Microsoft®
SoftGrid® Application Virtualization

Microsoft®
Desktop Optimization Pack
for Software Assurance

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

Microsoft® SoftGrid® Application Virtualization transforms applications into virtualized, network-available services resulting in dynamic delivery of software that is never installed, never conflicts, and minimizes 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 SoftGrid Application Virtualization is an integral tool in the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance solution, 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 SoftGrid Application Virtualization changes that. Instead of a complex series of time-consuming steps that consume resources, it helps transform desktop administration into a simpler, automated process for deploying, patching, updating, and terminating applications, that requires minimal resources and delivers superior results.

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→ **Dynamically streaming software as a centrally-managed service**

Microsoft SoftGrid Application Virtualization: Advantages

Minimize application conflicts and regression testing
By eliminating the requirement to install applications on desktops or terminal servers, and shielding the OS and applications from changes normally created when applications are installed and run, Microsoft SoftGrid Application Virtualization prevents problems that hinder deployments. This also minimizes the need to perform lengthy regression testing. Now Microsoft Office 2007 and previous versions 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 SoftGrid 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 an instant-on failover plan for your applications, significantly cutting end-user downtime. If you configure SoftGrid Application Virtualization user profiles to persist on the network, all user-specific application preferences can also easily be replicated to a back-up site.

Secure desktops
Not only are application permissions centralized, but the applications and licenses that run on laptops are protected from unauthorized use. Applications can be locked down in read-only mode so that they can't be altered or used in unauthorized ways. In addition, application isolation keeps the OS pristine, helping prevent and contain security breaches and infections.

Microsoft SoftGrid Application Virtualization: Components

Application virtualization

This enables applications to run without local installation. Through extensive virtualization, it virtualizes per user, per application instance, all the key application components. Its patented ability to virtualize applications—without changing source code—means applications can execute without installation, conflicts, or changes to the host computer. SoftGrid Application Virtualization decouples applications from the OS and enables them to run as network services. This simplifies image management of the desktop and ensures that there is no 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.

Centralized, policy-based management

Application management tasks for all users—including mobile, branch office, and disconnected users—are easily administered. Set policies for users, applications, and delivery, and then turn daily management over to the system itself. Active Directory® directory services integration reduces application assignment and change management to a few clicks. To terminate the application or the rights, just disable the application in the management console and it is gone.

Integration with Microsoft System Management Server

With the SoftGrid connector for Microsoft Systems Management Server (SMS), IT administrators get all the benefits of SoftGrid—including application virtualization and dynamic streaming—from within the SMS infrastructure. This combination allows you the flexibility to choose the best way to deploy and run applications while maintaining OS level patches, updates, inventory, and asset tracking with a single, integrated management point.

Microsoft SoftGrid 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 SoftGrid Application Virtualization combines with four other tools to make the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance, which delivers dynamic desktop solutions: **Microsoft Asset Inventory Service,** which translates software inventory into business intelligence; **Microsoft Diagnostics and Recovery Toolset,** powerful tools to accelerate desktop repair, recovery, and troubleshooting of unbootable Windows®-based computers; and **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.

To learn how Microsoft SoftGrid Application Virtualization and the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance can help you, and for complete systems 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.

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