



WAN Traffic Cops

Who's on the job to ensure optimal network performance?

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Replify Reptor Accelerator

Belfast, Northern Ireland-based Replify Ltd. offers the Reptor Accelerator v 2.1.1 software-based WAN optimization solution. The Reptor Virtual Appliance and the Reptor [client](#) comprise the whole of the product.



Replify's solution is unique in the fact that it is virtualized. Software-based WAN optimization tends to be more cost-effective than hardware solutions. Add the [virtualization](#) factor with a product like Replify's and a solution provider is looking at even greater savings because there is no need to purchase additional equipment for a data center.

The Virtual Appliance requires installation on VMware Server (v 1.0.4 or later) or VMware [Server](#) ESX. The software can also run on Citrix (NSDQ:[CTXS](#)) XenServer, and a version to run on Hyper-V is available by request. The vendor can also provide a preconfigured physical appliance. The client install requires Windows XP or Vista and [.Net](#) framework (version 2.0) or [Windows](#) Mobile. Replify has a three-way strategy: compression, network caching and application optimization. The caching software module is called XDR—which is Reptor's Accelerator Cross-Protocol Data Reduction technology. Both ends of the WAN "learn" the data payload as it flows between the clients and optimized servers.

Caching is done in a collection of data blocks rather than entire files. After caching, only references to the data blocks are sent across a WAN. Thus, when a file is changed, only the changes are sent across.

Installing Reptor is simplified with the pre-made virtual machine available to download. Reviewers easily imported the [virtual machine](#) into VMware ESX. Once that was done, network configuration and client installation were performed with ease as well.

To call the Virtual Appliance's Web-based management interface impressive would be an understatement. The [interface](#) is sleek, oh-so easy on any solution provider's or administrator's tired eyes and allows for effortless navigation. Realtime reports show optimized and raw data flow, optimization gains and response gains.

It's a breeze to add the servers to be optimized. They are added as "appliance servers" in the management interface. A [bit](#) of a mystery though, was the "Acceleration Profile" assigned to each appliance server. The naming of the profile led reviewers to believe that an acceleration profile could be modified or customized. There did not seem to be a way to accomplish this, however, anywhere within the interface.

Appliance servers are not just configurable via the interface. The Reptor Enterprise Manager is available as a separate module and can be used to configure the application for larger, multiappliance deployments.

The client program runs as a System Tray object. A neat feature is the Connection Spy, which displays the connections on the client that are being accelerated by Reptor. Clients can be customized in how they update, which [protocol](#) options are optimized (HTTP, [HTTPS](#) or CIFS) and how the program starts up.

With the current trend of data centers implementing virtualized servers, the continuous growth of remote workers who need fast and reliable access to their corporate networks plus a flourishing partner program, Replify stands to make a significant foothold in the market.