Effective hosted desktops

HP ConvergedSystem 100 for Hosted Desktops with Citrix XenDesktop

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Driven by strong adoption of mobility technology, effective desktop and application virtualization, hosted and remote desktops, and Desktops-as-a-Service (DaaS) have all experienced explosive growth in recent years, with no end in sight. In fact, the majority of global enterprises are now using some form of "desktop virtualization". Citrix XenDesktop running on HP ConvergedSystem 100 for Hosted Desktops powered by HP Moonshot, now brings breakthrough value for remote desktop delivery. This fully tested and validated solution enables IT organizations to deliver remote apps and desktops to mainstream knowledge workers that require business graphics and multimedia—anytime, anywhere, and on any device.

Facilitating flexible desktop virtualization

There is no argument that mobility is the primary driver for the continuing transformation of desktops in the datacenter. To cope with the dynamic and constantly changing demands of increasingly mobile users, IT departments are looking for new ways to simplify and speed deployment of infrastructure. Fortunately, server and storage performance has increased, while costs have come down, enabling lower total cost of ownership (TCO) for client virtualization compared to traditional PCs. The abstraction of servers, storage, networking, operating systems, and applications also allows easier management and simpler updating. All of these trends point to client virtualization as an attractive strategy, with benefits that include:

- *Increased productivity* with anywhere, anytime, any device support, secure mobility, and the capability for rapid service deployment and retraction

- *Business agility* by allowing organizations to scale and adapt to changes quickly without disruption

- *Increased mobility* by allowing workers to use whatever device they prefer—from any location, at any time

- *Improved security and compliance* by centralizing desktops, data, and applications in the datacenter to better protect intellectual property

- *Streamlined desktop management* to maintain the desktop environment without business interruption, while simplifying application deployment and maintenance

While these are compelling benefits, there is ultimately no on-size-fits-all solution to desktop virtualization. Multiple scenarios may be appropriate depending on the needs of the user and the goals of the IT organization. Some users may require client customization, while locked-down and highly managed environments may be suitable for others. In either case, organizations never want to pay more for infrastructure or ongoing management than is absolutely necessary. Coupled with innovative HP hardware, Citrix XenDesktop meets all of these requirements in a single solution with unique delivery technology.
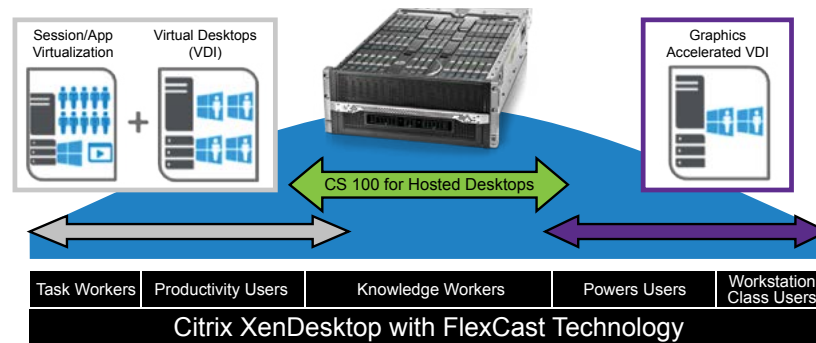
Hosted desktop infrastructure from HP and Citrix

The diversity of desktop virtualization solutions is driven by the fact that not all users require the same functionality. Simple task workers such as bank tellers or call center operators might use only one or two applications. Productivity workers typically use office applications such as email, spreadsheets, and other document-creation applications. Mainstream PC users (or "knowledge workers") comprise the largest segment of the PC user population, and require access to multiple applications, business graphics, and multimedia tools. For this group of workers, performance is essential for delivering robust web content, smooth video, and applications that require hardware-assisted graphics. Power users run even more simultaneous applications, and workstation users demand the highest combination of CPU and accelerated graphics.

Traditional virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) can deliver good performance, user experience, and low cost-per-seat for task workers and productivity workers. Likewise, emerging VDI solutions are also providing the ability to virtualize high-end GPUs to deliver powerful graphics performance for workstation-class and power users. Unfortunately, VDI often falls short of supplying the necessary combination of CPU and graphics performance essential for knowledge workers. Moreover, while VDI and application virtualization solutions are important elements in desktop transformation to the datacenter, they can also add complexity in terms of planning, sizing, and deployment.

As shown in Figure 1, Citrix XenDesktop running on HP ConvergedSystem 100 for Hosted Desktops provides an ideal solution for knowledge workers. Also known as "remote desktops", hosted desktop infrastructure (HDI) represents a non-virtualized desktop infrastructure approach. When VDI is not robust enough, and graphics server blades are overkill for lightweight media capabilities, Citrix XenDesktop running on HP ConvergedSystem 100 for Hosted Desktops can be an ideal fit. The centralized nature of remote hosted desktops helps IT organizations overcome common issues with mobile support, including:

• Delivering a secure common infrastructure across physical sites

• Supporting disaster recovery

• Controlling costs

• Scaling up and down in a timely fashion

Figure 1. HP ConvergedSystem 100 for Hosted Desktops with Citrix XenDesktop is an ideal solution for serving knowledge workers with reliable client virtualization.

HP ConvergedSystem 100 for Hosted Desktops

Adding to the innovation of HP Converged Systems, HP ConvergedSystem 100 for Hosted Desktops is powered by the exciting HP Moonshot System. An all-new class of software-defined servers, HP Moonshot is designed and tailored for specific workloads, delivering optimum performance in addressing the challenges created by today's complex IT environments. In addition, HP Moonshot boosts efficiency by sharing management, power, cooling, networking, and storage resources across all server cartridges in the chassis, letting one set of shared resources apply to all, and offering a host of benefits.
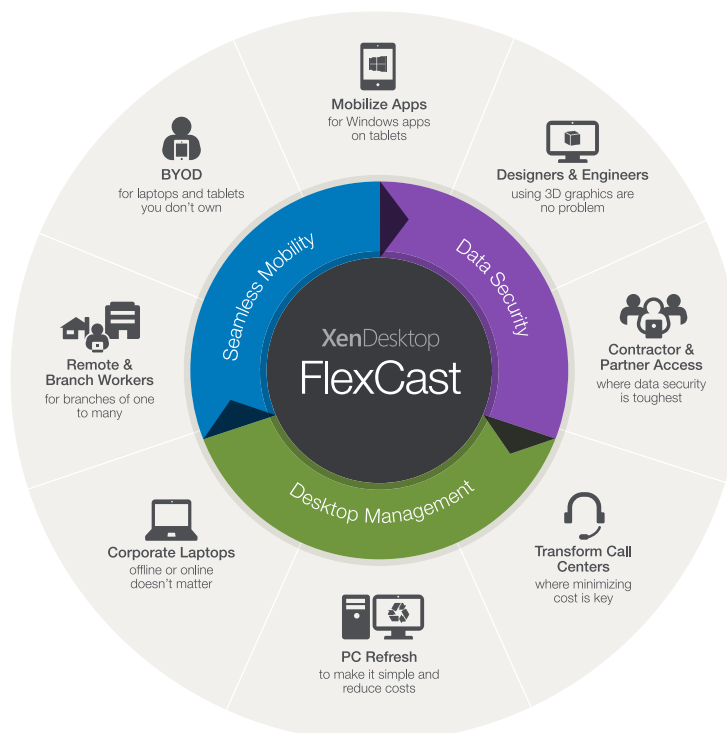
- **Full-powered desktop with PC-on-a-Chip**. Thanks to independent compute and graphics processing for each user, the high-density HP Converged System 100 for Hosted Desktops delivers a full-powered PC desktop experience.

- **Simplified deployment.** The HP ConvergedSystem 100 for Hosted Desktops consists of a 4.3 rack unit (RU) chassis with 45 AMD-based cartridges, allowing modular an predictable deployment.

- **Consistent multimedia performance**. Each cartridge has four independent servers, each supporting one desktop and a dedicated GPU per user for PC-quality multimedia capabilities.

- **Low cost**. Combined with HP Moonshot and datacenter hosting efficiencies, this non-persistent delivery model provides a compelling cost per user.

- **Easy to order and deploy**. The HP ConvergedSystem 100 for Hosted Desktops is a complete solution that includes compute, storage, and networking—with no SAN or virtualization layer to install and manage.

- **Fixed sizing for improved OPEX savings**. Fostering predictable cost, capacity planning, and scaling, each HP ConvergedSystem 100 for Hosted Desktops is sized to support 180 knowledge workers, precluding costly and time-consuming assessments.

Citrix XenDesktop: Delivering apps and desktops as mobile services

Citrix XenDesktop is the award winning solution that delivers apps and desktops on a single unified platform, providing self-service access for users and simplified management for IT departments. Citrix XenDesktop makes app selection instant and trouble free—users choose apps from an easy to use app store that is securely accessible from any device, including bring-your-own (BYO) tablets, smartphones, PCs, Macs and thin clients. Citrix XenDesktop offers IT staff simple management, fast deployment, and supports visibility and a cloud-ready architecture.

Citrix XenDesktop with FlexCast technology gives organizations the flexibility to mobilize Windows apps, refresh desktops cost-effectively, and enable BYO laptops and tablets. It enables enterprise IT to deliver Windows-as-a-Service that's always on, highly secure and seamlessly mobile. From simple desktop management to advanced app delivery, FlexCast technology gives IT everything they need to meet the needs of today's modern, complex workforce. Citrix XenDesktop helps business:

- *Enable mobile workstyles* to increase workforce productivity and drive innovation throughout the business

- *Securely mobilize Windows® apps* so they are touch-enabled and fast over mobile networks

- *Reduce computing costs* with cloud-style centralized delivery, management and security

Figure 2. From simple VDI to advanced app delivery, FlexCast technology gives IT departments everything they need to meet the needs of today's modern, complex workforce.

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Conclusion

The unique combination of Citrix XenDesktop with HP ConvergedSystem 100 for Hosted Desktops represents a compelling new way to deliver hosted desktop capabilities for knowledge workers. Combining dedicated computing and graphics resources for each user with cost-effective and predictable deployment models for IT departments means that installations can scale effectively to support increasing mobility without arbitrary limitations. The high density and economics of the innovative HP Moonshot platform is directly complemented by Citrix XenDesktop 7 with FlexCast technology, combining Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop functionality under a singular management framework, and giving IT organizations everything they need to meet the needs of today's modern and mobile workforce.

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