Comprehensive WAN Optimization
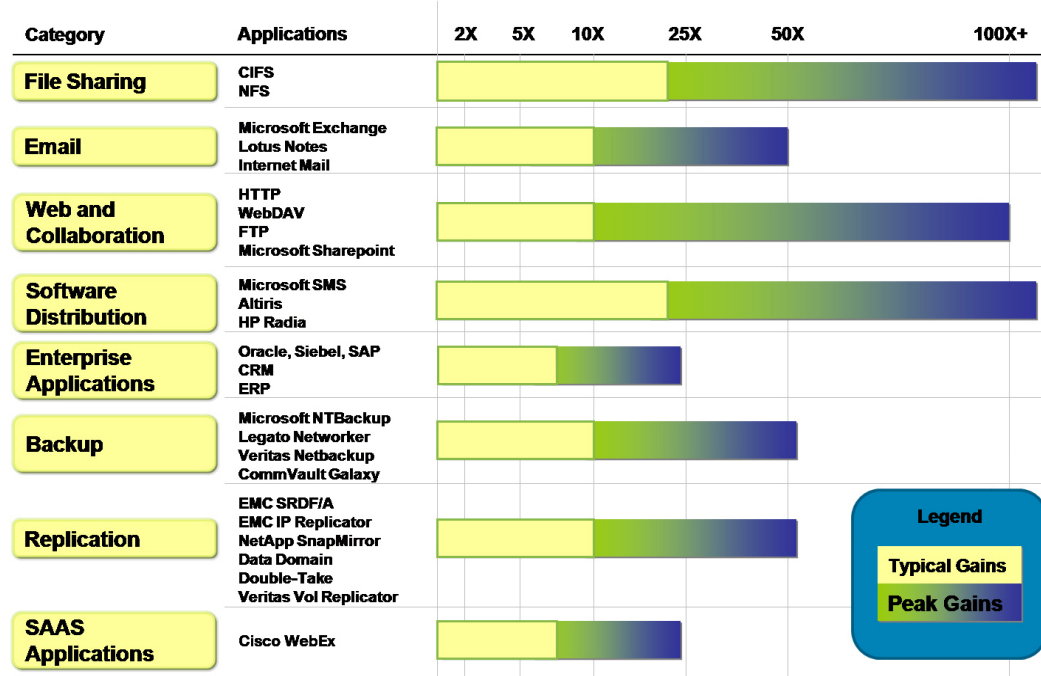
Cisco® Wide Area Application Services (WAAS) is a comprehensive WAN optimization and application acceleration solution that is a key component of Cisco Borderless Networks and Cisco Data Center 3.0 solutions.

Cisco WAAS accelerates applications and data over the WAN, optimizes bandwidth, empowers cloud computing, and provides local hosting of branch-office IT services, all with industry-leading network integration. Cisco WAAS allows IT organizations to centralize applications and storage while maintaining productivity for branch-office and mobile users.

Accelerated Application Performance

Cisco WAAS provides accelerated performance for a wide variety of enterprise applications delivered across the WAN. Typical acceleration ranges from 3 to 10 times. Some of the most popular applications, such as file sharing and software distribution, can be accelerated by up to 100 times (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Cisco WAAS Application Acceleration

Cisco WAAS Benefits

Increased Productivity

Cisco WAAS offers a superior end-user application experience by mitigating the effects of WAN latency, enabling applications to perform over the WAN close to the performance level on the LAN.

Branch-Office IT Cost Control

Cisco WAAS enables centralization of branch-office servers and storage in data centers, to reduce branch office costs, simplify remote data protection, and enhance business continuity by shrinking backup windows and achieving recovery point objectives for storage administrators. Cisco WAAS reduces branch IT infrastructure footprint, with the option to install guest operating systems, such as Microsoft Windows Server 2008R2 on appliance virtual blades or integrate Cisco WAAS functionality on Cisco Integrated Services Routers.
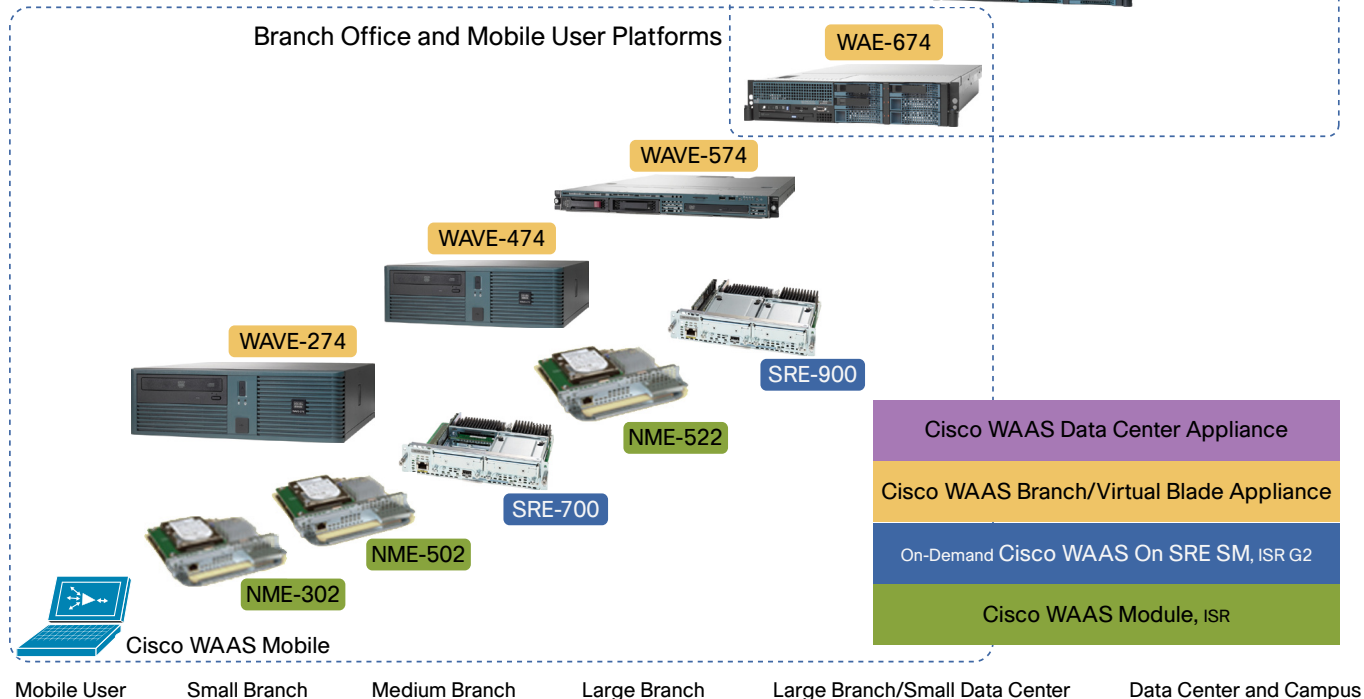
Business and Services Agility

Utimate agility is available with the Cisco Integrated Services Routers Generation 2 (ISR G2) and the Cisco Services-Ready Engine (SRE), offering WAN optimization "on demand" as business needs arise.

Cisco Wide Area Application Services

Figure 2 shows the Cisco WAAS appliance and module portfolio and Cisco WAAS mobile, representing industry-leading flexibility and scalability. The portfolio includes:

- A full appliance range supporting virtual blades in branch offices and scalable platforms for large data center deployments

- Cisco WAAS Software on Services-Ready Engine (SRE) Service Modules on Cisco ISR G2 routers provide on-demand WAN optimization for branch offices.

- Dedicated modules for both first- and second-generation Cisco Integrated Services Routers (ISRs)

Figure 2. Cisco WAAS Product Line

- Cisco WAAS Mobile delivers bidirectional compression, application-specific accelerators, and flow optimizers for deployment on mobile and desktop platforms where neither an appliance nor modules for a branch-office router are available or practical, or for public cloud environments that cannot support an appliance.

Data Center & Campus Platforms
WAE-7371
WAE-7341
WAE-674

Branch Office and Mobile User Platforms
WAVE-574
WAVE-474
WAVE-274
SRE-900
NME-522
SRE-700
NME-502
NME-302
Cisco WAAS Mobile

Cisco WAAS Data Center Appliance
Cisco WAAS Branch/Virtual Blade Appliance
On-Demand Cisco WAAS On SRE SM, ISR G2
Cisco WAAS Module, ISR

Mobile User | Small Branch | Medium Branch | Large Branch | Large Branch/Small Data Center | Data Center and Campus

Cisco WAAS Advantages

Router and Service Integration
Cisco WAAS delivers the industry's highest degree of integration with first- and second-generation Cisco Integrated Services Routers and transparency retains valuable router service functions.

Validated Designs Accelerate Return on Investment
Cisco WAAS customers can achieve fast integration of WAN optimization with published Cisco Validated Designs covering a range of IT deployments and popular enterprise applications that incorporate other network elements such as Cisco switches, routers, and security devices. In addition, Cisco offers award-winning global support and advanced services, providing customers with the resources to help ensure rapid time-to-value for WAN optimization deployments.

Open Architecture Offers Customer Choice
Cisco has developed a broad partner ecosystem of application and APM vendor solutions. Customers can use independent-software-vendor (ISV) partner-validated designs and use cases to enable optimal deployments of a wide range of applications. Customers can also integrate third party APM solutions to assess and monitor application performance. The result of this industry-leading ecosystem is the right set of design resources to help ensure successful WAN optimization deployments.

For More Information
For more information about Cisco WAAS, visit http://www.cisco.com/go/waas.