Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI)

Overview

Enterprise Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) is a positive move toward the future, and aligns with ITS's efforts to consolidate and centralize IT resources. Enterprise VDI streamlines support and reduces costs, while at the same time enables users to access virtual desktops anytime, from anywhere.

What is Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI)?

Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) is the practice of running a user's desktop inside a virtual machine that lives on a server in a data center. All profile settings, installed applications, and the operating system are stored and managed centrally.

What are the benefits of VDI?

VDI can yield significant benefits to New York State in terms of service, manageability, security and cost. Below are some of the key benefits of VDI:

- VDI eliminates the physical management issues for desktops, since all resources (CPU, memory, storage etc.) are managed centrally. VDI also reduces time spent managing networks because you only need to address software issues on one server as opposed to each individual machine.

- VDI can dramatically drive down cost for hardware and support, when compared to the costs of Desktop personal computers (PCs).

- Centralized desktop images, applications and files make data security more manageable, regardless of whether an employee is accessing the virtual desktop from within the state network (at their work desk) or while outside the state network (e.g. from a home Internet connection or a Wi-Fi hotspot).

PCs vs. Thin Client vs. Zero Client

Desktop PC

Overview
- Traditional computing system
- Has a hard drive and media ports making them less secure
- Applications installed on the system with no standardization

Thin Client

Overview
- Virtual desktop hosted in the data center
- Simple application access
- Easy to install
- Improved security over traditional PCs
- Offers centralized management of group policies and configuration

Zero Client

Overview
- Slimmer and more cost-effective than thin clients
- Built for remoting into a server
- Use less power than PCs or thin clients
- Depends heavily on the server to fulfill its computational roles

Need help? For more information, scan the QR Code or visit our website at https://its.ny.gov/vdi