

Desktop Virtualization

Maywood Solutions are experts in the art of Virtualization.

By applying our tried and tested VirtualDesktop Infrastructure Methodology we can plan, design, test, deploy and manage virtual desktop solutions.

Is Your Business Ready for Desktop Virtualization?

Virtualisation of the desktop is another fast emerging technology within the enterprise computing space. What was once viewed as a technology that was limited to providing users with just the applications they required, Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) can now provide users with a full and rich desktop experience using thin client type devices.

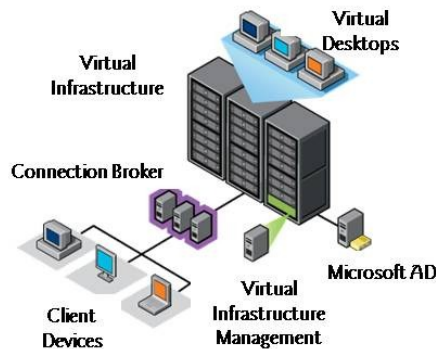
According to Gartner Inc. the worldwide hosted virtual desktop (HVD) market will accelerate through 2013 to reach 49 million units, up from more than 500,000 units in 2009. Gartner also estimated that approximately 15 percent of current worldwide traditional professional desktop PCs would migrate to HVDs by 2014, equal to about 66 million connected devices!

By virtualising your desktops, IT can take back control and start to realise the cost savings and business agility benefits of deploying a virtual desktop infrastructure. The question is not whether you can afford to virtualise, but rather "How can you afford not to?"

What is Desktop Virtualization?

Virtual Desktop Infrastructure is a desktop technology hosted on the same platforms as server virtualisation but instead virtualises the desktop operating system rather than server operating system.

The desktop operating systems run as virtual machines which are hosted on x86 server hardware, centralised in the data centre and the users connect to their virtual desktop PC from the office or remotely using a thin client device, standard PC or laptop from any location.



By implementing this technology, administrators and end users get the best of both worlds; administrators get the central management of desktops whilst the users themselves get a full and rich desktop experience accessible anytime regardless of the device they are using.

One of the ways in which this technology differs from server virtualisation is in the process of how users connect to their virtual desktop. This is where a technology known as a "Connection Broker" is introduced.

The connection broker manages and assigns virtual desktops to the users and allows IT to manage both the resources and access control policies to those users. When a user logs in, the connection broker will allocate them a virtual desktop from a pool of available desktop resources. These virtual desktops could be different hardware and software configurations and are allocated based on the users individual security policy and requirements.

vendors provide technology solutions that provision a virtual desktop on demand as the user logs on, creating their desktop "on the fly" Applications are then dynamically delivered to the virtual desktop as it is being built. Each time the user logs in they are presented with a freshly installed machine as if they had a brand new PC.

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What Benefits Can Virtual Desktop Infrastructure Deliver to My Business?

VDI brings with it numerous advantages in both saving time and money. Cost savings on not deploying expensive, over specified desktop PC's. Power savings - a typical desktop PC will consume around 120 Watts, whereas a thin client will consume around 10 Watts. Reduced management costs in deploying and patching OS and applications. DR and business continuity and more importantly, delivering secure desktop environments remotely.

Reduce Desktop Management Costs

Deploying virtual desktop infrastructure allows you to centralise the management of hardware, operating systems and applications into the datacentre.

Another cost reduction is in the amount of storage required for deploying the virtual desktop images. By creating a "master image" each new virtual machine can be "streamed" from this one image so that the virtual machines share virtual disks. This also allows you to update the entire desktop environment by just updating the master image, for example if you migrated to a new OS.

By effectively removing the hardware, there is no need for time consuming image building each time your PC vendor changes their models. This takes away any potential failures due to driver compatibility issues.

Deliver Complete Desktop Environments Securely

Security is a key area within a VDI solution bringing with it major advantages. All your data is now securely stored within your data centre. Users access their own personal desktop complete with applications and data, remotely from any location or from within the office. No data leaves the datacentre, the only information sent across the network is key strokes and video screen shots - it's just like watching television!

Some vendors also have the capability of providing complete, packaged applications which include the OS and user settings on an encrypted USB memory stick, allowing users to experience their desktop experience from any device in locations that may not normally be considered safe environments such as internet cafes.

Fast Provisioning, Desktop Management, DR & Business Continuity

Do you always have the pain of provisioning new desktops? Are you being given a minutes notice of the ten new starters on Monday that require a PC? Do you have to go out to suppliers and get three quotes for desktop PC's then have to wait weeks for delivery? Not any more! Virtual desktop infrastructure gives you the ability to provision desktop PC's dynamically and within minutes, dramatically cutting deployment time, whilst also allowing you to manage your software licensing costs.

Disaster recovery solutions for desktops are usually both costly and complex. By leveraging your virtual infrastructure, you can take advantage of the enterprise class features that virtualisation brings, therefore simplifying your desktop DR strategy.

High availability features that prevent user downtime, by automatically restarting virtual desktops should they fail. Allow users to work from any location with any device in the event of DR being invoked due to building fires. Backup user's desktops centrally in the datacentre whilst also replicating them to offsite locations.

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