

Who's Your Best Virtualization Solution Candidate?

Understanding the end user benefits of a desktop virtualization solution is the first step to identifying your best prospects.

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Which end customers can benefit from virtualization technologies?

The benefits of desktop virtualization can be reaped in many divisions of a company, and for end users the benefits range from the obvious to what happens in the background of their computing system.

Mobility and access are available but not limited to one's physical proximity to the office. Users have the ability to log-on to their office computing environment from home. Here, the reward is two-fold: First, users like the ability to log in from anywhere. The ability to allow work-from-home incentives is highly valued by employees. Mid- and upper-level management employees also appreciate the ability to log in from home or on the road and experience the same functionality and performance they have in the office. Second, because any Internet enabled device can be the computing system, many savvy users operate from a tablet or smartphone and don't have to lug a laptop on planes or into the boardroom.

With each login users have a solid and predictable computing system because each time they are getting a fresh desktop image with all OS and software patches updated; it is like a new PC every time. Not only will users be free of the frustration of a system malfunction that requires waiting for IT repair, the desktop team is freed from troubleshooting errors caused by unauthorized updates because all such changes are cleared when the user exits the system.

Also, desktop support technicians no longer have to dash about an organization to assist users with desktop and peripheral issues as the desktop controls are housed on the server. Updates are managed in a central location within the data center bringing many support issues to a single, physical location.

Which types of customers are the best candidates for a virtualization solution?

I have already mentioned two users experiences that are enhanced by desktop virtualization, but to clarify the analysis of virtualization let's define the user groups that can be the best fit for virtualization.

Remote employees. Migration away from the traditional PC environment may be sparked by mobile and remote employees who need to access applications, tools and data from a myriad of locations. Previously the solution was a laptop loaded with software and data — some of which is sensitive. The mobility of the device multiplies the vulnerability of it being lost or stolen. With a virtual environment a lost device becomes just that — a lost device, because the data and software is not stored on the device, it's within the server. Without an employee login, the device has no access to sensitive data or costly software.

Multi-device users. Employees who need access from a variety of devices, company or personally owned, also are excellent candidates. The complexity of supporting tablets and smartphones and working around issues with personal computers is eliminated with a virtual solution. Additionally, the company's materials are safeguarded against potential problems that could be introduced by a personal computer.

Task specific work. Employees whose work is based around specific tasks also gain an advantage from virtual desktops. Repetitive tasks that draw on the same resources over and over create a dependence on reliable systems. Reliability is an inherent benefit of virtual computing solutions.

Are you interested in implementing some virtual environments in your business? In my next segment, I'll discuss the tools and equipment needed to complete a virtual solution project and explain the advantages of various platforms. ●



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