

Windows Vista™ Enterprise Centralized Desktop



→ Centralized Desktops Running Virtually on the Server

Microsoft® offers several flexible means for deploying Windows®. In particular for customers looking to centralize storage or execution of Windows, Microsoft provides multiple options such as Terminal Services, Diskless PCs, and Windows Vista™ Enterprise Centralized Desktop. Terminal Services provide strong price performance for centralized desktops. Diskless PCs provide the combination of rich-user experience and centralized operating system storage. Windows Vista Enterprise Centralized Desktop (VECD) provides Windows Vista Enterprise running in virtual machines, or physically, on server hardware. While Terminal Services is a widely adopted technology, Diskless PCs and VECD are emerging and are best suited for early adopter enterprise customers who are highly regulated, have sophisticated IT staff, and want to centralize their desktop experience. Any customer deploying Windows in the Enterprise should consider adding SoftGrid® Application Virtualization to any one of these three models to further increase an enterprise's flexibility in desktop computing.

VECD Deployment Scenarios

VECD enables you to deploy Windows Vista centrally in VMs using the same base image you already deploy on the desktop. You can take advantage of the identical patching, application compatibility and support scenarios that you receive with traditional desktops. Equally important, VECD isolates users from each other through VMs, making it easier to enable scenarios such as outsourced development. Customers considering VECD should note that, like Terminal Services deployments, it requires a constant network connection. In addition, remotely executing Windows results in a lesser user experience than when Windows runs directly on PCs.

VECD offers two primary deployment options: static and dynamic. Lesser managed customers may choose static deployment, while more highly managed customers may want to investigate dynamic deployment topologies.

Static Deployment

In static mode, each user has his/her own dedicated VM on the server that essentially houses the user's hard drive that is executed on the server. This results in a one-to-one mapping of VMs to users. The more users you have, the more VMs you need. VMs are stored on a SAN or NAS and execute the OS on the server. Desktops are presented on the PC or thin client, depending on the situation.

Dynamic Deployment

In a dynamic architecture there is only one master image. Instead of having to manage many dedicated images, you support one image that is automatically replicated as needed for users. This makes it easier to manage the VMs and dynamically provision your desktop environments, and helps reduce maintenance and support costs.

VECD dynamic mode works by having a master VM image on the SAN or NAS along with application images and individual user settings using SoftGrid Application Virtualization technologies. When a user calls for a VM, the master OS image is replicated and executed on the server.

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VECD Deployment Scenarios *(continued)*

Complementary Technologies

With VECD, you can choose the complementary management and virtualization software that best suits your needs. Microsoft provides several technology options:

- Microsoft Virtual Server can virtualize VECD static and dynamic deployments in a very cost-effective manner. To make your deployments, particularly in dynamic mode, even more robust, customers can take advantage of SoftGrid Application Virtualization and System Center Virtual Machine Manager for dynamic virtual machine provisioning.
- System Center Virtual Machine Manager, which will be available in the summer 2007, provides key management functionality. It will provision VMs dynamically to the server hardware that has the best available capacity.
- SoftGrid Application Virtualization enables you to virtualize applications as well and save user preferences and settings so that they are always available no matter how or where applications are accessed. User preferences and data are provisioned in a way that enables them to return to saved states even without dedicated times. For example, when the user clicks on an application icon, a personalized application is delivered in real-time to the user. SoftGrid is available as part of the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack (MDOP) for Software Assurance and separately for Terminal Services.

VECD Licensing Options

VECD can be licensed for both PCs and thin-clients.*

- **PC License:** An annual subscription in addition to Windows Software Assurance.
- **Thin client license:** An annual subscription which includes Windows Software Assurance.
- In both cases customers can install an unlimited number of copies of Windows Vista Enterprise or downgrade operating systems on server hardware and access up to 4 concurrent running instances from a licensed device.

* Note: to run desktop applications (i.e., Office 2007) via the licensed device, each accessing device must be licensed for the application. VECD does not include application licenses.

Part of the Windows Vista Enterprise family, VECD offers a flexible option for enterprise customers and early adopters wanting to deploy Windows Vista on centralized desktops. For more information about VECD, please contact your Microsoft account team, or visit www.windowsvista.com/enterprise.

