

# VMware App Volumes

## Solution Overview

### Q. What is App Volumes?

A. VMware App Volumes™ (formerly CloudVolumes) provides real-time application delivery to end-users and desktops. IT can use App Volumes to instantly deliver applications and data to users without compromising user experience. Infrastructure and management costs are reduced by utilizing managed volumes. Unlike traditional application management solutions, App Volumes allows IT to deliver a desktop with no trade-off between user experience and costs.

### Q. How does App Volumes work?

A. By using App Volumes, IT can deliver applications and data to desktop and users in seconds, and at scale. IT can manage the entire application lifecycle, from initial installation to update and ultimately to its replacement. Applications are stored in read-only virtual disks that, with the click of a button, instantly attach to desktops by users, groups, or devices. To the end-user, applications perform like natively installed applications.

### Q. What are the benefits of using App Volumes?

A. The benefits of using App Volumes start with agility and decreasing costs. IT can now deliver or upgrade application workloads within seconds. Provisioning applications is as easy as simply installing them once. App Volumes also helps to deliver great user experience while driving down storage and management costs. With App Volumes, end users can take advantage of fully customized desktops and enjoy the ability to install their own applications and have them persist across sessions. IT can drive down compute, network, and storage costs by leveraging on-demand layering and the non-persistent architecture that App Volumes helps to enable. App Volumes virtual disks can be placed on any supported vSphere datastore enabling IT to leverage the most appropriate storage including fast storage with high read IOPS such as VMware Virtual SAN™ instead of needing to stream application across the network from a CIFS shares.

### Q. How does App Volumes work with user data?

A. Each device or user optionally has a single writable volume that contains the device or user's data and user installed applications. If a user moves from one virtual desktop to another, the data and user installed applications follow that user.

### Q. How do Horizon and App Volumes work together?

A. App Volumes delivers native applications to VMware Horizon® virtual desktops on-demand through VMDKs, without modifying these virtual desktops or the applications. This solution can be virtualized with vSphere and leveraged with Horizon to help quickly deliver applications to Horizon (with View) virtual desktops. Providing a way to significantly lower the cost of managing and maintaining Horizon desktops, App Volumes delivers on average at a 30% reduction in storage volume versus Horizon 6 alone. Because App Volumes enables the benefits of a persistent desktop on top of a non-persistent pool, significant storage savings can be achieved. Other types of environment, such as Citrix XenApp, XenDesktop, and RDSH, can realize the same types of savings using App Volumes.

### Q. What was new in App Volumes 2.7?

A. Support for Windows 8.1 and 2012 R2 for VDI and RDSH desktops was made available in 2.7. Support for Citrix XenDesktop 7.X and XenApp 7.X, and enhanced VHD support for XenServer and Hyper-V was also made available.

### Q. What is new in App Volumes 2.9?

A. Support for connecting to multiple vCenters is now available. Support for VMware vSphere® 6 is also now available. Please refer to the release notes for more information on new features, enhancements, and fixes.

### Q. I heard about Project Fargo at VMWorld. How will this impact App Volumes and VMware Horizon 6?

A. Project Fargo, with App Volumes, will help VMware Horizon 6 by giving IT the ability to instantaneously deliver virtual desktops and applications in seconds. Provisioning desktops and applications typically takes minutes or hours. Project Fargo and App Volumes help drastically reduce that provisioning process time. Project Fargo and App Volumes together are identified as Project Meteor.

### Q. Can I leverage this solution in non-virtualized PC environments?

A. Yes, however the focus is on VDI use cases initially.

### Q. Is there any overhead associated with this solution on my network, storage or compute?

A. No, App Volumes reduces storage I/O, capacity and has negligible impact on network and compute.

**Q. I have a non-VMware VDI solution in place-can I still leverage App Volumes?**

A. Yes. For example, App Volumes can be leveraged on Citrix XenDesktop, Citrix XenApp, and RDSH.

**Q. How does App Volumes compare to Mirage?**

A. App Volumes dynamically delivers applications to desktops and in real-time. VMware Mirage™ delivers image management to physical PCs through static offline composition.

**Q. How does App Volumes compare to ThinApp?**

A. App Volumes dynamically delivers applications to desktops and in real-time. VMware ThinApp® isolates applications from the operating system. This provides benefits such as natively running legacy applications, such as IE6, on unsupported operating systems, such as Windows 7. ThinApps can be delivered through App Volumes as VMDKs instead of streamed across the network from a CIFS share. See <https://www.vmware.com/resources/techresources/10411> for more information.

**Q. Where can I get access to demos and/or trials of App Volumes?**

A. Trials are available on <http://www.vmware.com/products/appvolumes/>. The Hands on Labs are also a great way to demo the product: [labs.hol.vmware.com](http://labs.hol.vmware.com).

**Licensing****Q. I am interested in purchasing App Volumes. How can I purchase?**

A. App Volumes is available as a standalone SKU, a part of Horizon Enterprise, and as part of the VMware Horizon Application Management™ Bundle.

**Q. How is App Volumes licensed?**

A. It is licensed per CCU (Concurrent Connection User).

