

Windows 7 Migration Solutions from VMware

Simplifying OS Migration with VMware View

Windows 7 Migration Challenges

Microsoft Windows 7 is now a reality, bringing with it the promise of a feature rich operating system to both end users and IT organizations. But in order to realize these benefits, IT organizations are faced with the daunting task of migrating hundreds or thousands of desktops. Upgrading this volume of users can be very complicated and expensive to accomplish in a timely manner. While the benefits of moving up to Windows 7 are compelling, the migration path introduces many challenges, including:

- **Ensuring application compatibility with the new OS:**

Windows XP and other older commercial applications may not be compatible with Windows 7.

- **Recoding custom applications.**

Many organizations have custom applications driving their businesses. Recoding and recertification of these applications for Windows 7 can be very expensive and time-consuming.

- **Carrying over user settings, data, and applications.**

It is essential to make sure that migrating to Windows 7 does not alter any custom settings or data.

- **Migrating within tight IT budgets.**

Enterprises need to design their desktop environments to ensure that upgrading is as economical and simple as possible.

- **Managing hardware provisioning and redeployment.**

Without a virtualized desktop environment, desktop applications are tied to the underlying hardware. Physically updating each user workstation is a significant logistical and financial challenge.

- **Dealing with increased complexity.**

Any migration, but especially an operating system upgrade, will add more complexity to the IT environment.

- **Avoiding downtime during migration.**

Many key enterprise applications simply cannot go down, even for short periods of time. Operating system migrations must be done quickly to ensure continuous operations.

To ensure a successful Windows 7 migration, IT managers need to understand all of the application and hardware compatibility issues and determine the effects on key business processes, end users, and server and network infrastructures before the project begins.

Simplifying Windows 7 Migration with VMware View 4

VMware View™ 4 is the leading desktop virtualization solution built for delivering desktops as a secured managed service—from the platform to the protocol. It provides the ability to manage operating systems, applications, and user persona independently

of each other. VMware View simplifies desktop management, reduces desktop operational costs, and increases control for IT while providing end users with flexible access, creating a superior desktop experience—over any network.

Getting Started

Enterprises can start the transition to Windows 7 today by virtualizing their existing Windows applications with VMware ThinApp™ 4. Application virtualization removes the dependency of applications from the underlying operating system, providing the ability to run a single application across multiple Windows operating systems. This helps to streamline application migration, significantly reduces time consuming regression testing, eases the burden of cost and complexity for IT, and creates a seamless transition for end users.

Once the applications are virtualized, IT can consider moving them to a complete virtual desktop environment using VMware View. This will further separate the operating system from the underlying hardware, allow for centralized control of thousands of endpoint desktops and deliver application and desktop images as a secure managed service from the datacenter.

Minimize Costly Regression Testing

Applications virtualized with ThinApp are contained in single image formats such as .EXE and .MSI. These images can simply be deployed to an end point device or delivered as a secure managed service using VMware View. This will eliminate the need for costly deployment downtime and disruption to end-user activities.

Since virtualized applications are fully isolated images that do not require installation and commit no changes to the registry, this removes any potential conflicts that can be introduced to the environment and greatly reduces the need for regression testing.

IT teams can even deploy a single image of an application to multiple versions of an operating system. This will enable IT to complete a company-wide Windows 7 migration quickly and easily, without costly application porting and lengthy regression testing.

Fast Deployment and Minimized Support

Migrating an entire desktop environment to a new operating system is a time-consuming and costly endeavor for IT organizations, and a disruptive event for end users. With VMware desktop virtualization solutions, IT teams can continue to deliver the same end user applications and profiles to Windows 7 quickly and seamlessly.

Using VMware View with ThinApp, IT teams can streamline deployments of both applications and virtual desktops in two steps. First, virtualize the applications with VMware ThinApp into single application image files. Then use VMware View to virtualize the desktops to isolate the desktop environment from the OS. The result is a combined stack that is easier to deploy and manage. The virtualized applications and desktop environments eliminate direct dependencies on the underlying Windows 7 environment. This helps to reduce conflicts and reduces demand on IT and helpdesk support.

Key Benefits

By delivering Microsoft Windows 7 as a virtual desktop with VMware View, IT teams will be able to minimize the costs and disruption of migrating users and applications to the new operating system. With VMware View, IT will be able to:

- Ensure application compatibility on all endpoint devices
- Migrate applications and desktops as a single “stack” to minimize disruptive end user downtime

- Run a single image of the Windows 7 OS across your virtual environment on a variety of hardware types
- Maintain user productivity by enabling Windows 7 migration across many systems without rebooting
- Eliminate application conflicts and costly application porting and regression testing
- Extend the life of existing desktop hardware to access virtual Windows PC desktops to maximize and protect investments
- Minimize support calls with the application isolation and portability of ThinApp
- Migrate existing applications to Windows 7 by copying application files rather than installing them for faster deployment
- Update a master desktop image without affecting user settings, data or applications

