Persistent or non-persistent?

When an organization undertakes a VDI or desktop virtualization project, it faces multiple options and alternatives to choose from within the technology itself.

One of these options, and perhaps one of the most important, is the choice between the deployment of persistent or non-persistent virtual desktops for its users.

This document explains as simply as possible what these two alternatives consist of and the pros and cons of each one.

PERSISTENT DESKTOPS

With the resources of a persistent desktop, each user has their own desktop running on a specific virtual machine. These types of desktops allow for a greater personalization of one's workspace, but they require more storage and backup resources.

Pros: Personalization and fast deployment

It's much easier to personalize persistent desktops because each user has their own data, direct accesses and files on the machine each time they start up a session.

It's also much easier for a user to adapt himself to use these types of desktops, since they work almost exactly the same as their physical PCs.

It's easier to implement the deployment of these types of desktops since these spaces are made available to users in a short period of time with migration techniques from physical places to the virtual platform or through cloning corporate images of the workplace,

Cons: Storage, administrative and management space

When hosting the users' data with the desktop, a very large amount of storage space is consumed, with increasingly larger increments.

At the same time, when the desktop platform grows, managing these types of desktops becomes more complicated, as each virtual machine has to be separately managed and administered.

Imagen courtesy of hywards 7 / Freedigitalphotos.net

NON-PERSISTENT DESKTOPS

When users access non-persistent desktops none of their application data or configurations is saved with the desktop.

When the session is over, the virtual desktop returns to its original state before another user can connect, or it is destroyed and a new virtual desktop is assigned to the user each time a connection is made.

Pros: Easy administration, more security and less storage space

Since non-persistent desktops are created from a single image, it's very easy for administrators to apply new patches, update and backup images, or deploy applications to users within the organization.

Users cannot alter the desktop configuration, nor can they install applications on the desktop, which makes the virtual desktop a much safer and robust environment.

Furthermore, facing any kind of incident detected in the virtual desktop, simply restarting the system or closing the user session returns the system to a consistent state, and the user is presented with a completely new virtual desktop.

Since all virtual desktops are based on the same image and any changes made to the desktop are minimal, much less storage space is required than in a persistent desktop VDI infrastructure.

Additionally, the administrators can separate the data, configurations and user profiles into shared resources hosted on a cheaper storage unit.

Cons: Complex personalization and less flexibility in publishing applications

With non-persistent desktops, users can't easily personalize their desktop since virtual desktops don't use user profiles.

In order to personalize non-persistent desktops, prior administrative work is required (creation and configuration of shared resources, creation and configuration of user policies and user groups, creation of mobile user profiles), which can be quite laborious.

On the other hand, complementary technologies exist for publishing personalized applications for user groups such as the virtualization of applications or the virtualization of user profiles.

Support and professional services

VirtualCable sells UDS Enterprise through a subscription model, including product support and updates in segments based on number of users.

Additionally, VirtualCable offers a broad portfolio of professional services to install and configure UDS Enterprise and other virtualization technologies.

For further information visit www.udsenterprise.com or email us at info@udsenterprise.com