Stratodesk Software – All-In-One Solution for DaaS

Stratodesk Whitepaper

An astounding 64% of enterprises agree that cloud infrastructure is more secure than legacy systems[1], and the majority of organizations plan on transferring their data to the cloud in the next few years[2]. But increased security is just one of the many benefits organizations can expect from cloud hosted VDI (DaaS). As organizations turn to the Cloud, it becomes more imperative than ever for IT and business leaders to not only educate themselves on how to best defend confidential information against those who would misuse it, but on the many added benefits of making the shift to the Cloud.

With the right combination of DaaS solutions providers and endpoint management software, organizations can significantly reduce costs associated with maintaining security over their entire cloud hosted VDI network.

[1] Clutch Survey 2017.
[2] Thales e–Security Study.

An organization's ability to run fluidly and productively relies greatly on the ease and ability with which its workers are able to access their applications and desktops either in the office, at home, or on the go. For this reason it is critical that system administrators are able to effectively manage their entire network of mixed endpoint devices. Organizations cannot afford to overlook this important aspect of their business. Endpoint management can, for better or for worse, have a disproportionate impact on the overall well being of day-to-day operations. One server failure, for example, can cause significant harm.

Amidst the horizon of rapidly growing demands on time and budget, organizations must seek out better ways to manage their environments, cut back strain on end users, as well as remove hassle for system admins who are already left with more work than they can achieve, while at the same time ensuring the highest grade of security for their environment.

For this reason, Stratodesk partners with leading solutions providers to bring a greater level of efficiency, convenience and security to your Cloud hosted VDI. Stratodesk NoTouch software is Linux based, runs on any hardware (PCs, Laptops, Thin Clients, ARM), and even offers a cloud hosted administration solution capable of managing thousands of endpoints seamlessly from one location. This same administration software is the only endpoint management solution for mixed environments of both x86 and ARM based devices, including the Raspberry Pi.

This paper seeks to explore effective strategies to cut costs while increasing security and performance and solve other challenges facing IT system administrators in managing and controlling their network of cloud based endpoint devices. Also discussed is how NoTouch Desktop's product suite can proactively help organizations achieve their goals in switching or investing in a Cloud hosted environment.

What is DaaS and What Are Its Benefits?

DaaS, Desktop as a Service, is a form of end user computing where the virtual desktop is hosted in the Cloud instead of on your on premises server. It is very similar to Virtual Desktop Infrastructure – the main difference being that, in the case of DaaS, the server/backend infrastructure is not housed by the company and not managed by the company's IT staff. Instead it is provided offsite by a third party, Cloud service provider in their own data center, and the Desktops are "rented" out on demand.

The advantages of DaaS stem from offloading the burden on the organization or company and putting the full weight of maintaining and hosting VDI on the Cloud service provider that already specializes in maintaining their own servers. With DaaS, you are effectively able to boost security, reliability, and performance across your network without investing extra IT staff hours in an on premises server. By providing Cloud-based desktops to employees, DaaS turns the endpoint device into a conduit for the desktop hosted by the Cloud provider. This means that all data and apps are securely stored not on the device itself, but in the Cloud.

What are the Benefits of DaaS?

DaaS and VDI share many similarities. Both are a great way to ensure an efficient and secure environment for your workers and employees to get their work done. But which is right for your use case? There are a few scenarios where it wouldn't make sense to invest in an entire VDI on premises. In fact, for many, the move to the Cloud might be just the right choice to overcome the high financial entry bar required for VDI. A few reasons DaaS might be the right solution for you include:

Flexibility and Costs

DaaS is great for those who need a more flexible VDI solution or for those looking to save on costs. In fact, one of the most significant advantages of DaaS is cost savings for companies and organizations of any size. DaaS provides virtualized desktops on an operational basis. This means that you only need to pay a subscription fee per desktop licensed and not in perpetuity. It is a more cost effective way to leverage virtual desktops than the perpetual license model inherent to VDI.

This is also a great fit for organizations that foresee a fluctuation in the amount of desktops they will need over any given time. Simply deactivate the subscription for the desktops you no longer need, or easily ramp up the number of desktops in your network when needed.

Reliability

Server failures can have massive consequences, especially for enterprises. Why not remove the risk of server failure? Many Cloud providers will guarantee 24/7 service coverage. In the case of a server failure on the service provider end, they can simply piggy-back your virtual desktops off another server that they have in house. By choosing a cloud hosted VDI, you may very well bypass the consequences of a serious server failure.

Increased Security

When information, apps and desktops are hosted in the Cloud, it adds an important security layer to your organization's network and removes the need to house important data on the endpoint device, or even inside the organization's own data center. For this reason, you want to make sure to choose a secure solution provider so you know your data and information is safe in the Cloud.

Reduce Maintenance

Maintenance is costly in typical VDI deployments. DaaS can help reduce the time you spend maintaining your VDI by pushing the work onto your Cloud solution provider.

Challenges Facing DaaS Deployments

Organizations deploying DaaS still face significant challenges due to budgets, demands on flexibility, and allowing mobile workers and BYOD. Another challenge, and perhaps the greatest of these, centers on security. Using a cloud hosted VDI cuts back costs associated with an upfront investment in VDI, allows for increased flexibility, while also increasing security without adding extra work for the organization's IT staff.

As cloud computing evolves, security demands increase, and budgets tighten, organizations feel the pressure to not only change but evolve to better meet these challenges. IT systems admins in particular feel these pains as they struggle to find a balanced approach to endpoint management. Their first obstacle is overcoming the budget issue. Reducing costs associated with an on premises infrastructure is a strong pull for businesses. However, there are still a plethora of additional costs to cope with.

In order to allow for DaaS, organizations must house Windows on each of their endpoint devices. In addition to installing Windows, they must also provide antivirus and malware protection for each and every device and have an effective and tactical means by which to manage them and monitor potential issues in real time. To make things worse, different devices house different versions of Windows, so standardizing these devices can be a huge

challenge. Do businesses invest in all new endpoints? The costs from all of the above can be huge, and pose a significant obstacle to IT system administrators who are already struggling with many demands as it is.

Another great struggle facing IT administrators is that of security. At the same time, that organizations have an increasing demand for BYOD, remote workers, and mobile workers – all of which pose unique security challenges. This need for flexibility coupled with high security demands causes great concern for IT administrators who must cope with a combination of not only budget and security, but also flexibility.

Flexibility is the third great challenge and cannot be stressed enough. Without an endpoint solution in place that is convenient and one that delivers a seamless user experience, workers cannot function. If there is too much hassle placed on the end user, you can quickly lose the benefits of a cloud hosted VDI as IT resources are redirected towards aiding and assisting end users. Technology that saves time not only for the worker but also for the IT system admin is of paramount importance.

Organizations demand a solution that is as effective as it is secure, and as affordable as it is convenient.

Stratodesk's NoTouch Product Suite Overview

NoTouch Desktop helps boost security with its low footprint NoTouch OS, and saves your system administrators time by automating much of the work involved in endpoint management. By cutting costs, eliminating hassle, standardizing endpoints, and maximizing security, it is the solution of choice for organizations using or looking to use DaaS.

NoTouch revolutionizes endpoint computing, elevates your workspace, automates management processes, and allows tens of thousands of devices to be managed from one central location. Additionally, NoTouch is the only endpoint management software that can be run on premises or from the cloud, which makes it the perfect solution for both VDI and DaaS.

The key benefits of NoTouch Desktop and how NoTouch solves major concerns facing DaaS are as follows:

NoTouch Desktop Saves On Costs

As previously stated, NoTouch comes with significant savings benefits. NoTouch Desktop provides a solution that easily repurposes PCs, Laptops and Thin Clients in your cloud hosted VDI into NoTouch clients, operating on NoTouch OS. For Healthcare VDI, the implications can be massive. Not only does NoTouch OS save money by eliminating the need for capital purchases of hardware while eliminating common security threats, our integrated management suite, NoTouch Center, gives complete control over all VDI endpoints. Reduce IT staff hours and hassle with one single endpoint management solution for your entire VDI.

NoTouch Desktop Removes the Need to House Windows Locally on Endpoint Devices

NoTouch OS replaces the need to have Windows installed on local devices. In most cases, NoTouch OS is installed directly onto the device's hard drive. For evaluation purposes or in a BYOD environment, NoTouch can be booted live from a USB without touching the underlying OS. For diskless deployments NoTouch can be network booted with the integrated PXE server in the management VA.

NoTouch Desktop Enables BYOD

Another common concern facing Healthcare IT is the growing trend of employees bringing personal devices into the workplace, or using their personal devices to work from home. Employees want and expect to perform integral work tasks on personal devices, either at home, in the office, or on the go. Stratodesk's software supports BYOD to meet your business needs without opening up security threats. Workers can simply boot NoTouch OS in Live Mode from a USB stick in order to access important work files wherever they are at. When they are done, they can exit their session and remove the USB stick. Native operating system won't be affected.

NoTouch OS Increases Security

NoTouch OS installs directly onto all of your hardware, bare metal, transforming your devices into high performing thin endpoints. Cancel your malware and antivirus contracts and save money – because NoTouch OS is Linux based, it is impervious to common malware or security exploits.

Connects to All VDI Environments

NoTouch OS also has the clients for all major environments prebuilt into the OS. This means whatever environment you or your solutions provider are using, NoTouch is ready and able to make the connection without any effort needed from your IT staff or end users.

On–Premises or Cloud-Based Administration

NoTouch is the only endpoint management software that can be run either on premises or from the cloud. With NoTouch Cloud, management updates are applied automatically, appliances are actively managed, and home machines and BYOD are enabled without opening your network up to unnecessary security risks.

About Stratodesk

Stratodesk is the world's leading endpoint OS and management solution. It is used by government and healthcare organizations, banks, SMBs and large enterprises to eliminate cost and scalability obstacles facing their complex network of devices. By delivering the only management software for mixed environments of x86, ARM and Raspberry Pi devices, Stratodesk is reinventing endpoint computing for enterprise IoT and VDI. Our cutting edge, linux-based solution, NoTouch, is hardware-agnostic and runs on the Raspberry Pi.

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