Why It's the Right Time to Overhaul Your VDI Strategy.

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Introduction

According to [Desktop Virtualization Deployment By the Numbers](#), one fifth of the desktop market is already virtualized. Many of these organizations implemented VDI early on, when the promise of the technology was high. Software was purchased, someone new was hired to run this virtual environment, and then, just when you thought it couldn't get more expensive, employees started bringing in their own devices and asking for support. The VDI that you have is not enough to satiate the needs of this new generation of workforce and you're looking for options. Many customers have looked into MAM solutions or DaaS offerings, but no single technology fits the use cases perfectly. Before you toss out VDI as an option, stop for a moment to reconsider.

Your VDI infrastructure does not have to take up space in the datacenter. Numerous analysts and virtualization experts predict that the promise of VDI is yet to come (read [The State of the VDI Industry in 2014](#) as one example). New technologies and more variety in vendor options makes this the ideal time for customers to reconsider the role that VDI can play in their technology plans.

Here are the top reasons that the efficiency is higher, and your users will be happier, with the virtual desktop technology of today.

No More Separation

Server virtualization and desktop virtualization platforms no longer require unique hardware environments. There are many common traits between running a healthy server virtualization infrastructure and a desktop one. It's a wonder it has taken the enterprise so long to recognize these common qualities! No matter what software is used to virtualize, it all starts with servers, storage, and networking. Today, there are many options that give software the control over how the hardware is provisioned and the market continues to innovate. Resetting expectations of provisioning times and user experience, whether those users are administrators, employees, or customers, are what modern virtualization platforms extol as their core benefits.

The Cloud is Here to Stay

Efforts to make development and operations drive efficiency with server workloads have continued to be successful for many years, so why not consider the same type of concepts for virtual desktop environment? It's a forgone conclusion that cloud services are the future of IT, and usage of cloud platforms and software is going to increase as well. The earlier adoption begins, the earlier the benefits start rolling in, by taking advantage of all the things cloud has to

offer. Making these decisions now will immediately start lowering your expenses and increasing your efficiency.

Storage Goes Virtual

There is quite a bit of buzz on the street about new storage solutions, but with the increase in network speeds and operating system efficiency of servers today, those may not be necessary. It is possible to manipulate your VDI workloads by using storage and memory in which you've already invested. Spending tens of thousands of dollars on a flash array, when virtualizing the collective footprint of your memory with other solutions available might be a better answer. This is one way that technology continues to advance in the datacenter today and a very economical method to drive user experience while driving down cost.

Location, Location, Location

User experience is impacted by physical location. Amazon, newcomer to the DaaS market, has said that if the user doesn't have sub 100ms ping times, then they can't guarantee a good user experience. The truth is, as great as protocols are getting, the user experience is dictated by the proximity to the endpoint. Choosing the right provider or enterprise software will unleash the endpoints from this restriction. An intelligent platform recognizes where a user is accessing the resources and maneuvers resources to that platform on the fly. Guaranteeing the best user experience the infrastructure can provide is the onus of the software orchestrating your VDI environment. Don't expect less.

Nodes Will Go Down

Whether the cloud is running in a private datacenter, or in a provider's datacenter, the compute nodes hosting the workloads do fail on occasion. This doesn't mean that the workload or the data should be terminated or lost. The first rule of the cloud is that the applications deployed must persist in the event of failure. The days of having a hot-cold DR strategy are disappearing, and modern VDI platforms are not different. Users depend on their data and applications to persist across any device they use. This makes choosing a platform that understands intelligent movement of data and persistent user experience regardless of physical server or physical device is key to a successful implementation.