

DYNAMIC, COST-EFFECTIVE SOFTWARE DEPLOYMENT AND CENTRALISED IT MANAGEMENT

Citrix Provisioning Server™ for Desktops uses streaming technology to deliver both operating systems and applications on-demand from the network. This allows IT to provision desktops instantly, enabling centralised management while also providing the uncompromised user experience of a full PC.

Using Citrix Provisioning Server for Desktops, organisations can replace the traditional model for provisioning, configuration and management of desktop PCs, which assumes that a full copy of the operating system is loaded onto each client.

Citrix Provisioning Server for Desktops

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Citrix Provisioning Server for Desktops: Workload Streaming Defined

Citrix Provisioning Server™ for Desktops creates a virtual disk - a vDisk - of a desktop's operating system and applications by taking a snapshot of the desktop image and storing the image as a file on the network. When the computer is powered up, instead of booting from a local hard disk, the PC boots from the vDisk and Citrix Provisioning Server for Desktops streams the assigned image to the desktop on demand. The computer starts running the assigned configuration immediately - no waiting to download the entire OS. Citrix Provisioning Server for Desktops supports streaming of Microsoft® and Linux operating systems.

The software-streaming approach increases flexibility, giving businesses the ability to run one configuration, or vDisk, and with a reboot, point the desktop to a new vDisk and run a different configuration. There is no software pre-installed on the desktop and no software is permanently loaded at the desktop.

Streaming Modes and Deployment Alternatives

Citrix offers two deployment modes designed to accommodate differing business needs: Standard-Image Mode (one vDisk containing OS/application image is streamed to many PCs) and Private-Image Mode (each PC has its own unique vDisk containing OS/application image).

Standard-Image Mode

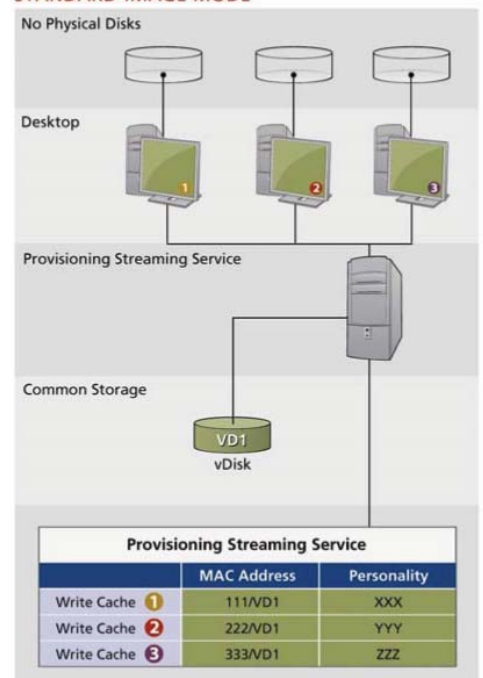
In Standard-Image Mode, Citrix Provisioning Server for Desktops streams a vDisk to multiple clients from a single standard image. Leveraging its unique common-image functionality, Provisioning Server for Desktops is able to stream the same image to clients with different hardware - network interface cards, chipsets and audio and video cards.

Provisioning Server accommodates the unique license identifiers - MAC addresses and other differences - that are required to have the OS run on each client. In other words, each client appears unique, but is really running from a single OS and application image.

The write cache for each client contains the unique modified blocks from each user's session. The cache can be stored on client-side RAM, client-side hard disk, or server-side hard disk.

Standard Image Mode is particularly useful in workgroup environments in which desktops are being deployed for a similar function, for example, call centres, accounting departments, bank teller lines, retail point of sale, or healthcare point of care.

STANDARD-IMAGE MODE



Point to Point Ltd
Mulberry House
Osborne Road
Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1TL



T: +44 (0) 118 936 9500
F: +44 (0) 118 936 9501
E: marketing@ptop.co.uk



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CITRIX PROVISIONING SERVER FOR DESKTOPS

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

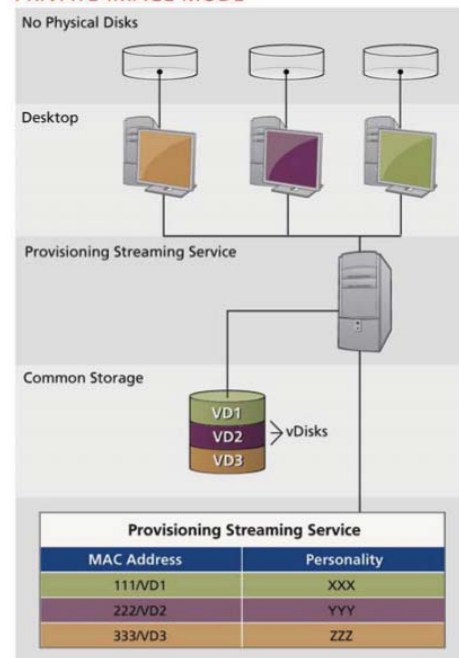
Private-Image Mode

In Private-Image Mode, every client has its own vDisk. All the vDisks are maintained on the datacentre so there are back-up and other advantages.

Some customers report that they require back-up software only on the server with the vDisk, because there is no longer a need to back up every desktop - all the data is on a central server that is backed up in the data centre daily.

This savings and the business continuity value have proven significant at Citrix customer sites.

PRIVATE-IMAGE MODE



Processor

Pentium II 500MHz or later is preferred

Memory

256 MB minimum; 512 MB preferred;
1 GB+ Required if using client-side cache option

Hard Drive

Only one client requires a hard drive for initial imaging only. All other clients do not require a drive. (Note: A drive can be used in the client as a client-side cache to improve performance and reduce network loads.)

BIOS

Support of PXE-based network boot

NIC

100 MB Ethernet with PXE v.99j or later

Capabilities of Server running Provisioning Server 4.5 Streaming Services Processor

Intel x86 compatible; 2.5 GHz minimum;
3.0 GHz preferred; 3.5 GHz Dual Core/HT
or similar for loads >250 clients

Memory

1.0 GB minimum; 2.0 GB preferred; 4.0 GB
large number vDisks or >250 clients

OS

Windows XP SP2 acceptable for small
workgroups; Win2003 preferred

Network

100 MB Ethernet for <15 clients; 1 GB
Ethernet for 100 clients; Dual 1 GB Ethernet
for 250+ clients (Note: Two NICs often
perform better than a single dual-ported
NIC)

Storage

250 MB for Citrix application
Common Storage
250 MB for Citrix Database; 5 GB per vDisk
for WinXP2 images; 5 GB per vDisk for Linux
images; 10 GB per vDisk for Vista images
(estimated); Additional space per vDisk based
on requirements of installed applications

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Mulberry House
Osborne Road
Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1TL



T: +44 (0) 118 936 9500
F: +44 (0) 118 936 9501
E: marketing@ptop.co.uk

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