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(Whitepaper – business audience)

The Five "Shouldn't Be" Best Kept Secrets of a Proper Virtual Desktop Infrastructure Implementation

Faced with the need to cut costs, increase security, and answer the increasing demands for digital workplaces, many organizations are turning to virtual desktops. Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) uses a centralized server to run a virtual machine that hosts a desktop operating system. VDI delivers an entire desktop environment remotely.

With VDI, employees access a desktop terminal from any device. They can use a laptop, desktop or even a thin client, which is a device without a hard drive to access their applications, sensitive data, memory, and other features stored in a centralized data center. Your employees are able to securely and quickly access data in the office, on the road, or across town with VDI.

With nearly 80 million users, VDI has proven its worth by increasing flexibility for and productivity from employees, but only when it is done right. This whitepaper will put you on the path to arrive at the land of "getting it right the first time." By following these five simple steps, you can successfully implement a virtual desktop infrastructure.

Step One: Build a Business Case for VDI

The digital workplace assumes employee choice, rapid evolution and support for consumer-grade technologies but it is slowed by legacy applications. Desktop virtualization is a solution for legacy issues but it is also vital for migrating to a digital workplace.[1]

There are many long-term financial benefits to virtualizing desktops, but there are also risk and compliance benefits and even ones of trust and value for employees. With a

[1] (Nathan Hill, 2015)

business case that reaches beyond financial savings, you need to consider and value the benefits of increased security, more mobility, higher screen resolution, improved employee productivity, and decreased turnaround by IT for upgrades and other implementations. These tangible and intangible benefits are sometimes hard to quantify and enumerate.

Here are some of the items to consider when creating a business case:

- The cost of personal computers (PCs) or laptops is about twice the price of a thin client.
- Reducing or consolidating the number of under-utilized small servers to a limited number of fully utilized, virtualized large servers requires less money to operate and is more efficient.
- With no hard drives, no moving parts, minimum processing power and a relatively small amount of RAM, thin clients use dramatically less power than a personal computer. As an example, a company with 300 PCs would save over $7,000 annually in energy costs* alone by switching to thin clients. In addition, the organization's carbon footprint is reduced which helps the environment.

(Whitepaper – Technical audience)

Before the VDI launch – Read this!

While those higher up on the food chain may have decided transitioning to a VDI system would be a great idea, it falls to you to make the idea a working reality. This white paper will familiarize you with the process so the switch is as seamless as possible and you look brilliant.

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Why go VDI? Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) is defined as a desktop-centric service that hosts user desktop environments on remote servers and are accessed over a network using a remote display protocol. A connection brokering service is used to link users to their assigned desktop sessions. For users, this means they can access their desktop from any location, without being tied to a single client device. Since the resources are centralized, users moving between work locations can still access the same desktop environment complete with their applications and data. Information technology (IT) administrators will have a more centralized and efficient client environment that is easier to maintain and able to respond more quickly to the changing needs of the user and business.

Step 1: Define your company's goals

Organizations can have a variety of goals for virtualizing desktops. Learning the issues your company's management is hoping to solve can be the most important step in the process.

Many look to virtualizing desktops as a way to increase security. The technology used with VDI allows for multiple layers of protection with multiple defenses. In particular, it improves security by enabling better isolation and controls over the environment in which the Windows system exists.

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