

Forward-thinking companies are taking the integral step of implementing virtualized desktops to transform their data infrastructure from an expense to a strategic asset.

Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) is a rapidly growing trend as more and more companies want to connect with the talented employees they need, anywhere, anytime, while upholding business continuity and saving on operating costs.

“Facts and Figures:
According to ABI Research, the VDI is expected to reach 5 billion users by 2016.”

(ABI Research)

Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI): An Overview

Virtual Desktops essentially offer all the features of a desktop computer, accessible from any machine or device, anywhere. This is accomplished by storing the "virtualized" desktop environment using a data center or remote server and not the individual machine. Users interact with a virtual desktop in the same way they would use a physical desktop in the office. However, virtual desktops lets the user remotely log in to access a desktop environment from any location. A virtual desktop infrastructure, or VDI, is desktop virtualization to link multiple virtual machines.

What are some benefits of Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI)

There are several benefits to virtualized desktop infrastructure for today's workplaces. We'll discuss some of the sound reasons why VDI is a step forward and few things to consider before you implement virtualization in your own company.

- **Supports BYOD Initiatives**



Allowing employees to use their own personal devices, like smartphones, laptops and tablets, to connect to the company network—or BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)—is a growing trend. The idea behind the BYOD concept is



that it enables employees to work from anywhere, increase the collaboration among employees and ultimately increase productivity. With more workforces embracing a BYOD strategy, IT departments are saving money on hardware as well.

IT security teams now have to shift from worrying about where secure information is stored and focus instead on what devices are housing that information. This makes BYOD policies and procedures an integral part of VDI technology. The BYOD practice can complicate governance, risk and compliance management significantly. As protecting virtualized data becomes the focus for IT security, IT teams can provide better security for critical information and adapt to the evolving needs of business users more easily.

- **Centralized Management, back-ups and recovery.**



Centralized management of all devices, BYOD included, allows the company to manage administration, deployment and compliance from a central location. Recovering a virtual desktop to an originally deployed state and conducting backups can be relatively easy in a VDI situation. However, personal settings or changes to the machine's profile may be lost in the process.

Because server-based virtual desktops run from the data center, companies save power in two ways:

- **In the data center:** Virtual Desktops further consolidates and saves on power and cooling; and
- **On the desktop:** Virtual devices have significantly smaller power footprints than their desktop PC-counterparts.

• Capital Expenditures vs. Operating Expenses



One of the biggest hurdles for implementing VDI is its cost. That being said, it's important to know from a CapEx expenditure stand point, you will not see much savings. But there can be significant OpEx savings, especially when compared to a traditional, physical desktop rollout. Because OpEx of physical desktop machines have been steadily going up, switching to desktop virtualization is an opportunity to reign in these costs.

So there you have it, some of the many benefits to VDI. As we have outlined in this white paper, virtualization of infrastructure is a game-changing practice that could reduce cost, increase control, ensure compliance, protect secure data and more. Making the leap can be daunting, but well worth it in the long run.

About the Author

Prateek Bhargava, Senior Consultant at AgreeYa Solutions: Prateek brings more than nine years of experience in product development for clients spread across the globe. He has been part of the full product life cycle starting from conceptualization to release for multiple Microsoft based products, specifically Cloud Infrastructure & SharePoint. At AgreeYa, he puts his hands-on technology development experience to work helping clients build better, more practical technology solutions for their companies.

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