



Microsoft® VDI

Microsoft® Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) is a centralized desktop delivery solution from Microsoft which allows customers to centralize the storage, execution and management of a Windows desktop in the data center. It is a complete, end-to-end Microsoft virtualization solution enabling Windows Vista Enterprise and other desktop environments to run and be managed in virtual machines on a centralized server. Key benefits of a centralized desktop strategy include better enablement of flexible work scenarios such as work from home and hot-desking, increased data security and compliance, as well as easy and efficient management of the desktop OS and applications.

VDI is best suited for contract and offshore workers, for users who need access to their work environment from anywhere, including from a non-company owned PC, as well as enterprise customers with a centralized desktop strategy for office workers. Terminal Services, which has been widely adopted for virtualizing the presentation of entire desktops or individual applications, is an alternative centralized desktop delivery solution from Microsoft and provides the most cost-effective solution for task workers.

Microsoft VDI Solution Components

Microsoft VDI is a carefully matched combination of Microsoft's latest innovations in the areas of hypervisor-based virtualization, management of virtual machines running Windows desktops, and licensing. The core components of Microsoft VDI are:

- **Windows Server® 2008 with Hyper-V™** — provides great value with a reliable virtualization platform and integrated management that enables customers to virtualize their desktop infrastructure.
- **System Center Virtual Machine Manager 2008** — simplifies the deployment, provisioning, and management of virtualized desktops.
- **Windows Server 2008 Terminal Services** — virtualizes the presentation of entire desktops or specific applications in a virtualized desktop.
- **Microsoft Application Virtualization (App-V)** — is part of the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack and delivers desktop applications that are never installed, and are dynamically delivered on demand.
- **Windows Vista™ Enterprise Centralized Desktop** — is a unique licensing option of Windows Vista for VDI

Citrix XenDesktop for Microsoft VDI

Together with Citrix XenDesktop, a partner solution running with Windows Server 2008 with Hyper-V and integrated with System Center Virtual Machine Manager, Microsoft VDI can create a dynamic IT environment that uses desktop virtualization to centralize employee desktops, helps increase data security, and provide greater operational flexibility. Citrix XenDesktop greatly simplifies desktop lifecycle management and helps reduce the cost of ownership of a virtual desktop infrastructure by separating the delivery of the desktop OS, applications and user settings.

Key Features

• Windows Server 2008 with Hyper-V

- Windows Server 2008 — the most advanced Windows Server OS ever offered by Microsoft
- Hyper-V — the next-generation, hypervisor-based server and desktop virtualization technology from Microsoft

• System Center Virtual Machine Manager 2008

- Designed for managing virtual machines running on Windows Server 2008 with Hyper-V
- 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

• Windows Server 2008 Terminal Services

- Allows for the separation of the location of applications from that of the desktop OS, rendering provisioning of the virtual desktop image more flexible
- Terminal Services RemoteApp™ seamlessly integrates server-based applications into the virtual desktop so applications appear no different than applications that are part of the desktop image
- Terminal Services Gateway can help provide a highly secure connection between the internal desktop and users outside the firewall, without the need for an additional VPN infrastructure

• Microsoft Application Virtualization 4.5 (App-V)

- Reduces application conflicts by enabling multiple versions of the same application to run side by side
- Significantly reduces application-to-application regression testing due to virtual application isolation
- Simplifies and expedites application updates and upgrades; update once without touching each device
- Saves user settings and data; virtual applications follow the user online and offline
- Fully compatible with Terminal Services via the Application Virtualization Client for Terminal Services
- Ships as part of the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance suite of products

• Citrix XenDesktop

- Supports virtual machines running on Windows Server 2008 with Hyper-V and integrates with System Center Virtual Machine Manager 2008
- Brokers virtual desktop connections for enterprise-scale deployments
- Enables dynamic, high-performance, personalized virtual desktops, helps reduce storage requirements, and simplifies upgrades and rollbacks by maintaining a single desktop image

Licensing

Microsoft VDI is licensed with Vista Enterprise Centralized Desktop (VECD) license options.

VECD can be licensed for both PCs and thin-clients.

- PC License: An annual subscription in addition to Windows Software Assurance.
- Thin client license: An annual subscription which includes Windows Software Assurance.
- In both cases customers can install an unlimited number of copies of Windows Vista Enterprise or downgrade operating systems on server hardware and access up to 4 concurrent running instances from a licensed device.

Citrix XenDesktop is not a Microsoft product and is licensed separately by Citrix® Systems.

