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THINKIOSK

How ThinKiosk Enables Flexible, Low-Cost Thin Client Computing in Healthcare

WHITE PAPER

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Data Sheet

How ThinKiosk Enables Flexible, Low-Cost Thin Client Computing in Healthcare

Delivering IT services within a healthcare environment has always been about user mobility and security. Whether that's delivering IT services within a hospital environment, a remote clinic, a doctor's surgery, or even visiting patients in their own homes. Healthcare IT teams have always struggled to keep pace with technology, ever shrinking budgets, and still having to ensure that front-line healthcare professionals have access to the correct information, applications and services, and doing all of this while maintaining security and patient confidentiality.

Delivering electronic health records systems

Increasingly, patient medical information is being stored in Electronic Health Records systems (EHR) which centralize data in an electronic format and are designed to protect the privacy and security of patient data and more importantly ensure the integrity of that data. Systems such as those provided by Epic, Cerner, Siemens, and GE Healthcare for example.

The key to EHR systems is the ability for clinicians and healthcare professionals to quickly, easily, and securely have access to the correct applications and patient information. They also typically need this access from anywhere and at any time, as having access to this information could literally be the difference between life and death for patients.

Centralizing desktops and applications

As part of this drive to centralize patient data, many healthcare organizations are turning to virtual desktop and application solutions, partly to reduce costs, but also to secure sensitive patient data within the confines of the datacenter. However, the issue now turns to the devices that are being used by clinicians and healthcare professionals to connect from. This is where healthcare IT teams consider deploying thin client devices. But doing this is going to come at additional cost when budgets are already stretched. However, ThinScale have the answer with ThinKiosk.

ThinKiosk delivers flexible, software-defined, low-cost thin clients

ThinKiosk is a software-defined solution that repurposes existing Windows hardware into Windows-based thin clients. As PCs, laptops, and existing thin clients will already be in place, ThinKiosk can turn these into centrally managed Windows-based thin clients, delivering clinicians a familiar look and feel, but more importantly a secure workspace interface from where to access healthcare systems and patient data.

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Key features for Healthcare

ThinKiosk is a Windows-based software-only thin client solution delivering at scale, secure, centrally managed endpoints on any Windows device. It delivers a unified thin client user experience on all Windows end points, turning your existing Windows PCs, laptops, and thin clients into secure, centrally managed Windows-based thin clients, dramatically reducing hardware and management costs, while improving end user experience.

Complete with a lightweight intuitive user interface, ThinKiosk provides clinicians and healthcare professionals with a secure workspace environment from where they can access local and remote desktop and apps from.

Repurpose PC's & laptops into thin clients

Turning your current Windows devices, whether PCs, laptops, or existing thin clients, into ThinKiosk thin clients, saves costs in hardware and management, plus adds additional security and end user experience features.

This is all managed from a central management platform, without the need to rebuild the device, install a dual-boot environment or boot from an external USB device and even embraces current deployment tools and processes.

Support for Smart Cards

Security is always at the top of the list of must have of features when any Healthcare organization considers deploying client devices, especially when they are deployed in public facing areas or sensitive environments where patient confidentiality and protection of data is paramount.

Thin clients are fast becoming the de facto standard in Healthcare, but they still need to be secured and protected. To aid to these additional levels of required security, ThinKiosk software-based thin clients include integrated support for all the leading smart card solutions, enabling end users to simply tap to login.

Single sign on (SSO)

Clinicians only need to log in once to their ThinKiosk Secure Workspace, when they use their standard Windows username and password. This not only helps to reduce both the number of passwords required and the number of helpdesk calls for forgotten passwords, but also speeds up the login process for the end users. This means they don't need to enter their credentials a second time and allows them to spend more time with patients.

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Key features for Healthcare

Windows PC performance

Converting PCs into Windows-based thin clients with ThinKiosk, as well as delivering a significant reduction in hardware costs, also means that you can leverage the power and performance of existing hardware to continue supporting the many varied clinical systems.

Replacing PCs with new thin clients means these thin clients would need to be of a high enough specification to meet clinical requirements, such as hi-res imagery for PACS, or connectivity to drive scanners and X-ray machines.

Enhanced end user experience

The end user experience is key to the productivity and speed of accessing patient information and data. ThinKiosk enhances the user experience by delivering a familiar Windows look and feel coupled with an intuitive secure workspace user interface that enable fast and easy access to remote environments. It also allows end users to have access to locally installed applications (based on admin set policy) should they need to work offline.

Magic Filter

As part of the end user experience, a unique feature of ThinKiosk is Magic Filter. Magic Filter is a dynamic key press pass-through feature that traps the local Ctrl + Alt + Del and Windows + L keystrokes and passes them directly through to the remote environment, just as if the user was working locally on their device.

Magic Filter delivers an enhanced user experience as the end user now has a native Windows feel when using their ThinKiosk thin client.

Scalable enterprise architecture

Repurposing PCs with ThinKiosk enables you to scale and convert thousands of Windows-based PC's into secure, centrally managed thin client devices, all managed centrally from the integrated ThinScale Management Platform.

The ThinScale Management Platform is designed to support a distributed thin client environment, allowing IT teams to manage large hospital environments, clinics, remote surgery locations, and field-based clinicians, from a single console.

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Key features for Healthcare

Location awareness

As well as working out in the community, travelling to different hospital sites, patients homes, and even if a clinician is based in a hospital, they can all really be classed as mobile workers, in that they all need access to patient data and information regardless of their location.

ThinKiosk is fully location awareness, meaning it's contextually aware of where healthcare professionals are connecting from, enabling true mobile working, whether in the confines of a hospital or out in the community, delivering the right level of access at the right time and right location. All delivered securely.

Local, published, and SaaS app support

Legacy applications still play a huge part in today's clinical environments, although in reality they are still production apps, and very much in use. However, not all of these apps have the ability to be delivered virtually. Depending on how old they are, they may not be supported using a virtual infrastructure, so how do you embrace the old and the new simultaneously?

With ThinKiosk being a Windows-based solution, you have the ability to install and securely access apps locally on PCs and laptops, as well as being able to update them, and all while maintaining central management and control using ThinKiosk delivered policies.

Being locally installed also means that apps can run regardless of whether an end user can connect to the network. The device will still be usable, delivering business continuity and DR keeping users productive even when working offline.

USB device blocking

An enhanced security feature of ThinKiosk, is its ability to block USB devices that end users plug in to their ThinKiosk thin client. USB devices are often seen as one of the main causes of security breaches and data leakage within an organization.

ThinKiosk can prevent these devices from being used. Enabling this feature means that end users are prevented from being able to access USB-based storage devices when accessing corporate systems and data from their ThinKiosk thin client. This prevents them from being able to download sensitive and private patient data as well as preventing them uploading potentially harmful files.

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Key features for Healthcare

Multi-display support

Supporting multiple displays is high on the list of must have features when considering thin client solutions, particularly within a healthcare environment.

As ThinKiosk is a software-defined thin client solution that turns your existing device into a thin client, then by default it supports whatever the underlying device can support. So if your PC supports four monitors, then ThinKiosk will support four monitors, using the driver of the underlying Windows OS.

ThinKiosk also has its own display configuration applet with the ability to configure scaling options on each individual monitor, positioning control options, plus supporting multiple monitors, allowing greater control and enhancing the end user experience.

Application Execution Prevention (AEP)

The ThinKiosk AEP feature adds an additional layer of security to ThinKiosk by preventing the execution of unauthorized applications.

Employing a rules-based system, IT administrators can now configure exactly which applications end users are allowed launch on their endpoint device. These rules allow IT admins to create white/black lists which contain a comprehensive list of rule types delivering a granular level of control over exactly which apps can and can't run. IT admins can create generic rule sets that allow all Windows OS binaries to run, or they can create a more targeted rule set that allows only those applications signed by a specific digital certificate to launch and run.

Simplified management, support, and onboarding

Once deployed, devices can be repurposed in minutes allowing IT departments to not only control, manage, and update the converted thin client devices, but also the software running on them. They also have access to a number of integrated advanced management features such as managing Windows Security Center, Windows Firewall, and Windows patching.

IT admins have the ability to deliver remote support such as issuing power commands, remote logoff, shut down and restart, as well as update ThinKiosk security policies on the fly. All delivered remotely. No need for a deskside visit.

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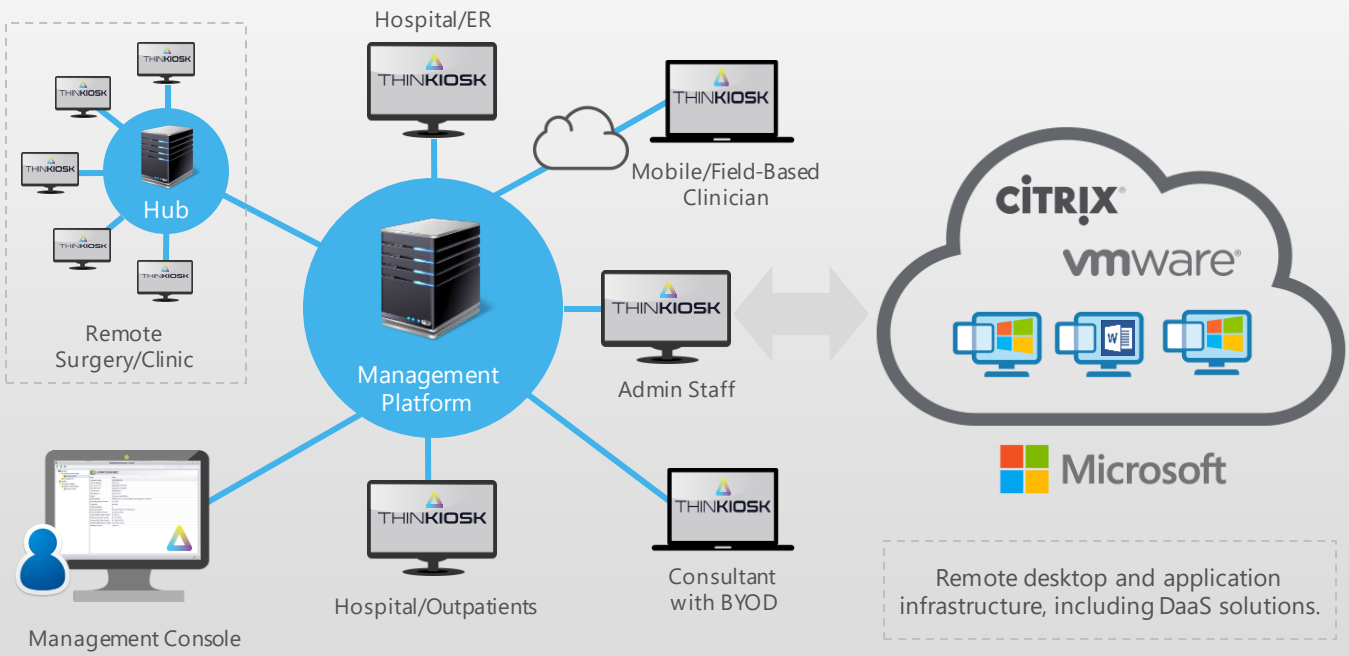
Key features for Healthcare

Deploying a VDI environment is often undertaken to reduce costs, but the initial upfront costs involved in deploying the infrastructure can be on the high-side. Overall though, the costs of the ongoing management will address this and deliver a reduction in costs.

A way to reduce costs is with the client end of the solution. Rather than look at purchasing new thin client devices, which cost an average of $1000 / €850 per device, plus the management and deployment costs. ThinKiosk being Windows-based means you can deploy any Windows compatible devices eliminating expensive vendor lock-in.

How does ThinKiosk work? Architectural overview

ThinKiosk is simple to deploy, requiring minimal infrastructure. It is highly scalable, and can also be deployed in a distributed model, making it ideal for a environments that have a dispersed and mobile workforce.



A Hub Server can be deployed in remote doctors' surgeries and other clinical locations outside of the main hospital site to manage local ThinKiosk Client devices, acting as software deployment points. This reduces the amount of data sent between the main datacenter and remote locations when deploying software packages to clients yet retains central management.

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Healthcare feature summary

Repurpose existing devices

Reduce hardware acquisition costs by repurposing existing Windows PCs, laptops, and thin clients into ThinKiosk software-based, secure Windows-based thin client devices.

Full device lock-down

Secure your repurposed thin client devices, locking them down by applying a centralized policy that prevents end users from accessing the underlying operating system.

Smart Card support

Enable users to log in to their environments using existing Smart Card solutions, allowing 'follow me' sessions and tap to login/logoff.

Centralized management

Manage your entire repurposed thin client device estate using a single management platform with a single administration console.

Multi-display support

ThinKiosk supports the same number of displays that are supported by the end point device, and the underlying Windows operating system, and has its own display control applet.

Familiar end user experience

ThinKiosk software-based thin clients deliver a familiar intuitive user interface, with a Windows look & feel, and enhanced productivity features.

Local, remote, & published apps

Users can access locally installed apps as well as the ability to connect to published apps and desktops, VDI sessions or SaaS-based apps.

USB device blocking

One of many advanced security features is the ability to prevent end users from inserting USB storage devices into their thin client and introducing rogue files.

Customer case study

Find out how Dutch clinical training hospital and trauma center The ETZ (Elisabeth-TweeSteden Ziekenhuis) simplified their VDI deployment and reduced the cost of thin client computing by deploying ThinKiosk across their three locations and 7,500 employees. Click here to read the full case study.

THINSCALE

Software solutions that enable IT to deliver the modern digital workplace without compromising on end user experience, security or performance.

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