90 series represents an up to 3X performance improvement at about the same price points.

This leap in performance ensures faster data transfer and optimized network performance is crucial for handling the increasing data demands driven by AI and other modern applications.

## Business Challenge

Moving data across the network can present several significant challenges for customers.

- **Latency:** Slow data transfer rates is a primary pain points which can severely impact application performance impacting business results. This issue often results in delays in accessing critical insights which reduces productivity and efficiency.
- **Security:** Moving data across the network increases cyber risk because it becomes vulnerable to interception and unauthorized access during transmission, compromising the confidentiality and integrity of sensitive information.
- **Flexibility:** Rapidly changing business needs and new technologies such as AI and cloud have highlighted the limitations of traditional networking infrastructures, necessitating more flexible and scalable solutions.

Riverbed's innovative acceleration solutions, now powered with the new RiOS 10 software, drive high-performance resilient networking to securely move vast quantities of data with the agility needed by modern organizations.

## Advanced Security

The movement of data, particularly for AI applications, means the exposure of enterprise, government or confidential information, perhaps for the first time.

The SteelHead 90 series help you ensure secure data delivery through advances like quantum ready networking and platform security. The 90 series introduces robust security enhancements to protect against emerging threats. These include:

- Secure Boot to detect hardware tampering
- Trusted Platform Modules to secure master keys
- Total Memory Encryption to safeguard data and code from unauthorized access
- Post-quantum cryptography to secure data movement against quantum risks

SteelHead 90 series helps ensure secure data delivery, making these appliances a vital upgrade for maintaining data integrity and compliance in a world of ever-increasing cyber threats.

## Scalability and Flexibility

The new appliances are designed to be highly scalable and flexible, accommodating the dynamic needs of modern enterprises. With capabilities like Quality-of-Service and application classification at high rates, the SteelHead 90 series can support evolving network architectures and increased data throughput requirements.

Additionally, Riverbed Flex subscriptions allow customers to easily move licenses from the SteelHead 90 series to virtual deployments and cloud environments, providing unprecedented flexibility and future-proofing capacity.

## Improved Efficiency

The SteelHead 90 series appliances are built on next-generation Intel CPUs, leveraging new instruction sets and compression assistance capabilities. This enables efficient data movement at massive scales.

## Riverbed Flex for Acceleration

Riverbed Flex innovative subscription-based Acceleration solutions provide a future-ready approach by decoupling Acceleration software licenses from hardware, offering seamless transitions between physical, virtual, and cloud-based deployments, and ensuring continuous software and hardware refreshes as part of the subscription.

### The Riverbed Flex Acceleration Advantages

#### License Portability

- Move licenses anywhere
- Move licenses anytime
- Move capacity across fleet
- Add capacity as needed
- Use burst capacity

#### Optimized ROI

- Right-size licenses to needs
- Upgrade or replace hardware at lower cost
- No stranded assets
- OPEX not CAPEX

#### Future Proof Capacity

- Adapt and scale as your needs change
- Increase capacity on demand—no extra hardware purchases
- Easily adopt new capabilities

## SteelHead License Comparison

Feature	Flex Licenses	Perpetual License
Software Features		
RiOS upgrade	Yes, Evergreen	Within major release (dot releases only)
Easily adopt future capabilities	Yes	Limited to new dot release features
Performance tier	Flexible	Fixed
License Mobility		
Move licenses	Yes	No
Scale licenses up and down	Yes	No
Move licenses anytime	Yes	No
Move capacity across fleet	Yes	No
Use Burst Capacity	Yes	No
Increase capacity on demand with existing hardware	Yes	No
Financial Considerations		
Payment structure	Subscription	Up front + maintenance
Expense method	OPEX	CAPEX
Lower cost upgrades	Yes	No
No stranded assets	Yes	No

## SteelHead CX 90 Series

### Model Specifications

Deployment	Branch/Edge		Data Center	
				
Model	CXA-02090*	CXA-04090	CXA-06090*	CXA-8090
Profile	Desktop	1U	2U	2U
Optimized TCP Connections and UDP Flows	10,000	30,000	150,000	220,000
Optimized WAN Capacity <sup>1,2</sup>	200 Mbps	500 Mbps	2 Gbps	6 Gbps
Management Storage Capacity	960 GB	960 GB	960 GB	960 GB
Data Store Capacity	200 GB	800 GB	3.2 TB	6.4 TB
Storage Fault Tolerance (Management and Data Store)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hot Swappable Drives (Management)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hot Swappable Drives (Data Store)	No	No	Yes	Yes
RAM	24 GB	32 GB	128 GB	256 GB
Expansion Slots (PCI-e) <sup>2</sup>	No	1 FH 3/4L (Gen4x16)	4 FHFL (Gen5)	4 FHFL (Gen5)
Included Bypass Ports (Copper)	4 x 1G (2 pairs)	4 x 1G (2 pairs)	4 x 1G (2 pairs)	4 x 1G (2 pairs)
Max. # of Bypass Ports	4	8	20	20
Included Non-Bypass Ports	4 x 1G SFP+ 4 x 1G/10G SFP+	4 x 1G SFP+ 4 x 1G/10G SFP+	No	No
Console	RJ45	RJ45	DB9 COM	DB9 COM
BMC/IPMI, PRI, AUX	RJ45 1 x 10/100/1G, 2 x 10/100/1G/2.5G	RJ45 1 x 10/100/1G, 2 x 10/100/1G/2.5G	RJ45 1 x 10/100/1G, 2 x 10/100/1G/10G	RJ45 1 x 10/100/1G, 2 x 10/100/1G/10G

1. With perpetual license and standard subscription. Optimized WAN capacity limit is enforced on outbound optimized traffic. Inbound optimized WAN traffic is not capped.
2. Restrictions apply in combination of card types. Please see technical documentation for details.

NOTE: All WAN capacities, connections, flows and rules/classes specifications listed are maximums and may not be achieved simultaneously and/or in all environments.

\*Anticipated availability is August 2025.

## Power and Physical Specifications

Deployment	Branch/Edge		Data Center	
Model	CXA-02090*	CXA-04090	CXA-06090*	CXA-8090
Dual Power Supplies	No 1x External, 180W Power Brick	Yes 2x500W	Yes 2x1300W	Yes 2x1300W
Input Power	100-127VAC 200-240VAC	100-127VAC 200-240VAC	100-127VAC 200-240VAC	100-127VAC 200-240VAC
Power [Amps] (Max)	*	1.3A @ 120VAC 1.28A @ 230VAC	4.6A @ 120VAC 2.4A @ 230VAC	6.0A @ 120VAC 3.1A @ 230VAC
Power [Watts] (Max)	*	156W @ 120VAC 153W @ 230VAC	560W @ 120VAC 542W @ 230VAC	714W @ 120VAC 723W @ 230VAC
Power [Watts] (Typical)	*	124W @ 120VAC 122W @ 230VAC	448W @ 120VAC 434W @ 230VAC	572W @ 120VAC 579W @ 230VAC
Power [VA] (Max)	*	159VA @ 120VAC 155VA @ 230VAC	572VA @ 120VAC 554VA @ 230VAC	772VA @ 120VAC 730VA @ 230VAC
Power Factor	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.99
Power Supply Efficiency Rating	N/A	80 Plus Platinum	80 Plus Titanium	80 Plus Titanium
BTU	*	531 BTU @ 120VAC 522 BTU @ 230VAC	1528 BTU @ 120VAC 1480 BTU @ 230VAC	1949 BTU @ 120VAC 1973 BTU @ 230VAC
Temperature <sup>1</sup>	0-45°C / 32-113°F	0-45°C / 32-113°F	10-40°C / 50-104°F (Operating) <sup>2</sup> -40-60°C / -40-140°F (Storage) <sup>3</sup>	10-40°C / 50-104°F (Operating) <sup>2</sup> -40-60°C / -40-140°F (Storage) <sup>3</sup>
Relative Humidity <sup>2</sup>	*	10-90%, non-condensing (Operating) 5-95%, non-condensing (Storage)	40-90%, non-condensing at 40°C	40-90%, non-condensing at 40°C
Operating Acoustic Noise (Typical)	*	<60 dB	<60 dB	<60 dB
System Dimensions (WxDxH) Excluding rack ears and handles	8.6 x 11.9 x 1.72 in 218 x 302.1 x 43.8 mm	16.9 x 13.0 x 1.72 in 430 x 330.2 x 43.8 mm	27.56 x 17.32 x 3.43 in 700 x 440 x 87 mm	27.56 x 17.32 x 3.43 in 700 x 440 x 87 mm
Dimension (system) (WxDxH) Including Rack ears and PSU tab protrusions	8.6 x 12.3 x 1.72 in 218 x 313.3 x 43.8 mm	19.0 x 14.1 x 1.72 in 482.4 x 359 x 43.8 mm	19.0 x 28.75 x 3.44 in 482.6 x 730.3 x 87.4 mm	19.0 x 28.75 x 3.44 in 482.6 x 730.3 x 87.4 mm
Packaging Dimensions (WxDxH)	13 x 16.3 x 6.7 in 329 x 414 x 171 mm	22.8 x 18.9 x 6.9 in 580 x 480 x 175 mm	36 x 24 x 12 in 914.4 x 609.6 x 304.8 mm	36 x 24 x 12 in 914.4 x 609.6 x 304.8 mm
Weight (Without Packaging)	*	15.9 lbs. 7.2 kg	51 lbs. 23 kg	51 lbs. 23 kg
Rail Information	Rack mount kit included	Rack mount kit included Rail kit optional	Rail kit included	Rail kit included

\*Anticipated availability is August 2025.

## Unleash Unmatched Performance, Security and Agility

### With the SteelHead 90 Series

Experience up to 3x faster data transfer, robust data protection against emerging cyber threats, and flexible deployment options on the latest SteelHead 90 series. These appliances are designed to handle the increasing data demands of AI and modern applications, ensuring your network remains agile and efficient. And you can future-proof your infrastructure with Riverbed Flex subscription options and advanced network security features like post-quantum cryptography support. The need to stay ahead in the era of AI and optimize your network has never been greater. Riverbed is here to make that happen.

For more information, [contact us](#) or your authorized Riverbed representative, or find us at [riverbed.com](https://riverbed.com).



### About Riverbed

Riverbed, the leader in AIOps for observability, helps organizations optimize their user's experiences by leveraging AI automation for the prevention, identification, and resolution of IT issues. With over 20 years of experience in data collection and AI and machine learning, Riverbed's open and AI-powered observability platform and solutions optimize digital experiences and greatly improves IT efficiency. Riverbed also offers industry-leading Acceleration solutions that provide fast, agile, secure acceleration of any app, over any network, to users anywhere. Together with our thousands of market-leading customers globally – including 95% of the FORTUNE 100 – we are empowering next-generation digital experiences.

Learn more at [riverbed.com](https://riverbed.com).