



# Empowering Federal Government through Desktop Optimization

To deliver superior results to its citizens the Federal Government should have consistent capabilities throughout its agencies. Its IT strategy should continually improve security, lower costs, increase agility, and streamline desktop management. It must also enable the rapid adoption of technology and the important act of sharing knowledge across agencies.

The Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC) mandate is helping to ensure this is being accomplished along with the use of Microsoft technologies. By using a common configuration developed for Federal Government rather than hundreds of locally created configurations, it will improve security, reduce costs, and decrease application-compatibility issues.

Microsoft's Desktop Optimization strategy is the perfect fit for implementing FDCC. The Optimized Desktop delivers a centrally managed, agile, locked-down and cost-effective desktop to government organizations.

## DESKTOP OPTIMIZATION

The goal of Desktop Optimization is to help the Federal Government realize the value of their investments in IT infrastructure by making that infrastructure a strategic asset that increases the agility of the organization and enables workers to achieve more. The Desktop Optimization strategy is built upon five practices that have been identified as critical to moving Federal IT infrastructure toward the goals of the FDCC mandate.

These best practices – which help drive down total cost of ownership (TCO), improve service levels and increase agility – are:

- **Standardize desktop strategy and minimize images**
- **Implement comprehensive security and compliance tools**
- **Automate software distribution**
- **Centrally manage PC configurations and settings**
- **Virtualize applications and deliver as streaming on-demand services**

Federal Government agencies that adopt these best practices are better able to reduce complexity in their IT infrastructure, and free up IT staff to perform higher-value activities.

**Microsoft offers a comprehensive, integrated set of solutions for Desktop Optimization which allows Federal agencies to implement FDCC.**

**These solutions are:**

**Microsoft Windows Vista Enterprise**

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/enterprise/default.aspx>

**Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack (MDOP)**

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/enterprise/benefits/tools.aspx>

**Microsoft System Center** <http://www.microsoft.com/systemcenter/default.aspx>

**Microsoft Office 2007** <http://www.microsoft.com/office>

**Microsoft Forefront Client Security** <http://www.microsoft.com/clientsecurity>

Agencies who adopt a Desktop Optimization strategy can more easily implement FDCC standards and benefit from the following:

### Improved security

Federal agencies gain the ability to apply and maintain standard security settings on all desktops and laptops in the enterprise.

### Reduced costs

As with any taxpayer funded entity, Federal agencies seek to reduce costs which directly translates to increased funds toward the agency's governmental missions.

### Decrease in application compatibility issues

With application virtualization and centralized management, Federal Government IT managers can ensure compatibility among agencies and the information they need to exchange.





## THE IMPACT OF DESKTOP OPTIMIZATION IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The various elements of a Desktop Optimization strategy can help federal government agencies and institutions implement FDCC in several ways. Among them are:

### **Strengthened Security and Regulatory Compliance**

Microsoft technologies help Government agencies be constantly vigilant about protecting citizen information and other sensitive data. Agencies are able to increase security with Windows Vista Enterprise's numerous security enhancements, including BitLocker Drive Encryption and Windows Security Center. Microsoft Forefront Client Security provides unified protection from viruses, spyware and other threats; and simplifies centralized security administration. Microsoft Office 2007 Trust Center and Rights Management Service strengthen security at the user level. MDOP's Advanced Group Policy Management enhances change-control process for Group Policy Objects.

### **Simplified Software Management**

Government agencies often use scores of software applications. In order to help them streamline application management Windows Vista Enterprise features a new image-management architecture that is hardware-independent and allows single-image deployment across highly diverse, global user environments. MDOP features SoftGrid Application Virtualization, which turns applications into easily used, on-demand services. And System Center separates drivers from image and language packs.

### **Centrally Managed PC Settings**

Centralized management of desktops leads to greater stability, faster problem resolution and fewer issues with software deployments – all of which are valuable to Federal Government IT managers who are implementing FDCC standards and need to provide up-to-date systems and applications within limited budgets. Efficient centralized management is supported throughout the Desktop Optimization strategy through features such as System Center's Configuration manager, Operations Manager and Service Manager; Windows Vista Enterprise's User Account Control and event logging; MDOP's Advanced Group Policy Management, SoftGrid Application Virtualization and Desktop Error Monitoring; and Microsoft Office 2007's comprehensive group policy administrative templates.

### **Enhanced Application Compatibility and Collaboration with Colleagues**

Increased agility and decreased cost is also accomplished through Government workers' ability to more easily access critical information whenever they need to and wherever they are located, thanks to standardized, centralized applications, technologies that strengthen user authentication, simplify log-on, and accelerate the process of finding and sharing information—both within their own agency and extending to other agencies who may need access to the same information.

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### **The Microsoft Desktop Optimization Strategy**

<http://www.microsoft.com/io>

### **Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC) deployment resources**

<http://www.microsoft.com/industry/government/federal/fdccdeployment.mspx>

### **FDCC White Paper**

[http://download.microsoft.com/download/5/c/4/5c46c4a0-950f-40a9-9a8f-9af4a2869bc2/WhitePaper\\_FDCC.doc](http://download.microsoft.com/download/5/c/4/5c46c4a0-950f-40a9-9a8f-9af4a2869bc2/WhitePaper_FDCC.doc)