



Boosting business productivity for mid-sized organizations through cloud-based desktop technologies

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In an effort to raise employee productivity and reduce downtime, many organizations are evaluating technologies that can allow workers to be more flexible. One innovation providing quantifiable benefits is virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) which offers several productivity benefits by delivering the computing experience from the datacenter. In this type of architecture, user data, applications, and the computer's operating system reside on servers, streamlining IT management and allowing increasingly mobile employees to work from anywhere.

Despite its many quantifiable benefits, capital constraints and dated perceptions about the technology have slowed VDI adoption. Implementation could in some cases be a costly and complex undertaking requiring substantial expertise. Additionally, some early pilot programs and proof-of-concept deployments may have motivated many IT managers to review the technology from the sidelines.

Today, solutions are purpose-built for rapid deployment, streamlined management, and easy coupling with thin and zero client endpoints. Recent innovations have dramatically improved performance and capabilities while also significantly reducing the cost of adoption. The simplification of infrastructure and the availability of stand-alone VDI appliances has now made adopting desktop virtualization a viable, easily achievable option for organizations of any size. Even so, misperceptions about the technology persist.

How can VDI boost productivity for a mid-sized organization?

Before getting into specifics of the implementation of desktop virtualization, let's first look at how it can benefit an organization's workforce. Making employees as efficient as possible means removing the impediments to productivity, and



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VDI offers a number of advantages that help boost people's ability to produce at a consistently high level to achieve their goals:

Security: The proliferation of smart devices has led to concerns about breaches resulting from data residing on unapproved or insecure tablets and smartphones. With desktop virtualization much of this risk is eliminated: should a user's device be lost or stolen, corporate data and applications remain safely within the datacenter.

Uptime: The average time to return a malfunctioning legacy PC to service can be as much as eight hours. When a virtual desktop has an issue, the administrator can address it centrally and have the employee back up and running in a matter of minutes. Often the remedy is simply restarting a user's session and providing the employee with a pristine image and access to their stored and safeguarded data.

Mobility: Desktop virtualization allows users to securely access their applications and data using the device of their choice, from anywhere they can connect to a reliable internet connection. This means that employees are untethered and can embrace flexible work schedules or access their data and workloads wherever they can be most productive.

Mobility is increasingly a key factor to boosting productivity of the modern workforce. Dell's most recent [Evolving Workplace Report](#) found that 48% of professionals in developed markets and 83% in emerging markets now do some aspect of their jobs from home. The ability to work unencumbered from any location is now a nearly universal expectation yet one that can conflict with an organization's need to keep its information secure.

Implementing VDI

There are many ways to implement VDI, and they can be grouped into two general methodologies: Reference Architectures, which allow a high degree of customization (with a higher upfront services investment) and Appliances, which are simple to procure and deploy with a fixed configuration.

Reference architectures (RAs)

Reference architectures provide guidance to allow your IT department to assemble a more flexible solution. Designed to work together so that organizations can create and customize their own VDI solution. Dell spends thousands of hours testing and certifying these RAs with today's leading connection brokers from Citrix®, VMware® and Nutanix so your organization can easily select and deploy a solution with your preferred capabilities. Reference architecture designs leverage the best of Dell and our partners' technologies to deliver the best performing solution to meet your organization's use cases. Dell also provides services, both directly and through its trusted partner network, to help any organization achieve its desktop virtualization goals.

Appliances

VDI appliances are converged infrastructure devices that combine compute, storage, and software in a single chassis to support a specific workload. They are generally favored by organizations looking for ease of deployment and management with predictable costs as they scale. For instance, the [Dell XC web-scale converged appliance for VDI](#) starts with three 2U rack-mountable nodes supporting about 300 users. This architecture can then scale one node at a time to support thousands of users. The [Dell Precision Appliance for Wyse](#) runs workstation class workloads and offers an end-to-end solution that





deploys in five minutes or less and can scale to grow with your needs.

And finally the Dell Appliance for Wyse-Citrix provides a fast way to deploy a pilot or VDI for a smaller group of users — up to 150 for full desktop virtualization or up to 350 for shared desktops.

Conclusion

Our focus on innovation has made virtual desktop infrastructure more manageable for mid-sized organizations, while maintaining a high-quality user experience. These approaches allow implementation of an entire end-to-end solution that will improve efficiencies and delivers value for your investment. Whether you build an infrastructure using a reference architecture or a VDI appliance, Dell will provide a compelling path into the world of desktop virtualization. With our end-to-end solutions, it has never been easier to provide your employees with the modern tools they need to be efficient and flexible from wherever they are most productive.

For more information on desktop virtualization, thin clients, reference architectures or appliances, we invite you to visit us at Dell.com/wyse.

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