

# Simplify Desktop Management, Enhance Security, and Lower Costs with Cisco Virtual Desktop Solutions



## Control Your Desktop Environment

Schools, colleges, and universities must continuously provide a flexible desktop environment for their students, teachers, and administrators. Cisco offers a portfolio of desktop virtualization solutions that are uniquely positioned to deliver rapid deployment of desktops and offer superior control and security of centralized desktops—all while reducing overall desktop total cost of ownership (TCO). Working together with desktop virtualization industry leaders, Cisco delivers solutions that address a broad set of school and IT requirements. Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) changes the way that students, teachers, and administrators work and learn by providing secure access to centrally managed desktops from any device on any network.

## Manage Centralized User Desktops

VDI is the fastest-growing approach to desktop virtualization, allowing school IT departments to centrally host and manage user desktops on virtual machines residing in the data center. Teachers, students, and staff can access their server-hosted virtual desktop from anywhere and from a broad range of devices. The end device no longer stores the user's applications or data. Instead, they are housed in centralized storage residing in the data center.

VDI supports a diverse set of end-user devices that interact with a hosted virtual desktop:

- Thin clients provide an optimized, lower-cost device designed specifically to interact with a hosted virtual desktop
- Zero clients or display terminals that support a keyboard, video, and mouse only
- Virtual desktop software within a standard PC or laptop computer
- Smartphones or tablets, such as the Cisco® Cius™, acting as thin clients

## Why Virtual Desktops?

Cisco desktop virtualization solutions deliver a server-hosted VDI that offers the following benefits to schools, colleges, and universities:

- Easier-to-manage desktop environments: Centralizing the management and control of desktops can save you time and resources while both increasing access to applications and promoting productivity. Lab, library, or shared desktop PCs can automatically refresh every night; between classes; or upon student, teacher, or professor login.
- Reduced Microsoft Windows 7 migration costs: Migrating to Windows 7 represents an opportunity to transform desktop delivery and enhance the end-user experience for students and school personnel. Using Cisco's tested methodologies and partner technologies, schools, colleges, and universities cut the time and cost of migrating to Windows 7 in half.
- Increased security and data protection: Configuring each virtual desktop with a standard image that is compliant with your educational institution's security and protection guidelines gives you greater peace of mind.
- Lower operational costs: Centrally managing desktops for many students and staff can reduce help-desk calls and enhance the provisioning of new desktops.
- Reduced ongoing capital expenditures: Consolidating IT infrastructure into the data center helps delay hardware refreshes and minimizes storage requirements. VDI implementations typically require initial capital expenditures that translate into significant savings over the lifecycle.



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## Desktop Virtualization in Schools, Colleges, and Universities

Cisco desktop virtualization solutions can transform classrooms and traditional education delivery methods. Because educational institutions often share a few computers installed in computer labs and classrooms, virtualized desktops could provide every student, teacher, and administrator with a unique desktop and interactive multimedia experiences.

Cisco desktop virtualization solutions also help you:

- Extend desktop hardware refresh cycles because the hardware requirements to run thin client software can be met by older PC hardware.
- Optimize adds, moves, and changes for several desktops.
- Provide every student, teacher, and staff member with their own personalized desktops, while providing temporary personnel with a pool of nonpersistent or “clean” desktops.
- Facilitate desktop delivery for computer labs, quickly providing a standard desktop image.
- Allow students to use personal devices, including tablets or phones with Google Android or Apple iOS operating systems.
- Simplify migration to newer operating systems.
- Reduce support and help-desk calls.
- Easily provision personal desktops for remote learning environments.

## Cisco Solutions for VDI

Combining renowned partner offerings, service offerings, and best practices, end-to-end VDI solutions draw upon Cisco’s architectural advantage to support diverse endpoint devices, extend security and policy management to each virtual desktop, and use the power of the network infrastructure to deliver multimedia applications for students, teachers, and administrators.

## Find Out More

For more information about Cisco solutions for VDI, please visit: [www.cisco.com/go/vdi](http://www.cisco.com/go/vdi)



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