



Cisco Desktop Virtualization Solution with Citrix XenDesktop

Delivering Desktops and Applications as On-Demand Services

On-Demand Virtual Desktops and Applications

The Cisco® Desktop Virtualization Solution with Citrix XenDesktop delivers desktops and applications as on-demand services to users anywhere, at any time, and on their choice of devices (Figure 1). The solution increases mobility and flexibility, resulting in greater productivity across a global workforce. Deployed on a platform built from the start to support virtualized environments, the solution delivers an uncompromised user experience for every user in the enterprise. It helps IT departments centralize their desktop operations, makes them secure and



compliant; and it better supports the foundation of any of business: people.

Achieve a New Balance

The Cisco Desktop Virtualization Solution with Citrix XenDesktop achieves an optimal balance between the needs of users for more mobility, flexibility, and choice and the needs of IT departments to centralize desktop infrastructure, secure mission-critical data, and respond quickly to rapidly changing business requirements.

The solution uses high-performance Intel® Xeon® processors, whose power is unleashed by the Cisco Unified Computing System™, and whose reach is extended worldwide through the end-to-end capabilities of Cisco networking technologies. Citrix XenDesktop software delivers applications and desktops as on-demand services, offering an outstanding user experience.



A Mobile, Flexible, Productive Workforce

The needs of today's global businesses are undergoing rapid change, and IT departments must adapt to business growth by responding quickly to events that may include mergers and acquisitions, the opening of

Figure 1. The Solution Delivers Virtual Desktops and Applications as an On-Demand Service to Users Anywhere, Any Time, and on Their Choice of Devices



branch offices, and the establishment of offshore functions such as call centers. Users expect the same rate of innovation from their companies as they do from the consumer market, and they demand the flexibility to use enterprise applications at any time, from anywhere, on their desktops, laptops, and favorite mobile devices.

The Cisco Desktop Virtualization Solution with Citrix XenDesktop delivers desktops and applications as on-demand services, streaming applications and desktops tailored to all users in an enterprise environment. The result is greater user mobility and flexibility and increased productivity for both users and the IT departments that serve them.

An Uncompromised User Experience

Citrix HDX technology delivers a high-definition user experience. It offers better reliability and higher availability than a traditional PC, even when using multimedia, real-time collaboration, USB peripherals, and 3D graphics. Citrix FlexCast delivery technology tailors the delivery model to match the needs of users, with the

choices including virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) and session-based desktops and client or server-side delivery.

The solution excels because of its integrated, high-speed networking, which speeds application delivery to devices on a LAN, and wide-area application features, which support a large number of users over a WAN link. The result is a superior user experience delivered by a platform that scales on demand to meet business needs.

High-Performance, Scalable, and Agile Infrastructure

Getting the most out of desktop virtualization requires high-performance, flexible, reliable infrastructure. Cisco Unified Computing System is a platform built from the ground up to support virtualized environments. From the Intel Virtualization Technology built into every computing resource to the system's virtualization-aware networking, the platform brings higher performance, scalability, and agility with a lower cost than other comparable systems.

The cohesive, stateless system is wired once with hardware and networking provisioned and configured through software. The solution's end-to-end server and networking infrastructure is configured in minutes through Cisco service profiles, bringing utmost flexibility and rapid scalability to desktop virtualization. The power of Intel Xeon processors is deployed across a large, low-cost memory footprint supported by Cisco Extended Memory Technology, increasing virtual machine density and reducing capital expenditures. The system's redundant 10-Gbps unified fabric eliminates the need for separate IP and storage networks while speeding the flow of data to users whether in the local data center or across the globe.



Secure IT Operations and Increased Compliance

One of the most significant challenges that an IT department must address is how to regain control of the desktop infrastructure and the mission-critical data that resides on distributed PCs. With the Cisco Desktop Virtualization Solution with Citrix XenDesktop, users can access their desktops, applications, and data, with IT departments setting policies that control whether information is allowed to leave the data center.

The solution's single-instance management separates device, OS, applications, and user personalization to maintain a single master image of each. Instead of juggling thousands of static, unique, and vulnerable desktop images, IT departments can manage everything from a central location. With users running only approved images, ongoing patching and maintenance efforts are reduced; and desktop compliance is increased.

Cisco VN-Link technology provides outstanding visibility and control. With network connectivity to virtual machines managed just like physical links, IT departments can further centralize their network security policies while enhancing security and virtual machine mobility.

Accelerate Your Deployment

The Cisco Desktop Virtualization Solution with Citrix XenDesktop is the industry's first complete, tested, and verified solution designed to meet the unique needs of hosted virtual desktop environments. The solution's modular architecture makes it straightforward to scale as more organizations convert to virtual desktops. Three packages are offered (Figure 2):

- **Cisco UCS Base Pack for Desktop Virtualization:** This package establishes the virtual desktop infrastructure, with servers selected to support Citrix management software, and an initial virtualization farm provided to get 300 to 700 VDI-based virtual-

ized desktops and applications up and running quickly.

- **Cisco UCS Expansion Pack for VDI-Based Desktops:** Add this package one or more times to increase capacity to host additional VDI-based desktops. This package expands the virtualization farm by adding four Cisco UCS B250 M2 Extended Memory Blade Servers equipped with Cisco Extended Memory Technology and powerful Intel Xeon processors. Each server can support up to 110 to 120 Microsoft Windows 7 virtual desktops as measured by a knowledge worker benchmark.
- **Cisco UCS Expansion Unit for Hosted Shared Desktops:** Add this package one or more times to increase capacity to host up to tens of thousands of session-based desktops. This package expands the virtualization farm by adding eight Cisco UCS B200 M2 Blade Servers with Intel Xeon processors.

The Time Is Now

Cisco is the leader in enterprise networking, and Citrix is the leader in desktop virtualization. Together the two companies deliver a solution that addresses a common vision of the changing workplace. With the support of both industry leaders, the time is right to embrace desktop virtualization.

For More Information

Please visit <http://www.cisco.com/go/citrix>.

Figure 2. The Solution Begins with the Cisco UCS Base Pack for Desktop Virtualization, and It Scales with the Cisco UCS Expansion Pack for VDI-Based Desktops and the Cisco UCS Expansion Pack for Hosted Shared Desktops

