

Who Are The Beneficiaries Of Virtualization?

There are various desktop virtualization benefits that impact multiple divisions within a company, ranging from the obvious to what happens in the computing system background.

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Having read the first two segments of my desktop virtualization series, you have learned a little about virtualization, some forms of virtualization, and have started thinking about those in your company who would benefit from virtual environments and where your IT department can save time and improve resource management.

The next step in implementing virtual desktops is selecting the tools for Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI).

VDI hardware, software and services client. One of the attractions to virtual desktops is the flexibility of the client. An old PC, a thin client or any other device with wireless connectivity can be function as the client. The client becomes nothing more than a portal to the working environment.

Bootimg. The client connects to the server using some method of booting up traditionally through the hard drive or OS. If your user interface is a thin client and does not have an OS locally installed then a Preboot eXecutiou Environment (PXE) can be implemented. Commonly this plug-in is available through your virtualization software provider.

Server. This is the powerhouse of the computing environment. The capacity will depend on the size and breadth of the company and task load. It will house the software end-users need as well as manage remote desktops and virtualization software.

Virtualization software. This software acts as a conduit for client connectivity. There are a myriad of choices so that you can select the correct software to meet your business goals.

What are the advantages of using any particular type of platform for a virtualization solution?

VMWare. Since it is the original virtualization software the name VMWare has become synonymous to describe the software and the technical set-up. VMWare has a foundation that has been proven with more than 190,000 customers. Combine familiarity with functionality of virtualization from desktop to server to cloud VMWare is a popular selection among available software.

As virtualization becomes more common additional software choices have been developed.

Microsoft enterprise VDI solution. This solution is cost effective also as the expense of server licensing includes virtualization technology. Hyper-V is simple to implement and maintenance is just a build on to existing IT administration skills. Hyper-V was also designed with a best-of-breed approach, an opportunity that comes from hitting the market later.

2X Software. Among all the other choices, I want to look at just one more, 2X Thinclient. This is the single solution that offers desktop connectivity from any PC, Mac, thin client or Smartphone by leveraging Thinclient and is often most suited to small and mid-size businesses. It also is widely recognized as one of the fastest solutions and claims to rival the speed of localized PCs.

Besides selecting the appropriate platform, what other steps are important to ensure a successful implementation?

The approach to deploying a successful VDI implementation should start with a solid business analysis. What are the objectives that to be reached? How does this align with your corporations overall strategy? What are the current time and financial commitments for management and upgrading the existing infrastructure? What will those costs and labor hours evolve to in a virtual infrastructure?

Once the decision to implement a virtual environment is in place it is important to map out your current and presumed working environment from each users end station. Understand peak usage times, processing speeds and application requirements. This mapping should include local, remote and contract users, a group that you will draw from for a pilot implementation.

Using the pilot program determine more refined goals and metrics. What does success look like for your organization? Benchmark your current users experience because if the user experience suffers the project is unlikely to survive.

In the end, the objective of IT structure and development is to increase value through cost savings and efficiency. Therefore, a well implemented VDI rollout provides an equal or better working environment for end-users as well as the IT department. ●



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