

Branch Staging for Streamed Apps

Do you deliver applications using Citrix XenApp™ that need to be available to offline users? The application streaming technology in XenApp (also known as client-side application virtualization) enables applications to be delivered to client devices and run in a protected, virtual environment. Applications are still managed in a centralized application hub, but are streamed to the user's machine and run in an isolation environment. Applications become an on-demand service that is always available and up to date.

Do you also have a large number of branch offices? Wide Area Network (WAN) characteristics like latency, packet loss, and the occasional WAN outage can disrupt services to the branch. The transfer of streamed application packages across hazardous WAN conditions can result in a poor startup times. Moreover, from a bandwidth utilization perspective, transferring large application packages across the WAN for every branch user is highly inefficient and can lead to congested WAN pipes. To overcome these issues, customers can choose to deploy a dedicated file server in each branch and use this to store streamed applications closer to users. However, this approach also requires implementing one of a myriad of replication strategies to keep distributed application content in sync. Maintaining dedicated branch file servers and replication infrastructure for this purpose ultimately results in a higher cost of ownership for delivering streamed apps. Citrix Branch Repeater™ with HDX™ IntelliCache technology offers a better solution to addressing this problem.

How It Works

Branch staging pre-positions streamed application packages within each branch locations. Branch Repeater allows administrators to set replication schedules to control which applications are staged, when replication occurs, and how much bandwidth is used. Once an application is staged, all XenApp streaming users within the branch are automatically redirected to the local instance.

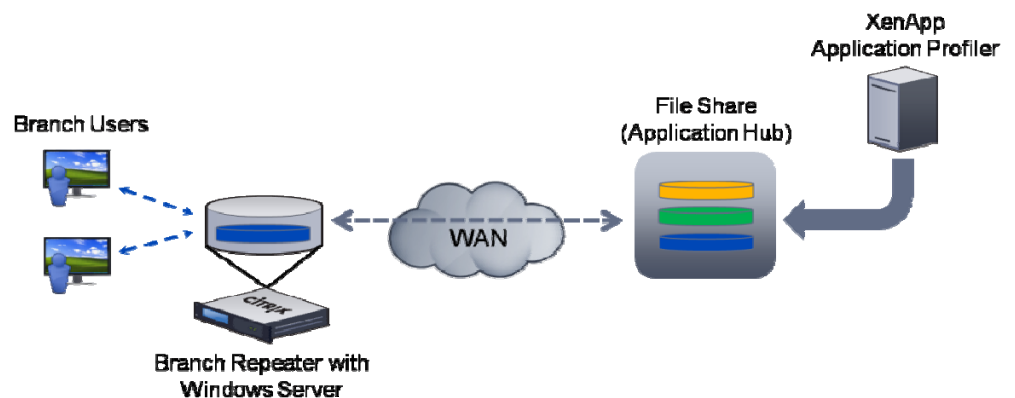


Figure 1 Pre-positioning .cab files locally in the branch with DFS

This eliminates the need to stream applications multiple times over the WAN. Whenever the streamed applications are updated or patched in the data center, Branch Repeater transparently updates them locally so branch users will always and quickly get the latest version of the streamed application.

Key Benefits

End users experience LAN-like performance

By staging streamed applications packages locally in the branch the application behaves exactly as it would for a user a headquarters. Initial application launch times are reduced by up to 40x compared with streaming the application package directly over the WAN. The result is increased end-user satisfaction and productivity with fewer IT help desk calls.

Cost savings from eliminating dedicated branch file servers

With Branch Repeater with Windows Server, there is no need for dedicated branch file servers to store streamed application packages. By reducing the server footprint in their branches, organizations can achieve substantial cost savings.

WAN bandwidth preservation

Pre-populating streamed apps in the branch reduces WAN bandwidth usage. This is because streamed applications are transferred from the datacenter to the branch once, regardless of the number of users in the branch. This approach preserves existing network bandwidth for use by other application traffic and can avoid the need for costly bandwidth upgrades.

Summary

More and more customers are considering XenApp application streaming to solve the application delivery needs. However, streaming presents unique challenges to organizations with large numbers of branch users. Citrix Branch Repeater with HDX IntelliCache technology is the optimal solution for delivering streamed applications to branches.

Additional Resources

- Visit <http://www.citrix.com/branchrepeater>
- Courses – <http://www.citrix.com/training>
- Knowledgebase – <http://www.citrix.com/kb>