



Delivering Office 365 with XenApp and XenDesktop

Enterprises are rapidly adopting Microsoft Office 365 to lower infrastructure costs and increase flexibility within the new, mobile workforce. However, not every use case can be satisfied with an online version of Office, which often mandates a hybrid approach. Together, Citrix and Microsoft redefine the way enterprises deliver a superior employee experience through Office 365 — across any device, any platform, and any use case — with increased security and management. Businesses can empower employees like never before.

Delightful and productive user experience

Employees are mobile and demand greater flexibility in their workspace, requiring IT to deliver a set of applications to traditional PCs and the latest tablets and smartphones while still meeting the requirements of the business. Based on the end point device, users will consume applications differently. Citrix® XenApp® and XenDesktop®, when integrated with Office 365 ProPlus, is able to provide the users with optimized deployments in those circumstances requiring local installations.

One of the first objectives many IT departments try to achieve is dismantling the local Exchange server deployments, opting to run entirely from Exchange Online, included with Office 365. However, separating the server (Exchange) from the client (Outlook) by great distances and network latency incurs user dissatisfaction with the performance of Outlook. Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop, when integrated with Office 365, provides the right functionality to maintain an optimal user experience through a combination of storage, policy and profile optimizations, as explained in the [Office 365 XenApp and XenDesktop deployment guide](#).

Once Exchange has been offloaded to the cloud, organizations look to do the same with their messaging infrastructure, Microsoft Lync. When Lync clients are deployed in a RDS/VDI

environment, users quickly experience voice and video degradation due to the distances between end point and RDS/VDI host, and between RDS/VDI host and the Lync Server. Citrix provides an optimization pack for Lync, when utilized in conjunction with XenApp and XenDesktop, which enhances the solution by [improving voice and video quality](#) while at the same time reducing resource consumption on the RDS/VDI host in the data center, resulting in lower hardware costs. The Citrix optimization pack for Lync is the only technology available that supports optimizations for Windows, Mac and Linux end points accessing Lync Server 2010, 2013 and Online, which is part of Office 365.

Device, app and cloud flexibility

Office 365, when viewed as a stand-alone set of applications, is fairly straight-forward; unfortunately, most corporate infrastructure are not so simplistic. Users will consume traditional, line-of-business applications residing in the data center while simultaneously utilizing cloud-hosted applications, like Office 365. Unfortunately, applications are not as dynamic as users and many line-of-business applications are unable to bridge the on-premise / off-premise integration requirements. In addition, the features and functionality available with the online implementation of Office 365 will not meet all needs of the user, requiring a hybrid deployment.

For those applications requiring local deployments within an RDS/VDI deployment, Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop allows organizations to maximize their virtualization investments by supporting Microsoft Hyper-V, Citrix XenServer® and VMware vSphere implementations. XenApp and XenDesktop can even help organizations migrate from one hypervisor to another by allowing a single XenApp and XenDesktop implementation run on multiple hypervisors concurrently, allowing for a phased migration to a new platform.

Regardless of application, end point device, virtualization technology or cloud provider, Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop provides the user with a consistent user experience. Each resource is dynamically optimized based on the capabilities of the end point. When accessing resources from a touch-enabled device like a tablet or smartphone, Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop automatically enables touch-based and motion based optimizations to make the experience more device friendly.

Contextual and embedded security

In the world of mobility and bring your own device, security becomes an even bigger concern as the user's location and devices are outside the walls of the organization. Organizations must have security policies in place that can sense and respond to changing user dynamics.

For example, a user accessing Microsoft Excel to view financial records from the office on an IT deployed PC would be allowed access with full application functionality, but that same user trying to access the same records from an airport lounge utilizing a public kiosk should either be denied access completely or have the functionality within the application severely limited.

Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop, when integrated with Citrix NetScaler®, allows organizations to define appropriate policies and have those policies be enforced automatically to prevent users from inadvertently doing something that will cause a security breach.

Once implemented, organizations can extend their NetScaler implementations to provide [global server load balancing for Microsoft Lync](#). Many organizations operate across multiple data centers around the globe. NetScaler ensures continuous availability and recovery of applications deployed across multiple data center locations, like Microsoft Lync. NetScaler balances the load across multiple locations by directing client requests to the closest or best performing data center, or in the case of an outage, to other nearby data centers.

Simple, scalable management and support capabilities

A move to Office 365 is meant to simplify IT operations, so it is imperative that a complete solution supporting a hybrid deployment does not negate those benefits.

According to an [ESG validation report](#), Citrix's XenApp and XenDesktop can reduce storage costs by up to 80% for the virtual application and virtual desktop infrastructure through the use of integrated and powerful storage optimization technology.

In addition, organizations can eliminate capital expenditures for seasonal workloads or unexpected demand for capacity by either deploying entirely in the cloud or only expanding to the cloud when capacity reaches a critical threshold. XenApp and XenDesktop provides hybrid cloud technology that allows organizations to continue to manage their

on-premise and off-premise deployments as a single entity, supporting Citrix CloudPlatform™, Amazon AWS and Microsoft Azure, which is coming soon.

And finally, organizations can continue to leverage their current Microsoft System Center management stack to support the XenApp and XenDesktop deployment. Image management and resource delivery capabilities are integrated into System Center Config Manager while application packaging services are provided by Microsoft App-V.

Citrix and Microsoft

For over 25 years, Citrix and Microsoft have pioneered and driven the desktop and application virtualization experience. This strong partnership ensures organizations receive:

- Best-in-class security, scalability, management and performance of enterprise software and online services.
- Commitment to industry standards, organizational compliance and new Cloud computing trends.
- Deep integration with Microsoft server and desktop operating systems and management tools.
- Backed by a shared vision for flexible, seamless and powerful computing for today's mobile workforce.

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Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA

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India Development Center
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Pacific Headquarters
Hong Kong, China

Latin America Headquarters
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