

Your Workspace to Go: Work on Any Device, from Anywhere

Suppose you're away from the office and need information to make a decision about a citizen inquiry, public works project, or an emergency response. What do you do? "Until recently, public sector workers were tethered to the office when it came to consulting databases, accessing government applications, or using voice or video services," says Tony Paikeday, solutions manager for desktop virtualization at Cisco.

Now, instead of having to go someplace specific to work, your workspace can come to you over the network, wherever you are, on your choice of device. The concept is known as the virtual workspace.

Freeing the Workspace from Your PC

The term virtual workspace refers to the fact that the applications and data you see on your device are actually stored in the data center, not on your device. As a result, you can work and be productive with any device (laptop, thin client, tablet, or smartphone) and with any network connection (wired, Wi-Fi, or cellular).

Unlike traditional virtual desktops, the new virtual workspace also provides a rich voice and video collaboration experience that you can bring with you. And if you lose your laptop or tablet, you don't have to worry about losing sensitive information as you would if your applications and data were stored on the device itself. "Now it's simply a matter of getting a replacement device, logging in, and picking up your applications and data exactly where you left them, which fortunately is in the data center instead of a taxi cab," says Paikeday.

A portable work environment helps meet several government priorities:

- **Continuity of government:** If roads or offices are closed for any reason, personnel can access applications, voice, and video services from anywhere, including home, hotel, airport, or another office. "You might start your workday in the office, using a thin client, and then continue at home, right where you left off, using a personal tablet," says Paikeday.
- **Interagency collaboration:** During disasters, agencies such as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) need to coordinate with state and local first responders as well as Department of Defense agencies. With multiple ways to connect—wired, Wi-Fi, and cellular—personnel can use any device to share and retrieve the information they need to stage a coordinated response.
- **Public safety:** The benefits of virtual workspace for first responders are especially compelling, because personnel at all levels of government need to share up-to-the-minute data about people, vehicles, weather, and more. "Being able to access databases, video conferencing services, and more from a first responder vehicle helps increase situational awareness and expedite decision making," says Paikeday.
- **Mobility:** Mobile public works personnel, such as building inspectors, need secure, persistent access to applications and sensitive records from the field. Reducing roundtrips to the office increases productivity and can accelerate response, increasing citizen satisfaction with government.



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Foundation: Virtual Experience Infrastructure

Underpinning next-generation virtual workspaces are several technologies: data center and network solutions, communications and collaboration applications, and endpoints such as Cisco Cius™ tablets and Cisco® Virtualization Experience Clients (VXCs). The Cisco Virtualization Experience Infrastructure (VXI) provides an end-to-end solution, including technology, validated designs, and services and support.

To learn more, visit: www.cisco.com/go/vxi



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