

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 Enterprise Desktop Virtualization

**Microsoft® Application Virtualization** transforms applications into virtualized, network-available services resulting in dynamic delivery of software that is not installed, minimizes application conflicts, and reduces costly application compatibility testing. Users and their application environments are no longer machine-specific, and the machines themselves are no longer user-specific, enabling IT to be flexible and responsive to business needs, and significantly reducing the cost of PC management, including application and operating system (OS) migrations.

Microsoft Application Virtualization is an integral tool in the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance, a dynamic desktop solution available to Software Assurance customers that helps reduce application deployment costs, enable delivery of applications as services, and better manage and control enterprise desktop environments.

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

Today's business desktop is awash in applications. Each installed application requires lengthy regression testing and deployment processes before it reaches production. Because applications are only available where they are installed, users are tied to their computers. All this makes complex yet critical business projects such as OS and application migrations, security refreshes, and disaster recovery plans even harder to complete.

**Microsoft Application Virtualization** changes that. Instead of a complex series of time-consuming steps, it helps transform desktop administration into a simpler, more automated process for deploying, patching, updating, and terminating applications, which requires minimal resources and delivers superior results.

Microsoft®  
Application  
Virtualization

- Dynamically streaming software as a centrally-managed service

## Microsoft Application Virtualization: Advantages

### Minimize application conflicts and regression testing

By reducing the requirement to install applications on desktops or terminal servers, and shielding the OS and applications from changes created when applications are installed, Microsoft Application Virtualization minimizes the problems that hinder application deployments. This also reduces lengthy application to application regression testing. Now, applications that would traditionally conflict with each other can easily co-exist on a single desktop or Terminal Services session.

### Simplify OS migrations and patching

Turn time-consuming, tedious migration and patching projects into largely automated, conflict-free processes. Most applications do not have to be repackaged for OS migrations and this eliminates

regression testing. Not only does Microsoft Application Virtualization accelerate migration to Windows® Vista, it sets the foundation for easier future operating system migrations as well.

### Build business continuity for applications

Replicate your virtualized applications like any other enterprise data to maintain a rapid failover plan for your applications, significantly cutting end-user downtime. If you configure Application Virtualization user profiles to persist on the network, all user-specific virtual application preferences can also easily be replicated to a back-up site.

## Microsoft Application Virtualization: Components

### Application virtualization

Microsoft Application Virtualization's patented ability to virtualize applications—without changing source code—means applications can execute without installation, with appropriate levels of operating system and inter-virtual application interaction, while minimizing conflicts, or changes to the host computer. 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 of the host operating system or 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 code. 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 with full functionality, 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 integrated with existing SMS, SCCM or third party electronic software distribution systems. These capabilities are further extended to rarely connected, remote field users using 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 five other tools to make the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance, which delivers dynamic desktop solutions. These are: **Microsoft Asset Inventory Service**, which translates software inventory into business intelligence; **Microsoft Diagnostics and Recovery Toolset**, which includes powerful tools to accelerate desktop repair, recovery, and troubleshooting of unbootable Windows®-based computers; **Microsoft Advanced Group Policy Management**, which enhances group policy through change management tools; and **Microsoft System Center Desktop Error Monitoring**, which enables proactive problem management by analyzing and reporting on application and system crashes; and **Microsoft Enterprise Desktop Virtualization**, which enhances deployment and management of Virtual PC images on a Windows Desktop while also providing a seamless user experience on a Virtual PC environment independent of the local desktop configuration and operating system.

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>.

*“Using this technology, Alamance Regional Medical Center eliminated over 200 hours spent annually on regression testing and anticipates saving more than U.S. \$1.5 million in application management costs over a three-year period.”*

**ANDY GERRINGER**  
SENIOR NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR,  
ALAMANCE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

### Customer Impact:



Lower application management costs by reducing—and sometimes eliminating—many of the traditional, tedious steps needed to deploy and maintain applications, including regression testing and installation/removal. Customers have been able to cut help desk costs by up to 30% by reducing call volume for application-related problems, and reduce downtime by up to 80% by ensuring business continuity of applications.