

For Software Assurance Customers

Microsoft® Application Virtualization

Microsoft®
Desktop Optimization Pack
for Software Assurance

- Microsoft Application Virtualization
- Microsoft Asset Inventory Service
- Microsoft Advanced Group Policy Management
- Microsoft Diagnostics and Recovery Toolset
- Microsoft System Center Desktop Error Monitoring

Microsoft® Application Virtualization improves end user productivity and reduces the risks associated with application management. It transforms applications into virtualized, network-available services that are available on-demand and never installed, minimizing application conflicts and enabling users to work from virtually any location. Users and their application environments are no longer machine-specific, and the machines themselves are no longer user-specific. This helps IT be much more responsive to evolving end user needs.

Microsoft Application Virtualization is an integral component of the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance, which helps mid-sized businesses make employees more productive by improving the reliability and security of desktops, minimizing end user downtime, and helping mobile users work from any location.

Challenges with Today's Corporate Desktop: Rigid, Risky, and Unreliable

Today's business desktop is awash in applications. Each installed application requires lengthy regression testing and deployment processes before it reaches the end user. Because applications are only available where they are installed, end users are tied to their computers. This makes critical projects such as operating system and application migrations, security refreshes, and disaster recovery even harder to implement. Equally important, it interferes with user productivity and makes it difficult to provide responsive support to local and remote users.

Microsoft Application Virtualization changes that. Instead of a complex series of time-consuming steps that consume resources, it helps transform desktop administration into a simpler, more automated process that accelerates application deployments and updates, reduces end user downtime, improves desktop reliability, and helps employees work productively from any location.

Microsoft®
Application
Virtualization

- Improving end user productivity by eliminating application installation

Microsoft Application Virtualization: Advantages

Increase end user productivity with faster application delivery, continual access

By eliminating application installations, Microsoft Application Virtualization reduces the compatibility problems that previously caused time-consuming reboots and downtime for end users. It also minimizes the need for lengthy regression testing, resulting in much faster delivery of applications and updates, and enabling end users to quickly get needed software without having to relinquish their PCs. Because it automatically sends users the latest application versions, Microsoft Application Virtualization helps reduce productivity loss resulting from users working with outdated applications. Business continuity is also ensured, even when systems crash or are down due to outages. End users can instantly access their applications, including personalized settings, from another licensed device.

Easily and cost-effectively support mobile users

Microsoft Application Virtualization enables end users to access their applications from other licensed devices to easily work in free-seating environments or at remote locations. It also lowers the possibility of

security threats for mobile devices by letting you configure streamed virtualized applications to time out after specified periods. It also makes it much easier to deploy new applications and updates to mobile users by enabling them to automatically get their software the next time they connect to the network, or by providing virtualized applications via CD without concern about potential conflicts and desktop instability.

Improve desktop maintenance and reliability while reducing risk

By eliminating application installations and centralizing application life-cycle management IT increases control over desktop environments. New applications, updates and operating systems can be quickly deployed from a central location. In addition, end users are delivered access to assigned corporate applications, and IT can see which applications are in use. This helps improve license control, including true-up and renewal planning. It also gives IT and end users confidence that deploying virtualized applications will not cause conflicts that may destabilize their systems and burden the helpdesk. IT can consolidate and more easily maintain OS images while keeping the host device more secure and pristine.

Microsoft Application Virtualization: Components

Application virtualization

Its patented ability to virtualize applications—without changing source code—means applications can execute without being installed, with appropriate levels of operating system and inter-virtual application interaction, while minimizing conflicts, as well as changes to the host computer. Previously conflicting applications, including various versions of the same software, can easily co-exist on the same client. Microsoft Application Virtualization decouples applications from the OS and enables them to run as network services. This simplifies image management of the desktop and reduces degradation and improves stability of the host operating system and other applications.

Dynamic streaming delivery

Rather than “pushing” down and installing entire applications, the first time an application is requested, the client rapidly “pulls” only the code necessary to start the program from a central server—typically 20 to 40% of the total ccode. When the session terminates, application settings and profiles are saved in a non-volatile cache, providing instant access for subsequent use. The cached code enables applications to run locally, even without a network connection.

Flexible, centrally managed deployment options

Customers have a number of choices to deliver virtualized applications including a scalable management and delivery infrastructure that comes with the platform. Application management tasks—including mobile, branch office, and disconnected users—are more easily administered. Active Directory® services integration reduces application assignment and change management to a few clicks. Streaming delivery may also be added to existing SMS, SCCM or third party electronic software distribution systems. These capabilities are further extended to rarely connected, remote end users via the MSI-based standalone deployment option.

Microsoft Application Virtualization for Terminal Services is also available separately for Windows® Terminal Server environments. To learn more about this product, visit <http://www.microsoft.com/terminalservices>.

Microsoft Application Virtualization combines with four other tools to make the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance, which delivers dynamic desktop solutions: **Microsoft Diagnostics and Recovery Toolset**, which quickly repairs and removes malware from PCs; **Microsoft Asset Inventory Service**, which translates software inventory into business intelligence; **Microsoft Advanced Group Policy Management**, which drives the right security settings to desktops; and **Microsoft System Center Desktop Error Monitoring**, for proactively correcting and preventing PC crashes and hangs.

To learn how Microsoft Application Virtualization and the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance can help you, and for complete system requirements, please visit <http://www.windowsvista.com/optimizeddesktop>.

“Having universal application access for our clinicians is huge. They get what they need right away without any problems and without any helpdesk support, which decreases client computing costs and increases end user satisfaction.”

ED SIMCOX
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY PLANNING,
CLARIAN HEALTH PARTNERS

Customer Impact:



Improve productivity for local and mobile end users and reduce risks associated with application management. Customers have cut help desk costs by up to 30% by reducing call volume for application-related problems, and reduced downtime by up to 80% by ensuring continuity of applications.