

Cisco Desktop Virtualization Pilot Accelerator Solution for Citrix XenDesktop



Deploy your Citrix XenDesktop pilot with this fast, reduced-cost, easier-to-manage solution that fits in just 2RU.

Solution At-A-Glance

Benefits

- Self-contained, all-in-one design includes all necessary infrastructure elements for Citrix XenDesktop as well as for Microsoft Active Directory, Domain Name System (DNS), Microsoft SQL Server, and more
- Economized, small-footprint solution optimal for small and medium-sized organizations; branch offices; and pilot, test, and development environments
- Simple to build, maintain, upgrade, and expand
- Cost-effective, local storage approach with 200 GB of on-board flash memory and SAS drives
- Optional fault tolerance with a second identical configuration and Microsoft Distributed File Services

Solution Configuration

1 Cisco UCS® C240 M3 Rack Server, equipped with:

- 2 Intel Xeon processor E5-2697 v2 12-core 2.7-GHz CPUs
- 384-GB 1866-MHz DIMMs (24 x 16 GB)
- 1 Cisco UCS Virtual Interface Card (VIC) 1225 converged network adapter (optional for 10 Gigabit Ethernet)
- 1 LSI Nytro MegaRAID 200-GB controller
- 12 Cisco 600-GB 10,000-rpm hot-swappable SAS drives
- 2 Cisco 650-watt (W) power supplies

Optional

- 2 x 100-user Citrix XenDesktop Pak

Organizations like yours face a continually evolving end-user computing landscape that's transforming to meet the needs of a more mobile workforce that demands desktop and application access from any device, anywhere. Many are also seeking a means to migrate from unsupported desktop operating systems like Microsoft Windows XP. For such organizations, this transition can involve an expensive refresh of client hardware to meet minimum OS requirements.

For many, desktop virtualization presents a viable way to deliver the latest desktop OS and user workspace, not only to existing client devices, but to the myriad mobile device options now appearing in the enterprise.

The challenge for many small to medium-sized organizations is often the initial capital expenditure (CapEx) and complexity associated with piloting a desktop virtualization solution and then ramping that platform into a scalable production environment.

Cisco Desktop Virtualization Pilot Accelerator Solution for Citrix XenDesktop

Cisco offers an economical, Small Form-Factor (SFF) "in-a-box" solution well

suited for small and medium-sized organizations, organizations that need to support a modest population of end users, and organizations seeking an economical test and development platform for virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI). The Cisco® Desktop Virtualization Pilot Accelerator Solution for Citrix XenDesktop packages a complete hardware and software solution that delivers scalable, high-performance desktop and application virtualization for up to 200 users of Citrix XenDesktop.



Big Solution Performance—Small Solution Price

The Cisco Desktop Virtualization Pilot Accelerator Solution for Citrix XenDesktop is based on the Cisco UCS® C240 M3 Rack Server. Part of the Cisco Unified Computing System™ (Cisco UCS), the enterprise-class Cisco UCS C240 M3 server further extends the capabilities of the Cisco UCS portfolio in a 2-rack-unit (2RU) form factor that benefits from the same stateless, streamlined provisioning and operations model as Cisco UCS B-Series Blade Servers. This solution effortlessly supports 200 concurrent virtual desktops with excellent response time as measured in Cisco validation testing with the Login VSI workload simulator.

This solution also benefits from a high-performance embedded storage architecture based on the combination of the LSI Nytro MegaRAID Controller, equipped with 200 GB of integrated flash memory for virtual desktop write caching, along with twelve 600-GB SAS drives for hosting all components including boot disk, virtual infrastructure, desktop broker, and user files.

Effortless Manageability, Expandability, and Versatility

As part of the Cisco UCS product family, the Cisco Desktop Virtualization Pilot Accelerator Solution for Citrix XenDesktop built on Cisco UCS C240 M3 Rack Server benefits from a simplified, hassle-free management model. For organizations without an existing Cisco UCS environment, the Cisco UCS C240 M3 can be managed in a standalone environment through Cisco Integrated Management Controller (IMC) with a web-based GUI or Secure Shell (SSH)-based command-line interface (CLI).



For organizations with an existing Cisco UCS environment (for example, Cisco UCS B-Series Blade Servers or managed Cisco UCS C-Series Rack Servers), the Cisco UCS C240 M3 can be connected directly to the Cisco UCS fabric interconnect and managed transparently alongside existing blade and rack servers through Cisco UCS Manager. In this environment, the Cisco Desktop Virtualization Pilot Accelerator Solution for Citrix XenDesktop is provisioned using Cisco UCS service profile templates, which abstract the essential server configuration details (such as the universal user ID [UUID], MAC address, World Wide Name [WWN], firmware, and connectivity) into an XML template that can be remotely associated and applied to the rack server in a touch-free, stateless manner, dramatically reducing the time required to put virtual desktops into service.

The Cisco UCS C-Series Rack Server offers additional versatility through upgrade options available to this platform. These include:

- Virtualized graphics workstations based on NVIDIA GRID K1 and K2 cards for graphics-intensive use cases
- Fusion-io on-board flash-memory storage for nonpersistent, floating desktops
- Distributed storage architectures such as VMware VSAN

The Cisco Desktop Virtualization Pilot Accelerator Solution for Citrix XenDesktop provides a TCO-friendly way to explore desktop and application virtualization with room to grow in the future. Get your Citrix XenDesktop pilot up and running faster with the Cisco UCS Pilot Accelerator Solution. Check out our [free solution white paper](#), and consult your Cisco partner account manager to learn more.

For More Information

- www.cisco.com/go/citrix
- http://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/products/collateral/servers-unified-computing/ucs-c-series-rack-servers/whitepaper_c11-731518.html