

VIRTUAL DESKTOP INFRASTRUCTURE (VDI)

# VDI: WHAT IS IT AND IS IT A FIT FOR MY BUSINESS?



## What is VDI?

Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) is the practice of running user desktop computers in virtual machines on centralized server hardware. In other words, instead of deploying and configuring individual PCs for each user, employees connect to a virtual PC from any device.

### EXPLANATION OF CONCEPT

Changes to the way businesses operate (i.e. mobile workforce, flexible hours, and Bring Your Own Device [BYOD] policies) require changes in technology. VDI helps IT adapt to the evolving workforce by offering flexibility, efficiency and security. Often, when a business evaluates VDI they find the upfront investment prohibitive. A detailed Cost Benefit Analysis, however, will show that VDI offers several benefits, as well as cost savings in desktop management, new computer provisioning and software upgrades. A trusted partner with expertise and VDI experience can help design and implement a solution that minimizes risks and increases productivity.

## The Benefits of VDI

### VDI THIN CLIENTS VS. TRADITIONAL DESKTOP COMPUTERS<sup>1</sup>

#### TRADITIONAL DESKTOP COMPUTERS

- ✓ Profile accessed from only one computer
- ✓ Differences in hardware, with the possibility for compatibility issues
- ✓ Complex data backup and recovery
- ✓ Running on local client computer
- ✓ Decentralized IT maintenance requirements
- ✓ Hard disk corruption rate of around 10% (3 years, no warranty after 3 years)
- ✓ All data not backed up to an external drive when the physical disk is damaged is lost
- ✓ Average lifecycle of traditional desktops: 3 years
- ✓ Average Desktop Power Usage Per Hour: 65 to 250 Watts

#### VDI THIN CLIENTS

- ✓ Profile accessed from any client computer or device
- ✓ Standardized hardware mitigates compatibility issues
- ✓ Easy to manage and back up
- ✓ Desktop running on server-class hardware
- ✓ Centralized management, online migration, and high availability
- ✓ Hard disk corruption rate of nearly 0.5% (5 years)
- ✓ No data lost if one or two physical disks are damaged
- ✓ Average lifecycle of servers and storage: 5 years
- ✓ Average Thin Client Power Usage Per Hour: 5 to 14 Watts



## Three Reasons Why Businesses Need VDI as Part of Their IT Infrastructure

### 1 **ENABLE THE MOBILE WORKFORCE**

With so many options for utilizing technology, such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops, today's employees do not want to be limited in how they engage with company IT resources. Desktops do not need to be restricted to a single piece of hardware. VDI allows companies to provide its staff with more flexibility in their ability to work. Employees that are constantly on-the-go need mobile technology that will allow them to maximize their efficiency and deliver constant results.



### 2 **SIMPLIFY WORKSTATION PROVISIONING AND APPLICATION ROLL-OUTS**

Regardless of the size of a company, setting up employee workstations often requires a lot of tedious and redundant tasks. In most cases, this leads to loss of time and money incurred from labor costs, maintenance and downtime. VDI can drastically lessen the time and expense of getting employees set-up since the only updates needed are to those on the host computer, which are then pushed out to the employee workstations. On top of that, less expensive hardware, such as thin/zero clients and low-end laptops can be used for added cost savings.



### 3 **ALLOW EMPLOYEES TO SEAMLESSLY WORK FROM MULTIPLE DEVICES**

Going along with the concept of simplified workstation provisioning, VDI allows employees to work seamlessly from a variety of devices. Maybe they use a desktop in the office and prefer to work from their Tablet or laptop at home or on the road. With VDI, the server is centralized, allowing staff to easily transition between devices with nearly the same user experience from one to the next. Additionally, uncovering/solving technical issues and installing applications on the various units can be done with ease. Increasing productivity is one of the major benefits of VDI.

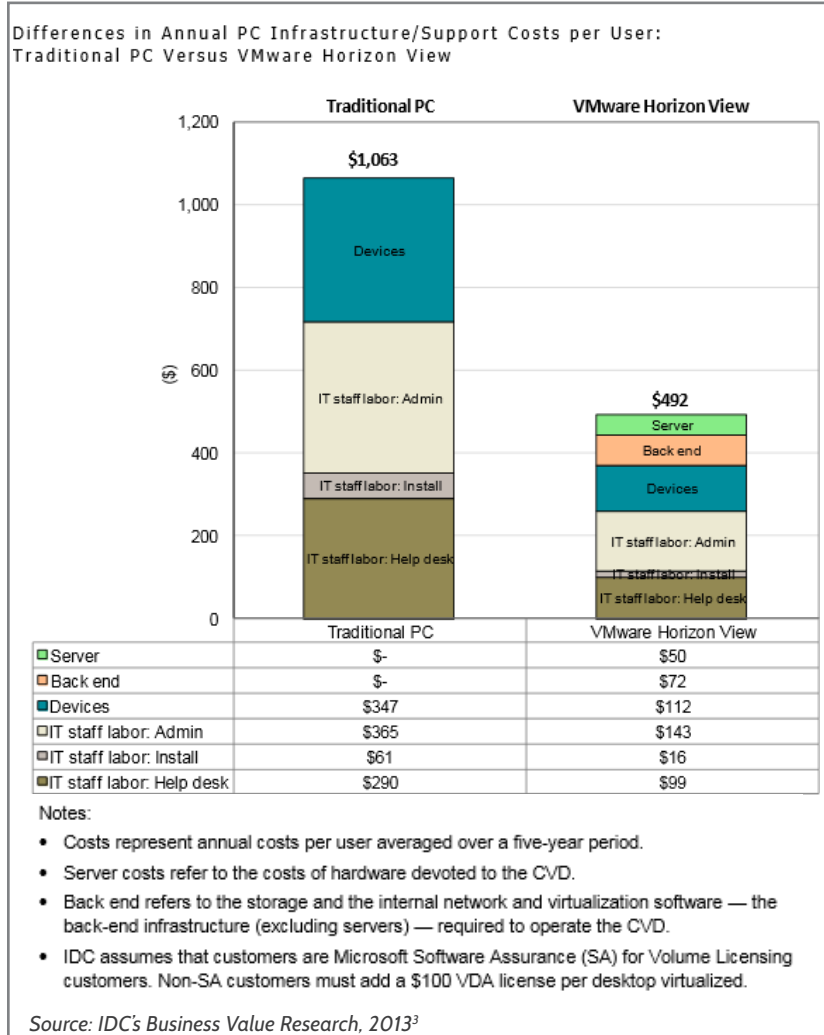


## Wasted Time is Expensive






Regardless of your type of business, wasted time equates to wasted money. Time is a very valuable asset to any organization. Once it is lost, it cannot be recaptured. Every second a system is down means dollars lost. Desktop support is a necessary part of IT, but it is traditionally time consuming and can cause end-users to be 'down' while their issues are resolved. VDI allows IT to maintain and troubleshoot the user desktop experience in a centralized system, allowing them to resolve issues faster with greater efficiency.

### THE HIDDEN COST SAVINGS OF VDI

- ✓ Centralized administration leads to quicker resolutions of issues-increasing productivity.
- ✓ Deploying new desktops or laptops is simple, since the user's desktop and applications are already configured in the VDI solution.
- ✓ Corrupt applications/viruses/malware do not need to be troubleshot (more productivity attributes to less support time). A new virtual desktop can quickly and simply be deployed.
- ✓ Upgrades to Desktop OS and Applications can be done quickly and without user interruption.
- ✓ Users can access these virtual desktops using their existing PCs, laptops, tablets or home computers.
- ✓ Since you run the bulk of your energy on the host computer you save on your energy bills. VDI uses 97% less energy than your old computers resulting in a \$250 savings on energy for every PC.<sup>2</sup>



## The VDI Promise

-  **Reduced Operational Expenses**
-  **Reduced Capital Expenses**
  - ✓ Replace high-end workstations with thin or zero client terminals
-  **Simplified Management**
  - ✓ Instant provisioning
  - ✓ Easier patch/update
-  **Mobility (BYOD)**
  - ✓ Access desktop from anywhere on any device
-  **Enhanced security of sensitive business data**
  - ✓ No data stored on endpoints

## The Importance of 'Doing It Right'

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Businesses should always be looking at the big picture in terms of decision making. Although the up-front cost of a VDI implementation may not seem outwardly justifiable, companies often find that the benefits and long-term savings in time and money, as well as the huge benefits to productivity, outweigh the initial investment.

With VDI, practically any problem can be resolved directly from the company's data center, enabling near seamless updates and repairs. However, it's important to keep in mind that if there are errors in the server configuration, it can lead to issues for all users. Therefore it is important to ensure proper setup. Additionally, the solution design must plan accordingly for growth, upgrades and future functionality.

As part of your VDI planning, it's important to consider many facets, from your motivation and goals to moving to a VDI infrastructure, to how a move to VDI will integrate with your existing business processes and company culture, and finally, to ensuring you have all your bases covered and take your time with planning and installation so that you get it right the first time to minimize downtime and future frustration.



**SIGN UP FOR A VDI TEST DRIVE AND SEE HOW IT CAN WORK FOR YOU!**

*Act now!* For a limited time, DP Solutions will set you up with a free, no obligation trial of VDI for your environment so you can see first-hand if it's a good fit for your business.

*Sign up today! [www.dpsolutions.com/TryVDI](http://www.dpsolutions.com/TryVDI)*

## About DP Solutions

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