

A decorative graphic of blue dots of varying sizes, arranged in a curved line that starts from the left edge and points towards the right, ending near the main title.

# Microsoft-Citrix Virtual Desktop Infrastructure

VDI Solution from Microsoft and Citrix

## VDI: A new approach to desktop deployment

Virtualized Desktop Infrastructure or VDI is an emerging desktop deployment strategy for enterprises where flexibility and compliance are critical. VDI is particularly compelling to organizations seeking:

- Flexible user access, where users need access to their work environment from any authorized device, including work scenarios such as work from home and hot-desking
- To improve business continuity and data security
- Centralized management of the desktop OS and applications

VDI enables the centralized management of desktops making them easier to update, backup and manage. However, many lifecycle management issues persist – IT still needs to manage, maintain and update each virtual desktop image, along with all its installed apps and user settings. In addition, VDI can create new challenges such as degraded user experience over high latency networks and the high costs of networked storage needed for each user's desktop image.

## Microsoft & Citrix – the next step for VDI

Microsoft and Citrix® have teamed to deliver an integrated end-to-end suite of technologies that represent a comprehensive and cost effective VDI solution. Microsoft-Citrix VDI solutions enable organizations to dynamically assemble virtual desktops on-demand, providing users a new and pristine, yet personalized, desktop each time they log on – ensuring that high levels of performance are maintained. In addition, Citrix HDX technologies provide unparalleled responsiveness over any network. Citrix XenDesktop together with the Microsoft® VDI Suite including Windows Server® 2008 R2 with Hyper-V™ and Microsoft System Center Virtual Machine Manager R2 (SCVMM R2) give IT organizations the tools to maximize operational flexibility while greatly simplifying desktop lifecycle management by separating the delivery of the desktop OS, applications and user settings.

*“For nearly two decades, Microsoft and Citrix have delivered significant value to customers, and we’re excited to expand our work around desktop and server virtualization technologies.”*

**said Bob Muglia, senior vice president of the Server and Tools Business at Microsoft.**

*“Virtualization enables our customers to deliver the right computing resources to their employees virtually anytime, anywhere, regardless of the situation, and helps create IT systems that are more efficient, more flexible and more cost-effective. Microsoft and Citrix are working together on product integration so that customers have access to comprehensive and flexible virtualization solutions, all controlled by an integrated management platform.”*



## Features

### Windows Server® 2008 R2

- The most advanced Windows Server operating system ever offered by Microsoft
- Windows Server 2008 Hyper-V — the next-generation hypervisor-based server virtualization technology from Microsoft

### Citrix XenDesktop

- Supports virtual machines running on Windows Server 2008 with Hyper-V and integrates with System Center Virtual Machine Manager 2008
- Dynamically assembles a virtual desktop each time a user logs on to deliver superior VDI performance
- Enables IT to centrally manage many virtual desktops from a single image, or a small set of managed images to reduce storage requirements and simplifies upgrades and rollbacks by maintaining a single desktop image

### System Center Virtual Machine Manager 2008 R2

- System Center Management Suite with Virtual Machine Manager (SCVMM) — simplifies the deployment, provisioning, and management of virtual servers
- Enables intelligent placement of virtual machines on the best-suited physical host servers
- Provides performance and resource optimization (PRO) for dynamic and responsive management of a virtual infrastructure

### Microsoft Application Virtualization

- Enables dynamic delivery of applications to virtual desktops on demand
- Reduces application-to-application conflicts and application regression testing
- Simplifies and expedites application updates and upgrades
- Enables offline usage through local caching of applications
- Ships as part of the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack (MDOP)

## Advantages

**Scalable, stable and high performance hypervisor** that hosts the virtual desktops. Windows Server 2008 R2 with Hyper-V is a next-generation hypervisor that includes features such as quick migration, high availability, and live backups.

**An integrated management suite** that allows IT to manage physical, virtual and session based desktops from a single console. Microsoft's management capability also allows for managing non-Microsoft infrastructure components. Systems Center Virtual Machine Manager 2008 R2 is part of Systems Center, which is an industry leading IT management suite.

**Application virtualization technology** enables dynamic delivery of applications to the user's virtual desktop instead of installing applications as part of the virtual desktop image. This helps reduce the memory footprint of the virtual desktops, as well as improves application management. Depending on whether the application is executed locally or remotely, customers can either deploy Microsoft Application Virtualization 4.5 or Microsoft Terminal Services RemoteApp.

**Citrix XenDesktop functionality to extend the value of Microsoft's VDI technology.** XenDesktop dynamically provisions remote desktops, by combining a pristine golden desktop image with a user's profile and personal settings at runtime, and delivering a personalized desktop to the end user while ensuring superior VDI performance.

**Superior user experience** leveraging Citrix HDX technologies to deliver the fastest desktop performance, up to 2x faster; access virtual desktops within seconds and eliminate lengthy boot times across any network on any authorized device.

## Licensing

Solution requires licensing for Citrix XenDesktop and the Microsoft VDI Suite including Virtual Enterprise Centralized Desktop (VECD) license options. VECD can be licensed for both PCs and thin-clients.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.citrix.com/XenDesktop>

<http://www.microsoft.com/VDI>

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