VDI—Simplify your migration to Windows® 10 and beyond

Embrace Windows 10 devices, apps and desktops quickly and easily with desktop virtualization

CİTRİX®

Streamline OS migrations now and in the future with a virtualized infrastructure that simplifies BYOD, app compatibility and corporate desktop management.

With Windows® 10, IT is facing a milestone—the first operating system migration that's in employees' hands, not its own. An easy-to-install upgrade offered free for the first year, the latest Microsoft desktop platform is highly consumer-friendly to adopt—and that's exactly what consumers are doing. In the first month of its release, Windows 10 set the record for a one-month increase in user share for any operating system. To stay relevant and current, IT needs to get moving on Windows 10 migration as well. At the same time, you need to make sure you do it right. For organizations that seized the adoption of Windows 7 as an opportunity to move to VDI, the new upgrade couldn't be simpler. For those that didn't, now is the time to take a serious look at desktop virtualization.

Citrix XenDesktop provides a simple, proven way for IT to answer the three critical questions around migration to Windows 10:

- How do I deliver apps to the Windows devices my employees use, including the ones they own themselves?
- How do I migrate my business apps to the new OS?
- How do I standardize and remain current on a Windows 10 corporate desktop image?

By using XenDesktop to make the move to desktop virtualization, IT can embrace BYOD Windows 10 devices quickly and easily, deliver instant access to business apps from any Windows 10 device, migrate your business apps to the new Windows 10 platform and use a single Windows 10 desktop image to standardize on the latest Microsoft operating system organization-wide.

Getting Windows 10 migration done right

For many organizations, moving from Windows XP to Windows 7 was a rushed and painful process. Manual, decentralized methods made for long days that diverted IT staff from higher-value work. Applications posed issues of their own, requiring extensive testing and remediation to ensure compatibility with the new OS. The increasingly diverse endpoints in use throughout the enterprise, including BYO devices, posed an additional layer of complexity.

You don't want to end up in the same position this time—or the next time. With VDI, you can get out in front of OS migration challenges once and for all. Desktop virtualization provides a centralized way to accomplish OS migrations simply, quickly and efficiently so that any device can run any Windows app. Employees gain greater flexibility and mobility. For IT, both ongoing management and future upgrades become much easier, allowing you to shift focus to more strategic initiatives.

With several years remaining before Windows 7 reaches end-of-life, you have time to approach Windows 10 migration thoughtfully—but you don't have all the time in the world. Now, the sense of urgency comes not from Microsoft support schedules, but from the force of consumerization. The new OS can be downloaded free for the first year and installed easily by anyone who's been running Windows 7 or Windows 8 without the need to upgrade hardware. Plus, Microsoft will make the update "recommended" in 2016, which means updates will occur automatically with default Windows settings. Add Microsoft's assurances that the migration won't pose any application compatibility issues, and it's easy to understand why consumers would feel empowered to take matters into their own hands. Indeed, the years since the introduction of Windows 7 have seen a rapid increase in user empowerment—people are accustomed to adopting the best and latest technologies in their personal lives, and they'll want no less for the tools they use for work. This includes the new Windows 10 devices they'll be buying for themselves with an eye to BYOD. If you don't upgrade them, they'll do it themselves—without your control or visibility.

"Microsoft is excited that our longtime partner Citrix is helping enterprise customers embrace Windows 10. With XenApp and XenDesktop, Citrix enables faster application migration to Windows 10 with access to critical line of business apps as soon as they upgrade."

Margaret Arakawa
General Manager
US Windows 10 & Devices
Microsoft

According to ComputerWorld, more than 350 million devices will be upgraded to Windows 10 within its first year.[1] The migration is already well underway whether corporate IT is ready or not.

The Citrix way to move to Windows 10
As you approach an OS migration, there are three questions you have to address:

- **How do I embrace the diverse devices my employees will use to run Windows 10, including BYOD?**
  This includes ensuring hardware compatibility and delivering instant access to business apps from Windows 10 devices for users everywhere. Along the way, IT must maintain full control over the environment to keep user efforts from undermining security and manageability.
- **How do I move my apps to Windows 10?**
  While Windows 8 apps may be largely compatible with the new platform, IT will still need to test the full range of legacy Windows apps in the environment to ensure that they'll run correctly after the migration, and perform remediation where needed.
- **How do I standardize on a Windows 10 corporate desktop image?**
  At a time when many organizations are still running a mix of Windows operating systems and dealing with the resulting management complexity, the advantages of standardization are clearer than ever. When the time comes to introduce a standard corporate desktop image for your business, you'll want to be able to do so quickly and efficiently to accelerate the resulting benefits.

Citrix XenDesktop, including the full power of Citrix XenApp gives you the answers.

Embrace Windows 10 devices
When you publish virtual desktops and apps with XenDesktop, users can simply download Citrix Receiver on their new or upgraded Windows 10 devices—corporate or BYOD—and get to work.

Access Apps and Desktops on Any Device

In this way, IT can provide instant access to business apps and Windows 10 desktops on any device, from anywhere, without time-consuming manual deployment across every location in the business. Employees face no interruption in supportability—even if you haven't performed application compatibility testing. For users continuing to run older laptops and PCs, thin clients and other non-Windows 10 compliant devices, Citrix HDX user experience technologies ensure the same high-performance experience as those using newer endpoints, including enhanced support for peripherals. IT maintains centralized control over access and data protection, including new security features focused specifically on protecting sensitive resources from loss or theft.

Move apps to Windows 10

While there aren't many architectural changes from Windows 8 to Windows 10, many users are still on Windows XP or Windows 7, and running apps developed for those platforms. You still need to make sure these apps are compatible with the latest versions of your desktop OS. Traditionally, this is a time-consuming and costly process with engineers installing and testing apps one by one. Citrix AppDNA, a platinum edition feature of XenDesktop, lets you automate and analyze application compatibility and remediate any issues quickly, reducing the cost and complexity of application upgrades, migrations and updates by as much as 90 percent.

Standardize on Windows 10 desktops

When the time comes for your organization to standardize on Windows 10, the rapid provisioning technology of XenDesktop can be used to push out Windows 10 virtual desktops to every user in every location—instantly. With a single golden image in the datacenter, management becomes far simpler and more efficient. The same is true for support and security; if a user's desktop becomes corrupted or infected, a simple reboot will restore a pristine image, eliminating the need for further intervention.

Analysts, customers and the media agree that using Citrix desktop virtualization to implement VDI alleviates the pain traditionally associated with operating system migrations. For example:

- In the *Forrester Wave™: Server-Hosted Virtual Desktops (VDI)*, Q3 2015 report, XenDesktop earned the highest score in current offering and strategy categories.
- "We were able to upgrade all of our thin clients with the latest Windows OS with a better performing and customizable desktop that users continue to rave about." — Derek Christopher, IT director, Hines and Associates

Conclusion

Windows 10 is poised to become the most rapid OS migration in history—driven as much by users as by IT. By using VDI to simplify and accelerate Windows 10 deployment, you can provide the state-of-the-art experience today's employees demand, as quickly as they're demanding it, while maintaining control over the migration process.

As highlighted by Forrester Research, Citrix XenDesktop is a leader in VDI. By using the best VDI solution on the market to make the move to desktop virtualization, you can standardize corporate desktops quickly and efficiently for on-demand delivery to hundreds or thousands of employees. The solution also lets you instantly deliver your business apps to any device your employees use, including new Windows 10 devices. When you're ready to move your apps to your new standard Windows 10 image, built-in app compatibility assessment tools make it easier than ever. A flexible architecture, inherent security and high-definition user experience ensure that XenDesktop meets the needs of employees and IT alike. Instead of a major challenge and disruption, OS migrations now and in the future become quick and routine—so you can focus on driving strategic value for your business.

Learn more:

• Migrating to Windows 10 the Citrix way
• The Forrester Wave: Server-hosted Virtual Desktops (VDI), Q3 2015
• XenDesktop Overview

[1] "Windows 10 forecast: On almost a quarter of all PCs within a year," *ComputerWorld*, Feb. 4, 2015.

Citrix Partner

http://www.geeksultant.com

info@geeksultant.com

7705591492

Corporate Headquarters
Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA

Silicon Valley Headquarters
Santa Clara, CA, USA

EMEA Headquarters
Schaffhausen, Switzerland

India Development Center
Bangalore, India

Online Division Headquarters
Santa Barbara, CA, USA

Pacific Headquarters
Hong Kong, China

Latin America Headquarters
Coral Gables, FL, USA

UK Development Center
Chalfont, United Kingdom

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