



Citrix XenDesktop Architecture Deep Dive

Part II

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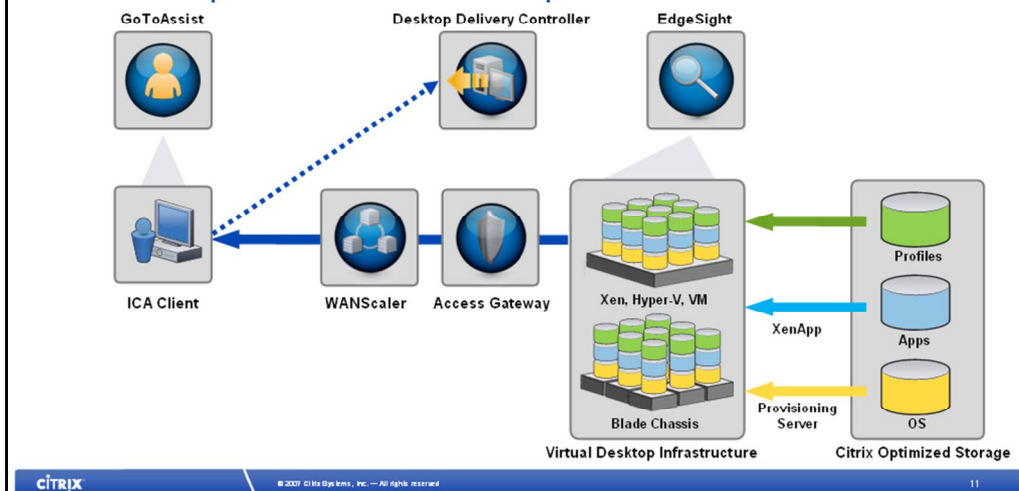
Citrix XenDesktop Install



XenDesktop Implementation

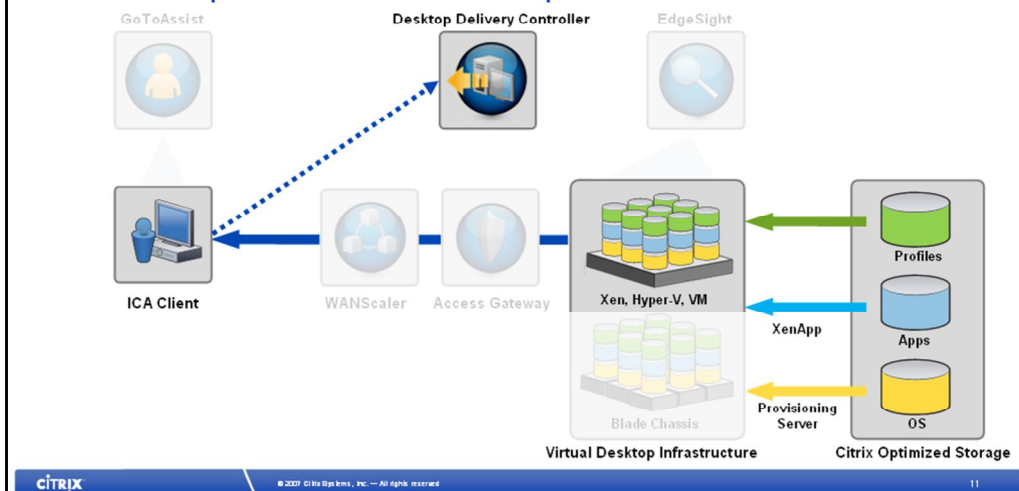
- Desktop Delivery Controller
- Web Interface
- Virtual Desktop Agent

How to Implement XenDesktop v2



Installing the DDC involves installing Web Interface to give the users a login page, configuring licensing correctly (identical to XenApp), choosing a Data Store (just like XenApp), and integrating with Active Directory. On the virtual machines or physical machines that we will be providing to our users, the Virtual Desktop Agent must be installed. Also, we will talk briefly about the XenDesktop Setup Tool

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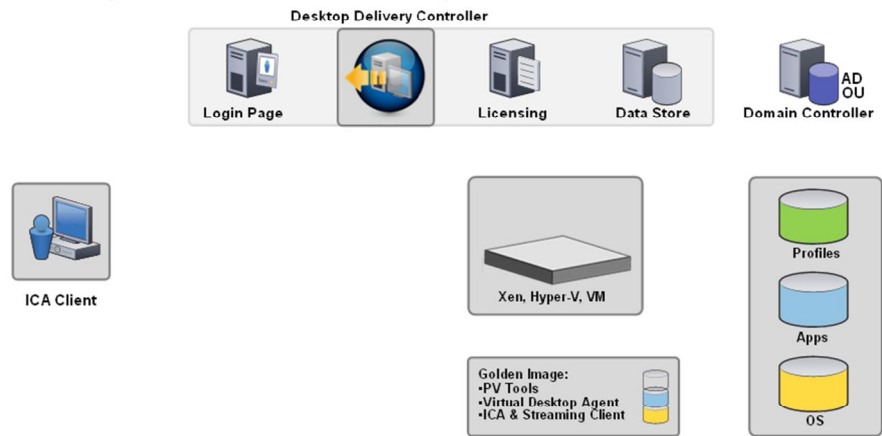
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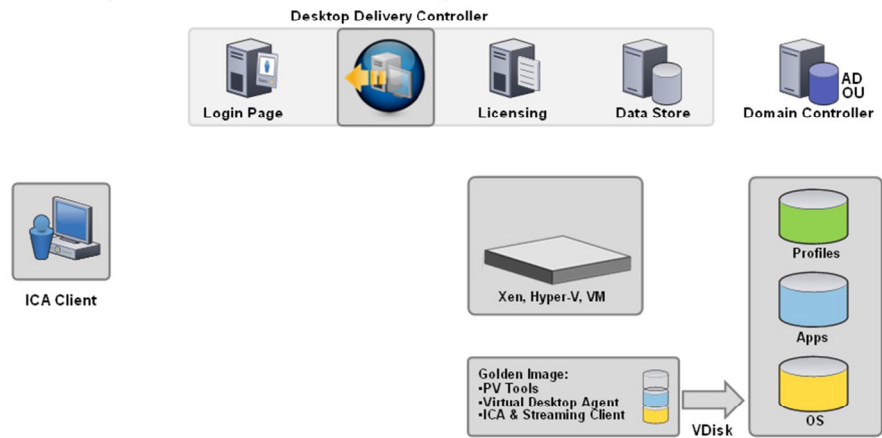
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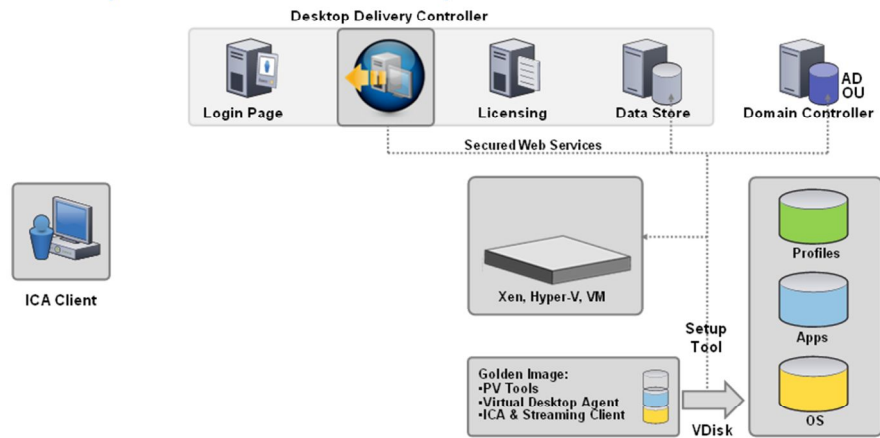
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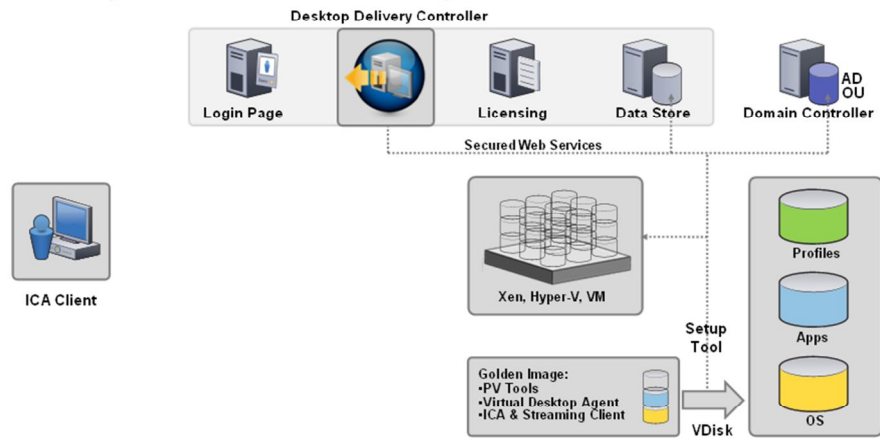
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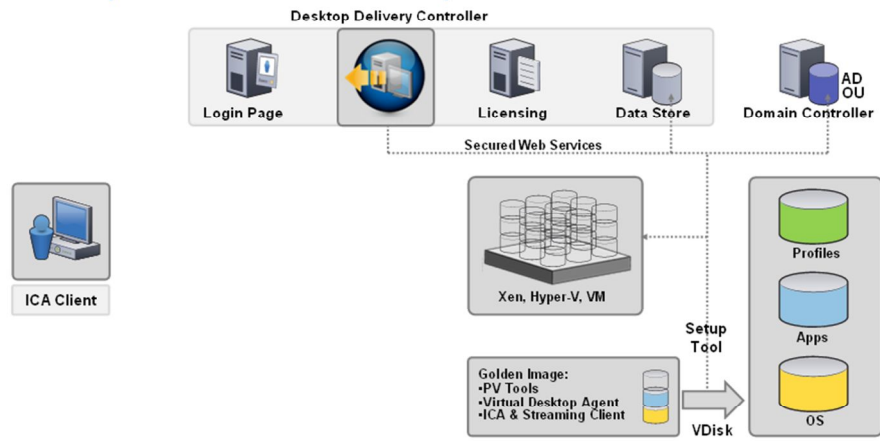
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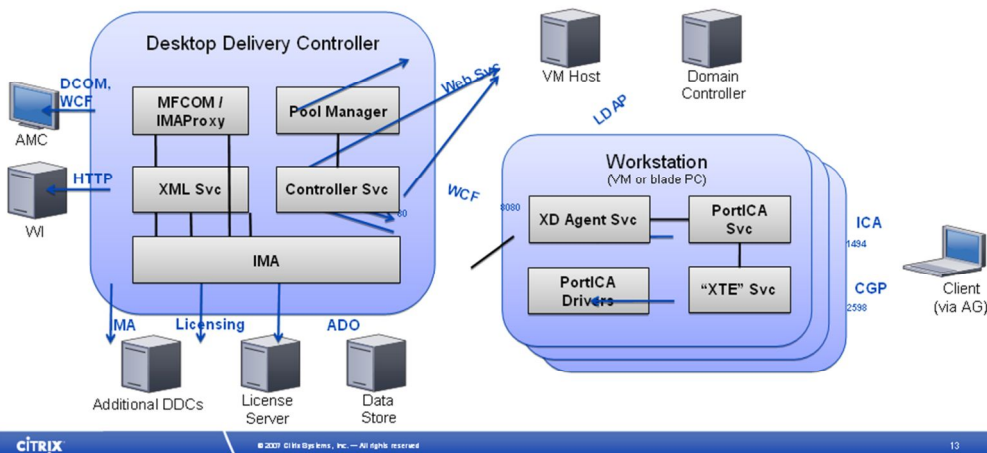
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XenDesktop 2.0 Core Architecture



The Desktop Deliver Controller (DDC) is based on CPS (XenApp) technology.

MFCOM/IMAProxy is used to communicate with the Access Management Console (AMC), which uses DCOM and Windows Communication Foundation (WCF). The DDC communicates with Web Interface using the XML Service, just as Xen App does. The IMA service is used to communicate with other DDCs in the farm, with the License server, and the Data Store, just as with XenApp.

The Pool Manager and the Controller Service are WCF web services that require .NET 3.0.

The Pool Manager has plug-ins that make it capable of working with XenServer, VMware, and (coming soon) Microsoft Hyper-V. The Pool Manager is responsible for choosing a VM from the Desktop Group and assigning it to a user.

The Controller service manages querying Active Directory for user authorization and then setting up the PortICA user connection to the VM.

The Virtual Desktop Agent (VDA) provides the XD Agent service on the VM that communicates via port 8080 (default, can be changed) with the Controller Service on the DDC. The VDA queries LDAP for XD farm information only on installation or reconfiguration. The VDA also provides the PortICA, and XTE services, and PortICA drivers necessary for the endpoint device using the ICA client to communicate with the VM over 1494 or 2598.

DDC System Requirements

Operating System



- Windows 2003 SP2 or Windows 2003 RC2 (32 / 64 bit)
 - Terminal Services in "Application Mode" (No TSCALs required)
 - Microsoft .NET Framework, Version 3.5
 - Java Runtime Environment (JRE) Version 1.5.0_15
 - Microsoft Internet Information Services (IIS) Version 6.0 and ASP.NET (for Web Interface)
 - Microsoft Visual J# 2.0 Redistributable Package, Second Edition

DDC System Requirements



Data Store

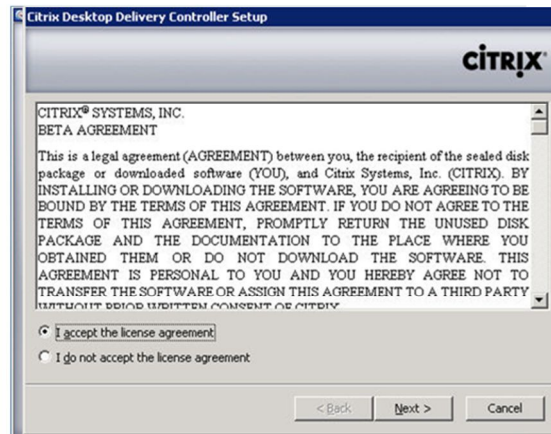
- **Microsoft Access Jet Database Engine**
 - Windows Server 2003 SP1 (*or x64*)
- **Microsoft SQL Server**
 - SQL 2005 Express Edition SP2 (*or x64*)
 - SQL Server 2005 with SP2 (*or x64*)
 - SQL Server 2000 with SP4
- **Oracle Enterprise**
 - 10.2.0.1.0 for Windows Server 2003 (*or x64*)
 - 11.1.0.6.0 for Windows Server 2003 (*or x64*)

Installing the Desktop Delivery Controller (DDC)

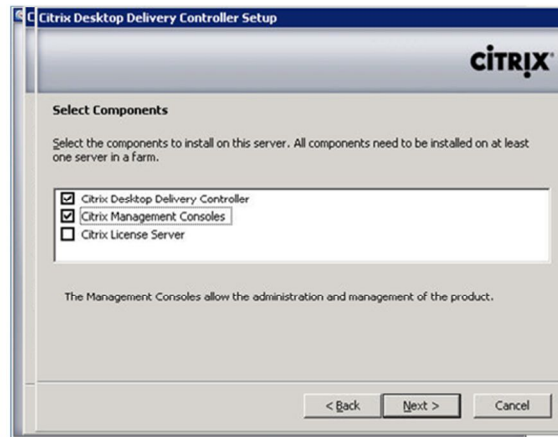


During installation, the computer must be restarted. When it starts again, you must log on as the same user that started the installation.

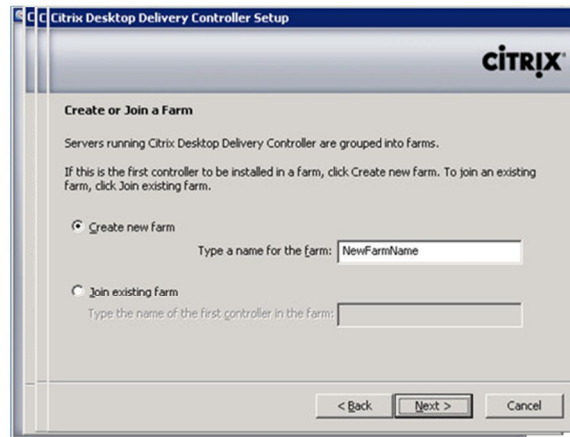
Installing the Desktop Delivery Controller (DDC)



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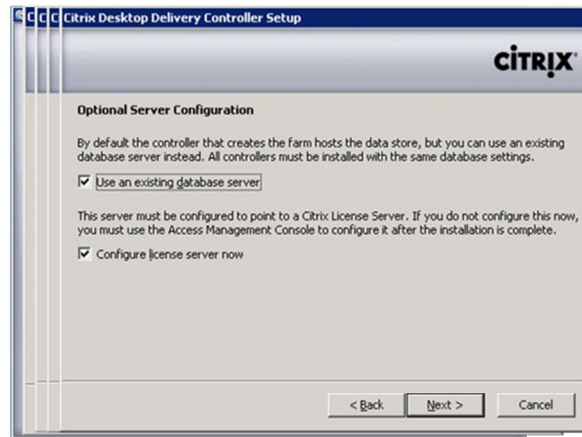


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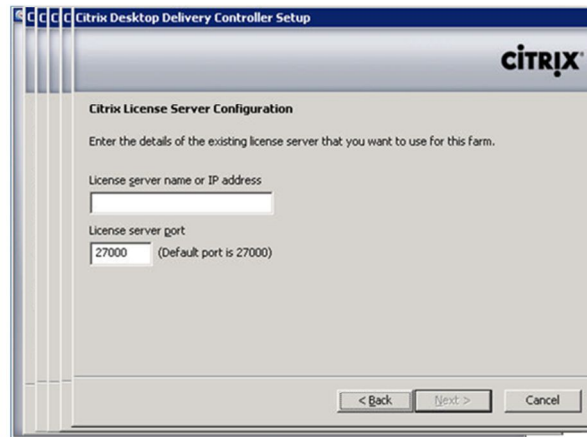


The image shows a screenshot of the 'Citrix Desktop Delivery Controller Setup' window. The window has a title bar with the Citrix logo and the text 'Citrix Desktop Delivery Controller Setup'. Below the title bar, there is a section titled 'Create or Join a Farm'. The text in this section reads: 'Servers running Citrix Desktop Delivery Controller are grouped into farms. If this is the first controller to be installed in a farm, click Create new farm. To join an existing farm, click Join existing farm.' There are two radio buttons: 'Create new farm' (which is selected) and 'Join existing farm'. Below the 'Create new farm' radio button, there is a text input field labeled 'Type a name for the farm:' with the text 'NewFarmName' entered. Below the 'Join existing farm' radio button, there is a text input field labeled 'Type the name of the first controller in the farm:'. At the bottom of the window, there are three buttons: '< Back', 'Next >', and 'Cancel'.

Installing the Desktop Delivery Controller (DDC)



Installing the Desktop Delivery Controller (DDC)



The image shows a screenshot of the 'Citrix Desktop Delivery Controller Setup' window, specifically the 'Citrix License Server Configuration' step. The window has a blue title bar with the Citrix logo. The main area is white with a blue header bar containing the Citrix logo. Below the header, the text 'Citrix License Server Configuration' is displayed. A sub-header reads 'Enter the details of the existing license server that you want to use for this farm.' There are two input fields: 'License server name or IP address' and 'License server port'. The 'License server port' field contains the value '27000' and has a note '(Default port is 27000)'. At the bottom right, there are three buttons: '< Back', 'Next >', and 'Cancel'.

Citrix Desktop Delivery Controller Setup

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Citrix License Server Configuration

Enter the details of the existing license server that you want to use for this farm.

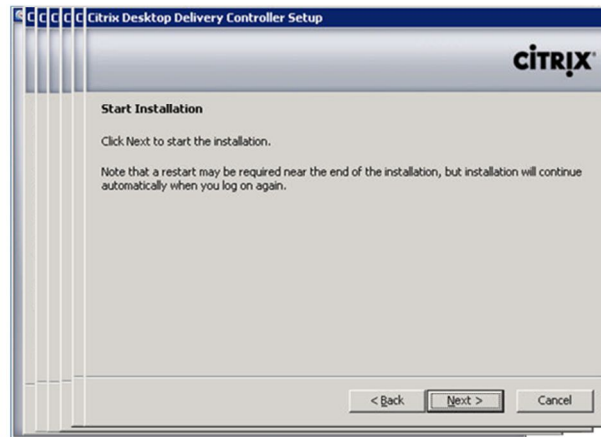
License server name or IP address

License server port

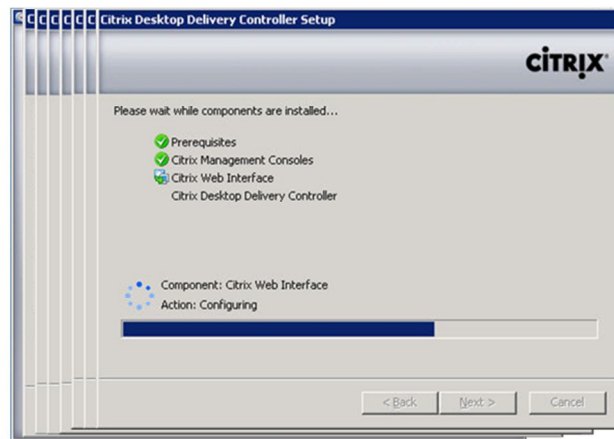
27000 (Default port is 27000)

< Back Next > Cancel

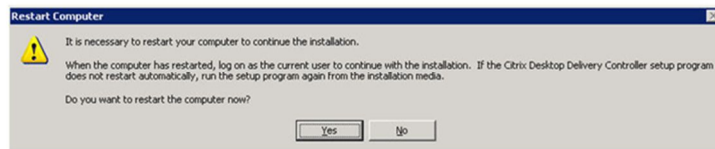
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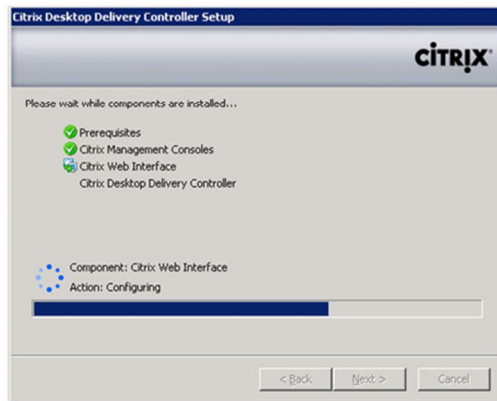
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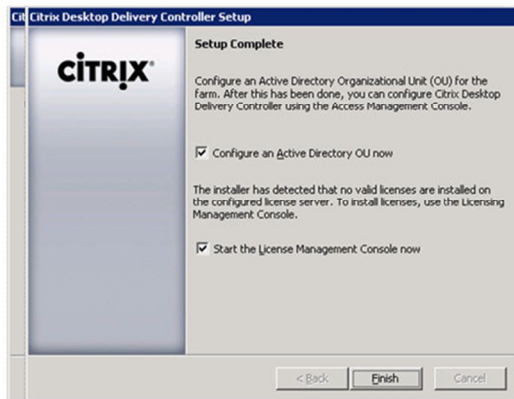
Installing the Desktop Delivery Controller (DDC)



Installing and configuring the DDC (continued)



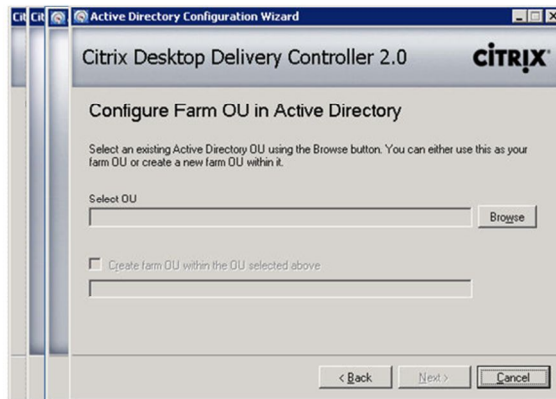
Installing and configuring the DDC (continued)



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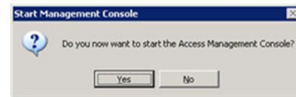
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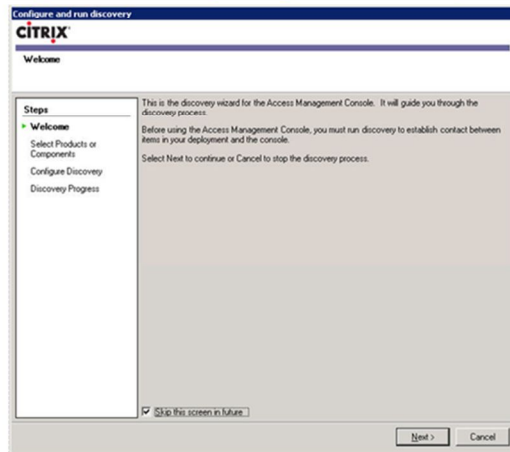
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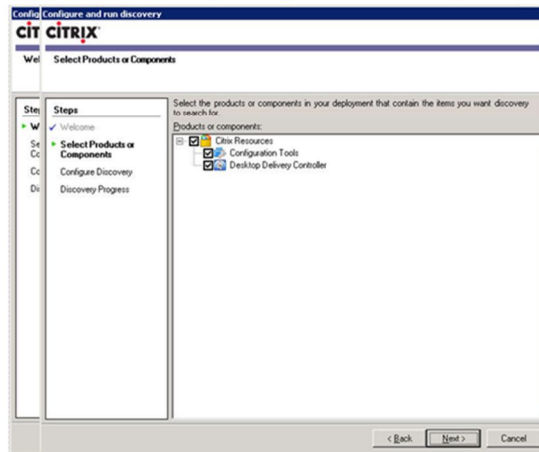


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Installing and configuring the DDC (continued)

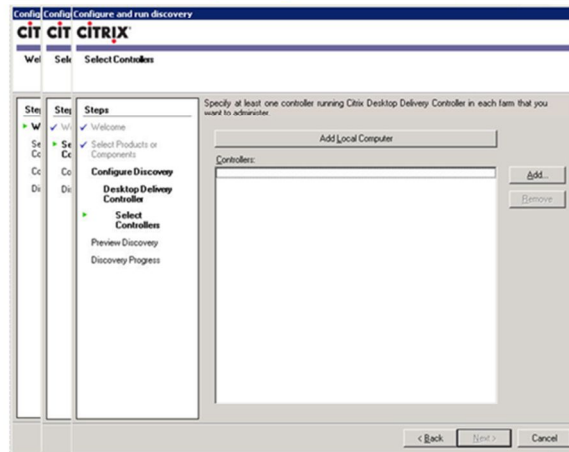


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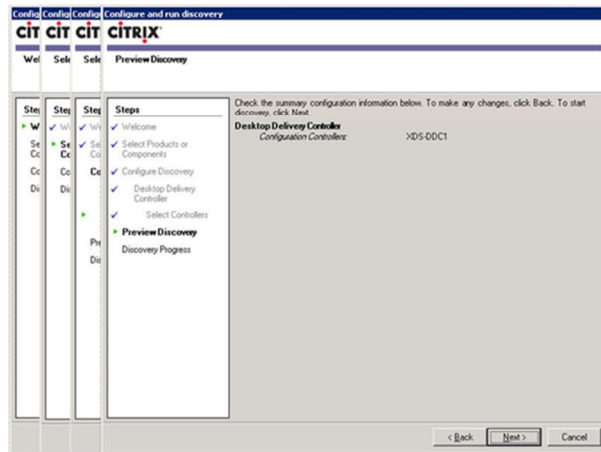
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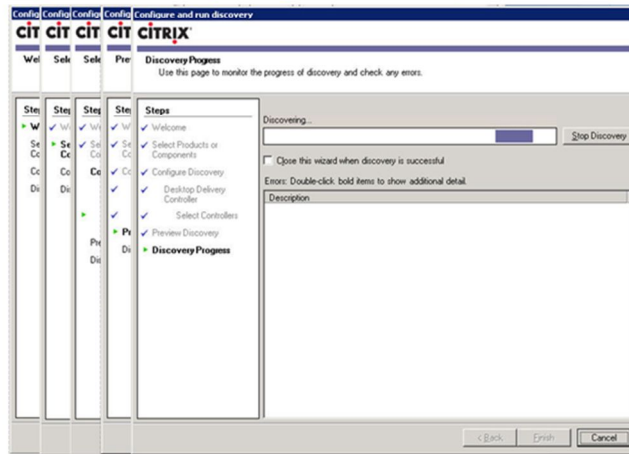
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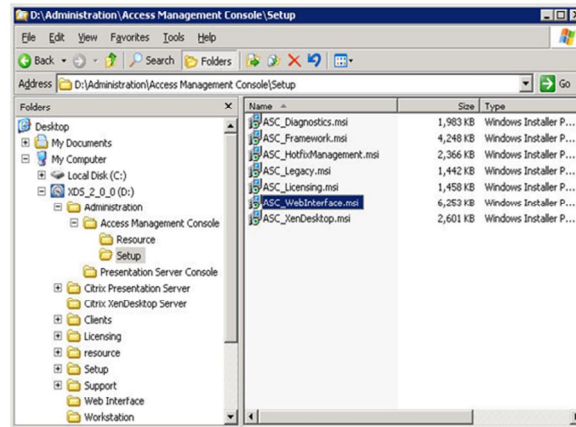
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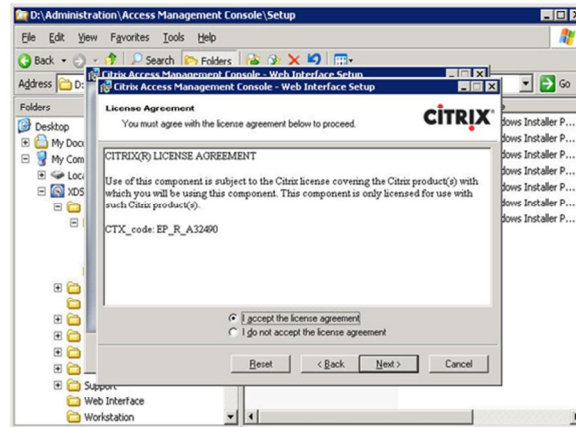
Installing the Web Interface snap-in for XenDesktop



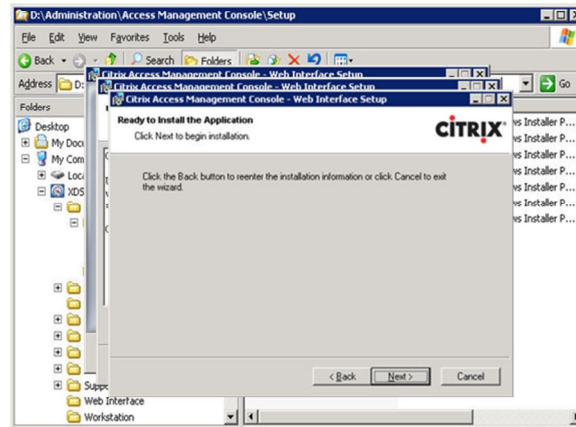
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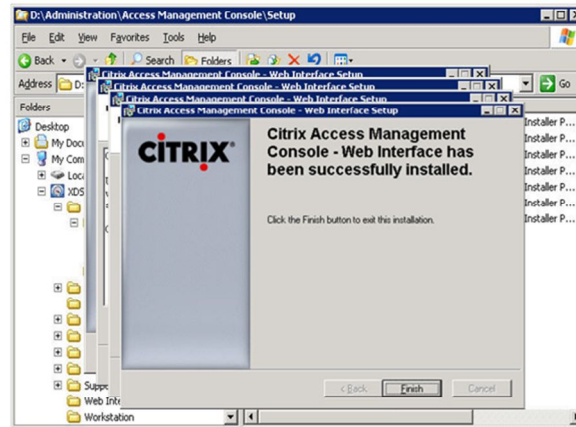
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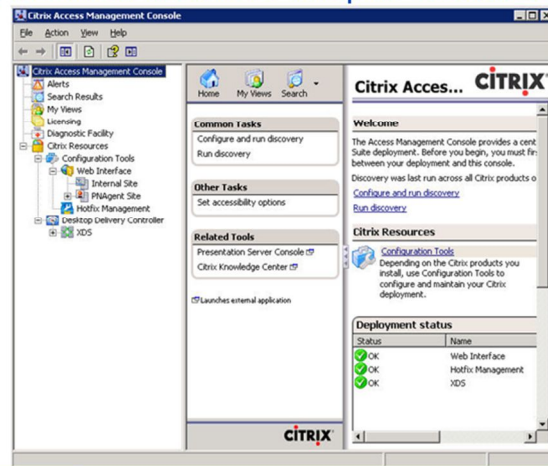


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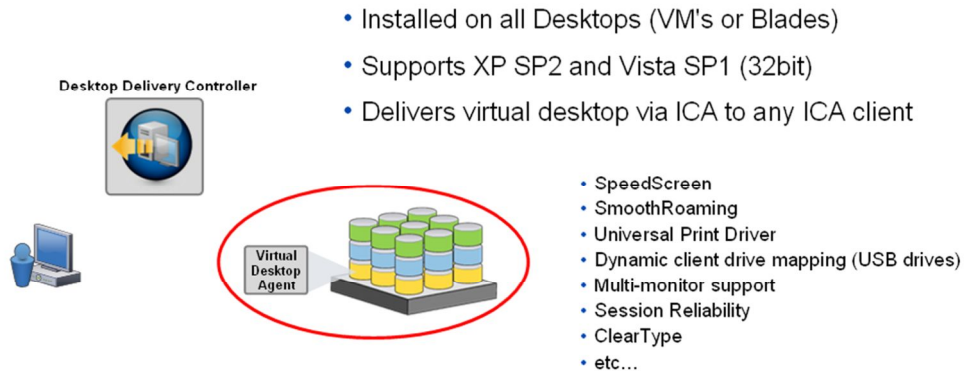


Almost all of the components of Web Interface are installed when the DDC is installed. The only thing missing is the MMC snap-in for WI, which must be installed separately. Here are the steps.

Installing the Web Interface snap-in for XenDesktop

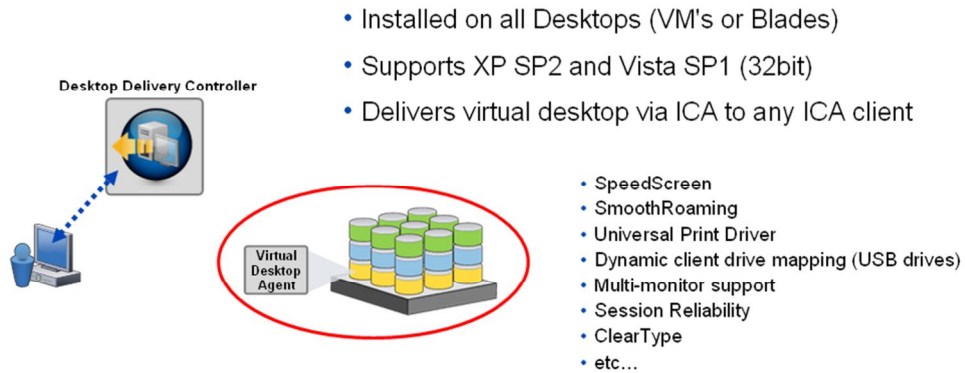


Virtual Desktop Agent



We've been looking at the installation of the DDC. Now, we're switching gears and looking at the installation of the Virtual Desktop Agent – the piece that goes on the virtual machines or the physical machines to which the end user will get connected by the DDC.

Virtual Desktop Agent



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We've been looking at the installation of the DDC. Now, we're switching gears and looking at the installation of the Virtual Desktop Agent – the piece that goes on the virtual machines or the physical machines to which the end user will get connected by the DDC.

Virtual Desktop Agent

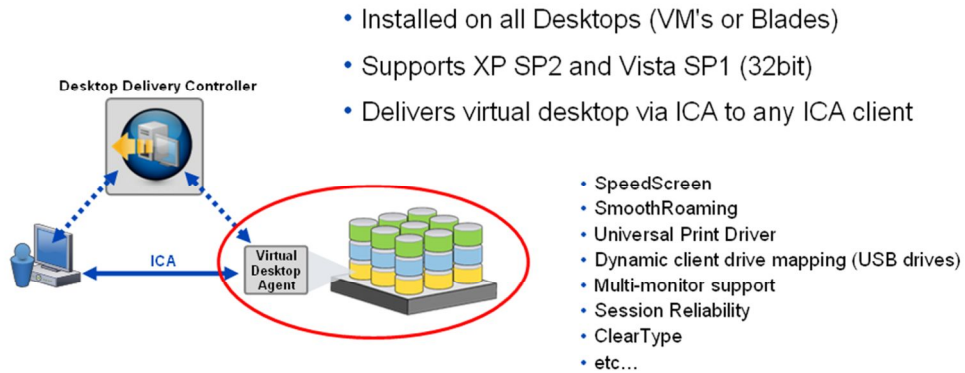
- Installed on all Desktops (VM's or Blades)
- Supports XP SP2 and Vista SP1 (32bit)
- Delivers virtual desktop via ICA to any ICA client



We've been looking at the installation of the DDC. Now, we're switching gears and looking at the installation of the Virtual Desktop Agent - the piece that goes on the virtual machines to which the end user will get connected by the DDC.

- SmoothRoaming
- Universal Print Driver
- Dynamic client drive mapping (USB drives)
- Multi-monitor support
- Session Reliability
- ClearType
- etc...

Virtual Desktop Agent



We've been looking at the installation of the DDC. Now, we're switching gears and looking at the installation of the Virtual Desktop Agent – the piece that goes on the virtual machines or the physical machines to which the end user will get connected by the DDC.

Virtual Desktop Requirements

Supported Desktop Operating Systems

- Windows XP Professional 32-bit with Service Pack 2 or later
- Windows Vista 32-bit Business, Ultimate, or Enterprise Editions

Virtual Desktop Agent Prerequisites

- .NET Framework 3.5
- Visual C++ 2005 Runtime Library
- Both are auto detected and installed

Installed Services

- Additional Services Installed by the Virtual Desktop Agent

 Citrix CGP Server Service	Reliable connection endpoint	Started	Automatic
 Citrix Desktop Service	The Citrix Desktop Service ma...	Started	Automatic
 Citrix Encryption Service	Secure ICA encryption	Started	Automatic
 Citrix ICA Service	The Citrix ICA Service manag...	Started	Automatic
 Citrix Print Manager Service	This service supports the Citri...	Started	Automatic
 Citrix XenServer WinGuest Service	Monitors and provides variou...	Started	Automatic

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The **Citrix ICA Service** manages communication between the endpoint device and the virtual desktop. It handles the remoting of graphics from the workstation to the client and the remoting of input from the client to the workstation. ICA on XenDesktop is unofficially known as “PortICA”. There is no “Double Hop”, nor any RDP support, and it does NOT require a TSCAL!

The **Citrix Desktop Service** manages communication between the delivery controller and virtual desktops. It handles initial brokering of connections, settings for connections, and interaction with sessions from the Access Management Console.

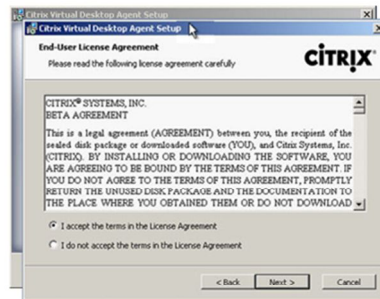
The other supporting services help with other features such as auto-reconnections, printing and encryption.

Installing the Virtual Desktop Agent



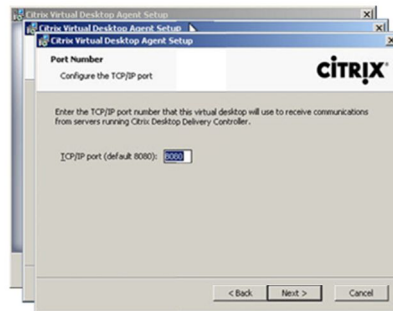
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Installing the Virtual Desktop Agent



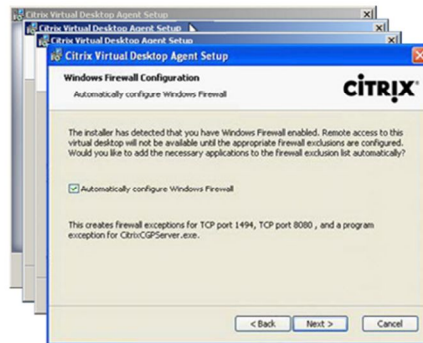
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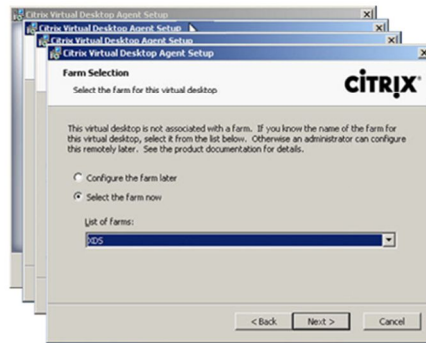
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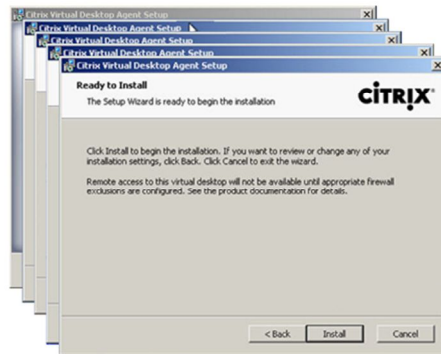
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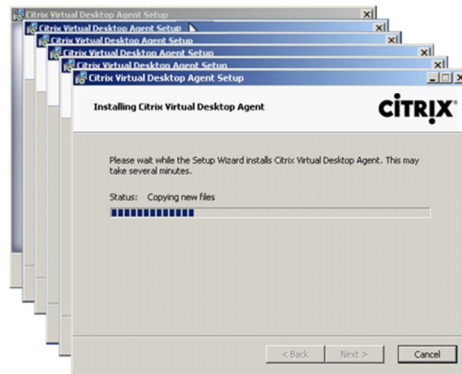
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Installing the Virtual Desktop Agent



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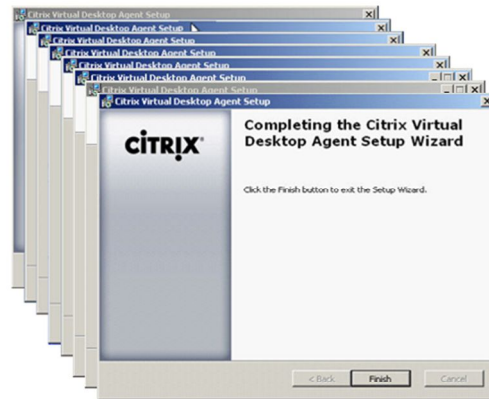
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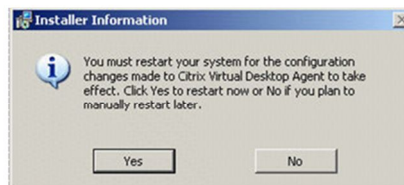
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Installing the Virtual Desktop Agent



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Installing the Virtual Desktop Agent



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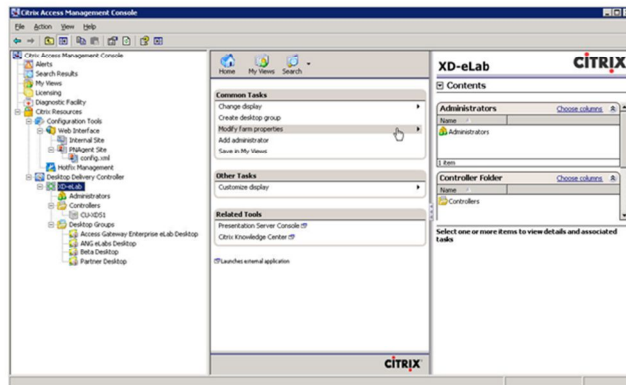
Citrix XenDesktop Management Tools

AMC Changes for XenDesktop

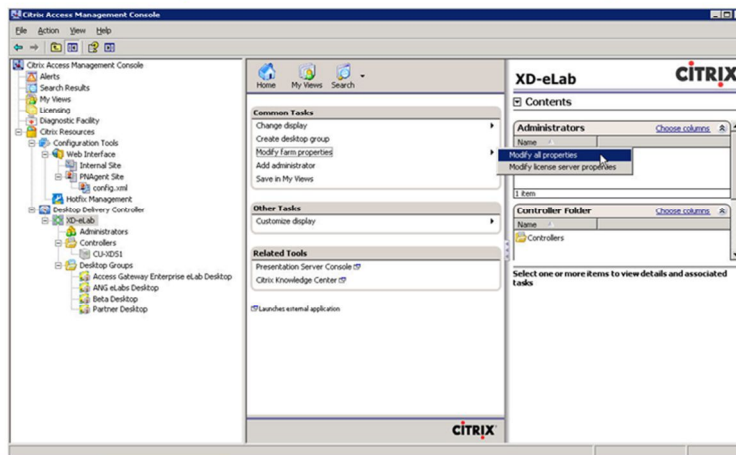
- “Create Desktops” instead of Publish Applications
- Web Interface node not installed by default
- No preference setting for Data Collector
- No Zone Preference Failover support
 - DDC is not designed for cross-site deployments
 - Zones & zone masters have been removed from the AMC
 - Best practice for multiple sites is to create a separate XD farm on every site and aggregate through WI

We’re shifting gears again. We’ve just covered the installation of pieces, now we’re talking about administration, specifically the Access Management Console. Zone management changes can be done through the registry if desired, otherwise 1st DDC installed is Zone Data Collector.

XenDesktop Administration – Farm Properties

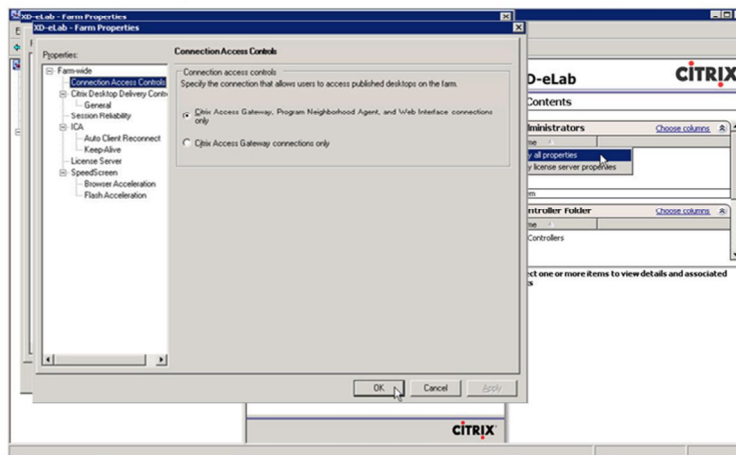


XenDesktop Administration – Farm Properties



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XenDesktop Administration – Farm Properties

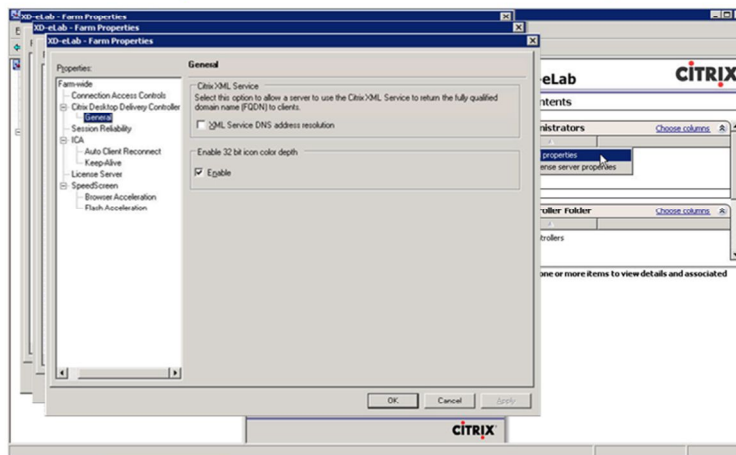


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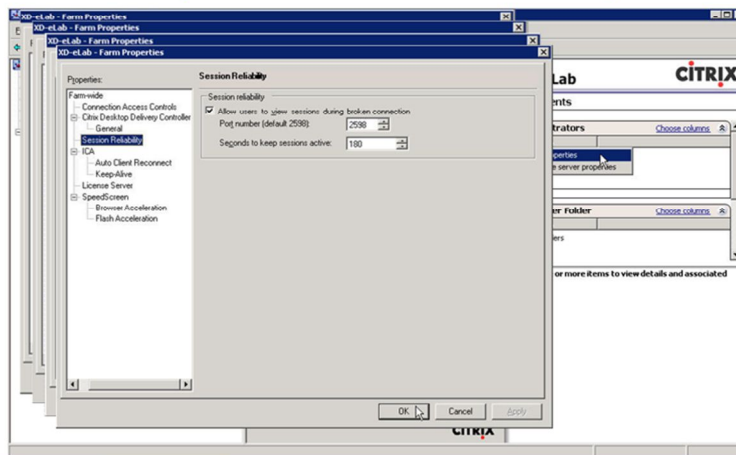
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XenDesktop Administration – Farm Properties



XenDesktop Administration – Farm Properties

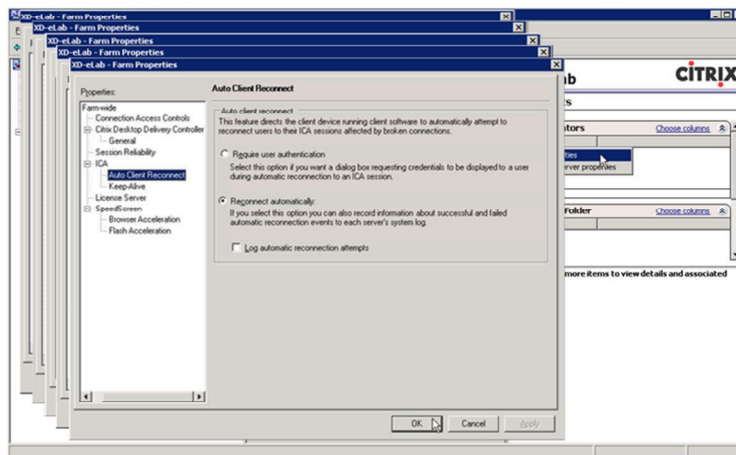


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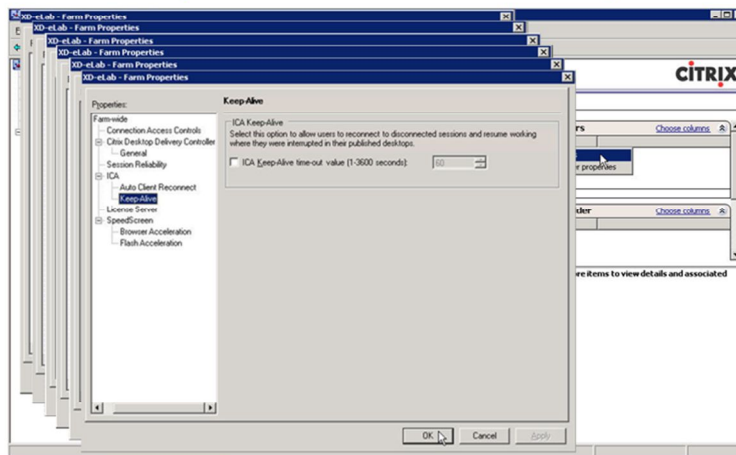
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XenDesktop Administration – Farm Properties



XenDesktop Administration – Farm Properties

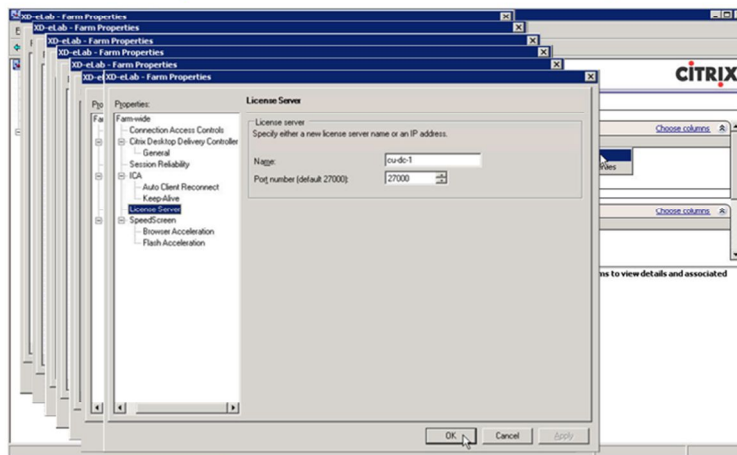


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XenDesktop Administration – Farm Properties

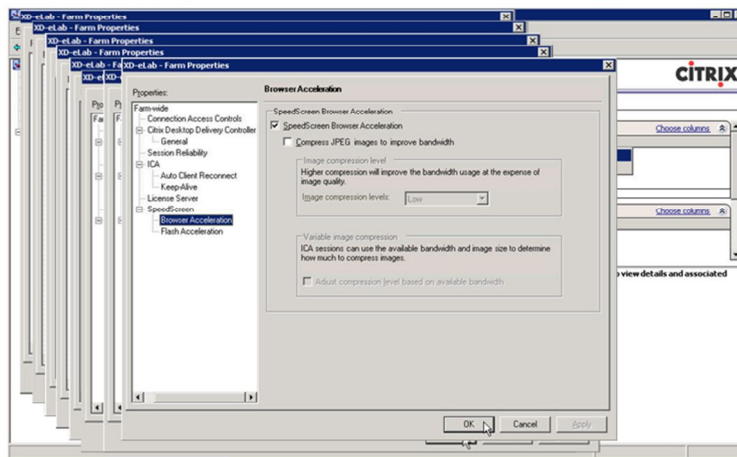


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XenDesktop Administration – Farm Properties

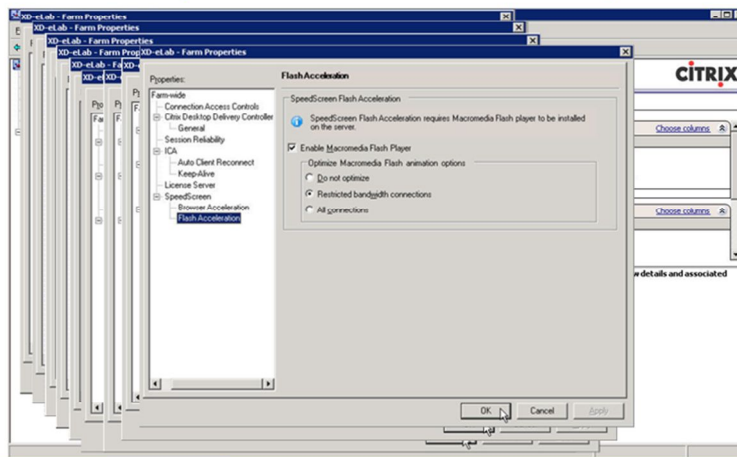


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XenDesktop Administration – Farm Properties

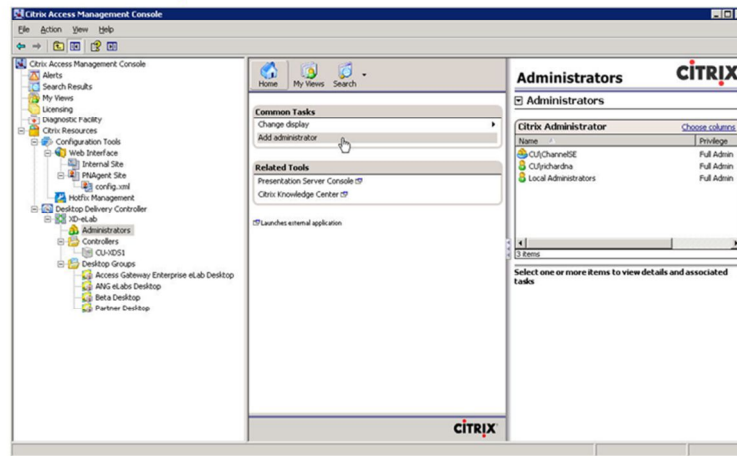


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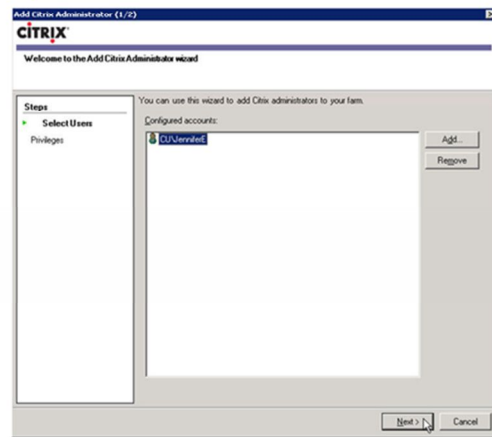
XenDesktop Administration - Administrators



You can create a delegated Administrator, but you get no choices about what a delegated admin can do. The delegated admin can view and manage sessions, restart, shutdown VMs, and put machines into maintenance mode. They cannot add new workstation groups or modify them. The delegated Admin is intended for help desk personnel. Since you get no choices regarding what a delegated admin can do, they haven't put anything in the GUI except to specify an account and choose the radio button for delegated admin.

Future plans call for more granularity and choices in a later version.

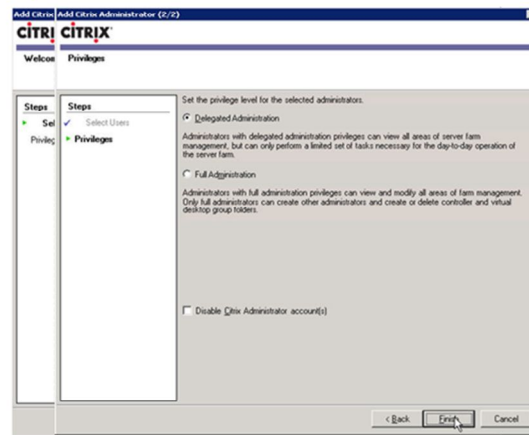
XenDesktop Administration - Administrators



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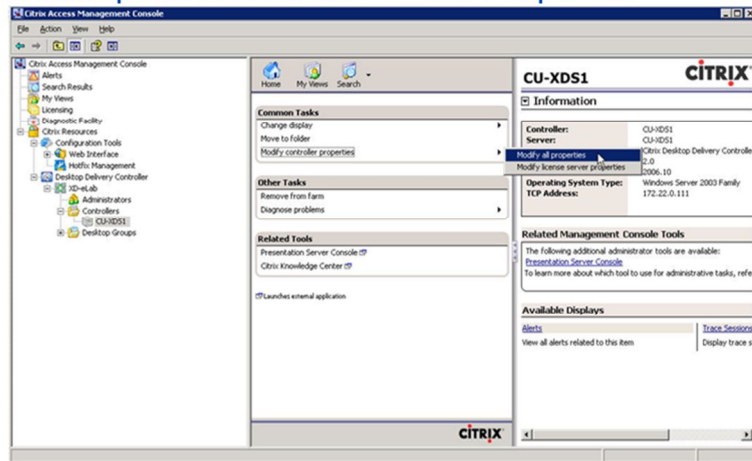
XenDesktop Administration - Administrators



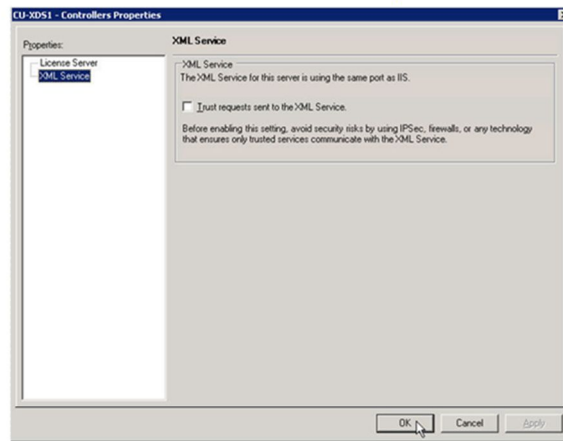
You can create a delegated Administrator, but you get no choices about what a delegated admin can do. The delegated admin can view and manage sessions, restart, shutdown VMs, and put machines into maintenance mode. They cannot add new workstation groups or modify them. The delegated Admin is intended for help desk personnel. Since you get no choices regarding what a delegated admin can do, they haven't put anything in the GUI except to specify an account and choose the radio button for delegated admin.

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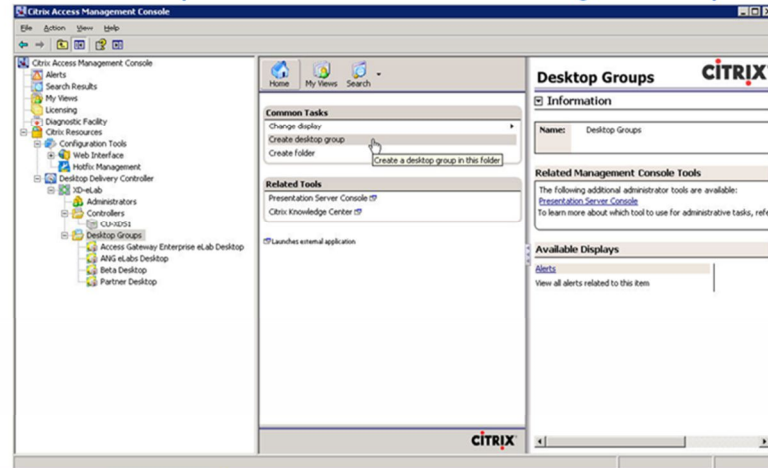
XenDesktop Administration – DDC Properties



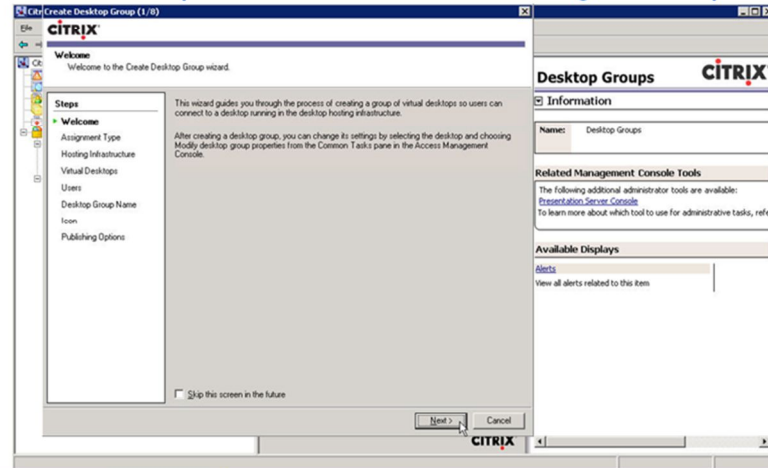
XenDesktop Administration – DDC Properties



XenDesktop Administration – Creating Desktop Groups



XenDesktop Administration – Creating Desktop Groups



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XenDesktop Administration – Creating Desktop Groups

Create Desktop Group (1/3)
Create Desktop Group (2/3)

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Assignment Type
Specify if this desktop group is pooled or assigned.

Steps

- ✓ Welcome
- Assignment Type**
- Hosting Infrastructure
- Virtual Desktops
- Users
- Desktop Group Name
- Icon
- Publishing Options

Assigned
A desktop that is permanently assigned to a particular user.

Assignment method

- ☒ **Assign on first use**
Assign a desktop to the first user who connects to it.
- ☐ **Pre-assigned**
Assign a desktop to a user prior to that user connecting.

Desktop Groups

Information

Name: Desktop Groups

Related Management Console Tools

The following additional administrator tools are available:
[Presentation Server Console](#)
Learn more about which tool to use for administrative tasks, refer to the [Citrix documentation](#).

Available Displays

0 displays are all alerts related to this item.

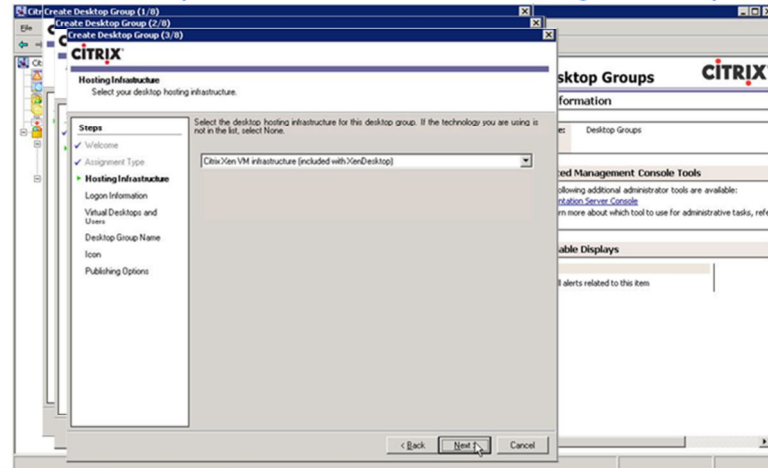
< Back Next > Cancel

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XenDesktop Administration – Creating Desktop Groups



XenDesktop Administration – Creating Desktop Groups

Logon Information
Specify the logon details for the hosting infrastructure.

Steps

- ✓ Welcome
- ✓ Assignment Type
- ✓ Hosting Infrastructure
- Logon Information**
- Virtual Desktops and Users
- Desktop Group Name
- Icon
- Publishing Options

Specify the address and administrator logon information for the hosting infrastructure supporting the desktop group. This is typically the IP address of the "master" server in the pool of servers.

Address:
For example, <https://xenserver.example.com>

User name:

Password:

< Back Next > Cancel

Desktop Groups

Desktop Groups

Management Console Tools

Additional administrator tools are available:
[XenServer Console](#)
For more information about which tool to use for administrative tasks, refer to the documentation.

Related Displays

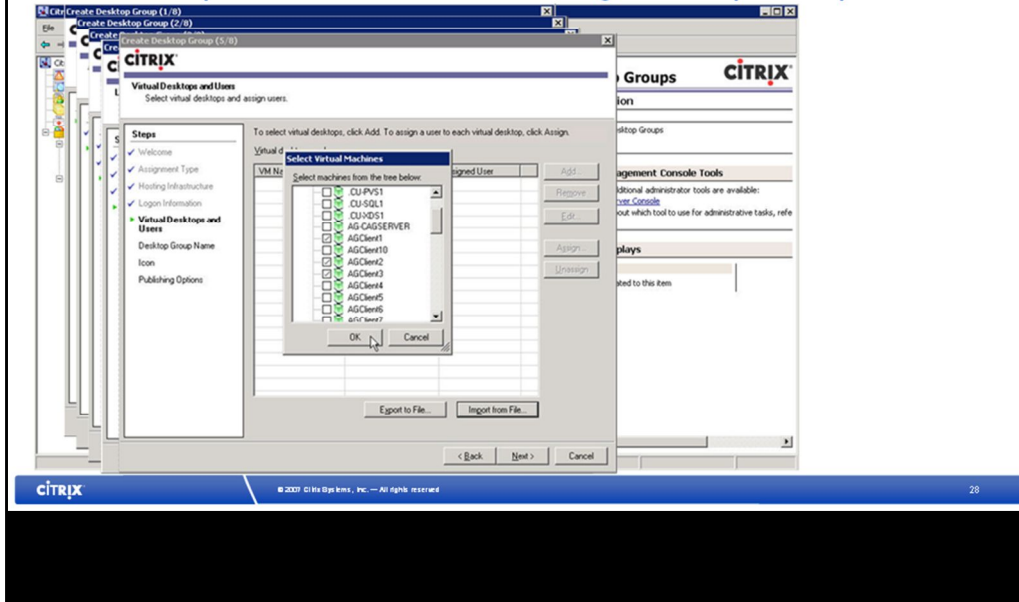
Displays related to this item

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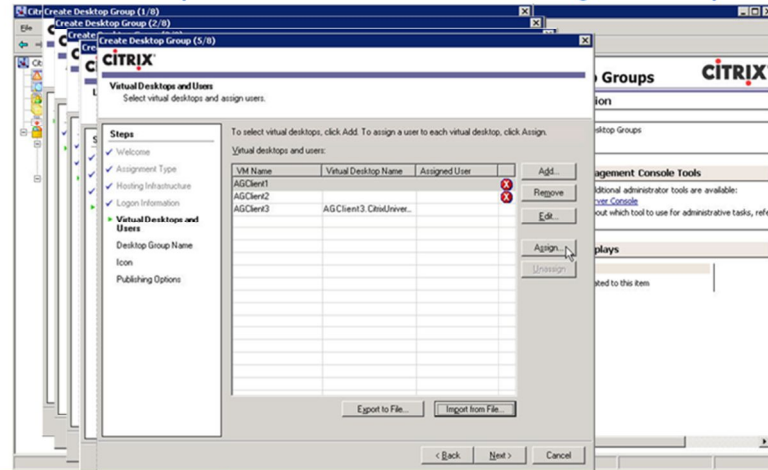
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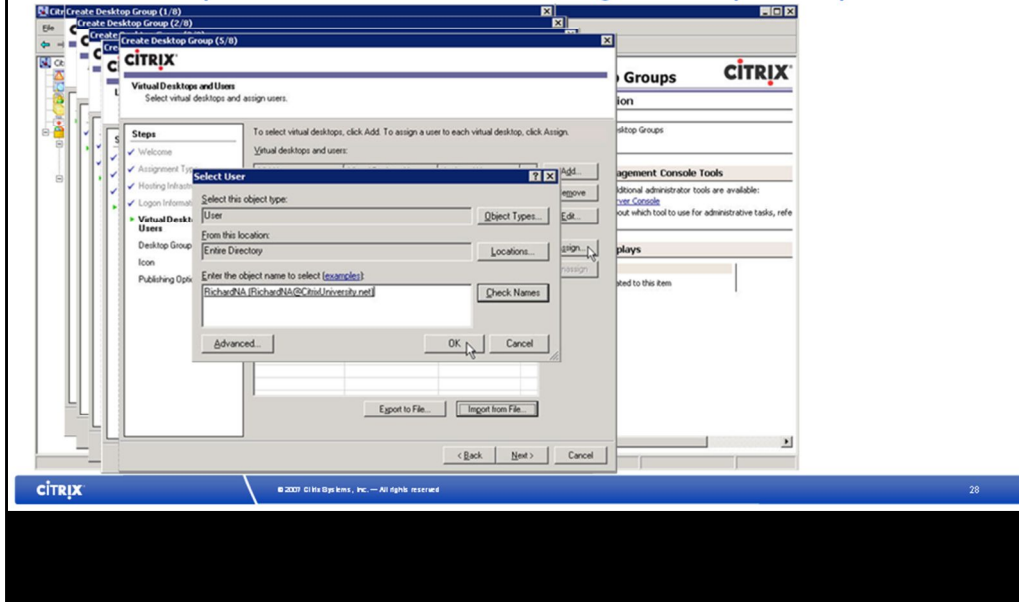
XenDesktop Administration – Creating Desktop Groups



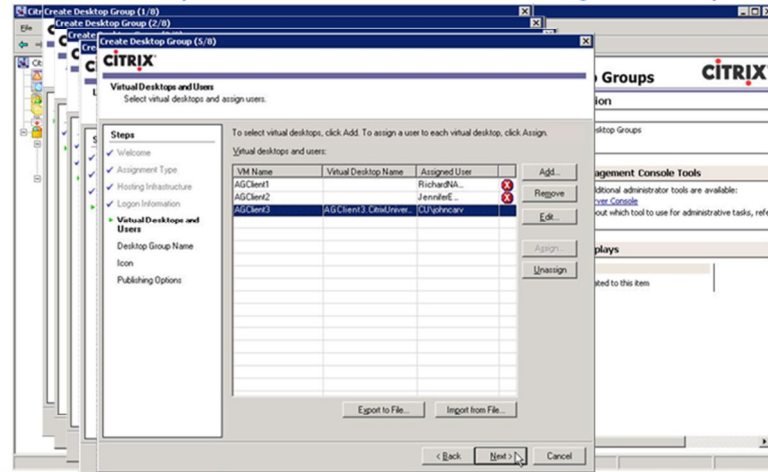
XenDesktop Administration – Creating Desktop Groups



XenDesktop Administration – Creating Desktop Groups



XenDesktop Administration – Creating Desktop Groups



XenDesktop Administration – Creating Desktop Groups

CUDEMO: Create Desktop Group

Desktop Group Name

Provide a name and description for this desktop group.

Specify the name and description displayed to users that view desktops in this desktop group using Windows mode.

Display name: CUDEMO

Description: Demonstration Group for XenDesktop

Steps

- ✓ Welcome
- ✓ Assignment Type
- ✓ Hosting Infrastructure
- ✓ Logon Information
- ✓ Virtual Desktops and Users
- Desktop Group Name
- Icon
- Publishing Options

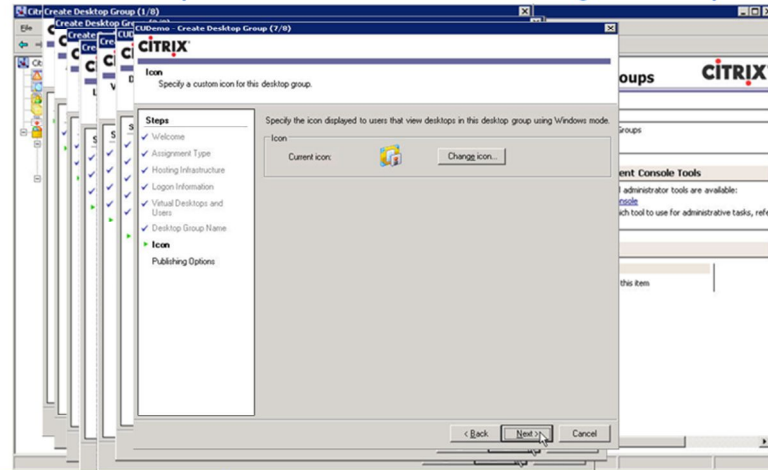
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XenDesktop Administration – Creating Desktop Groups

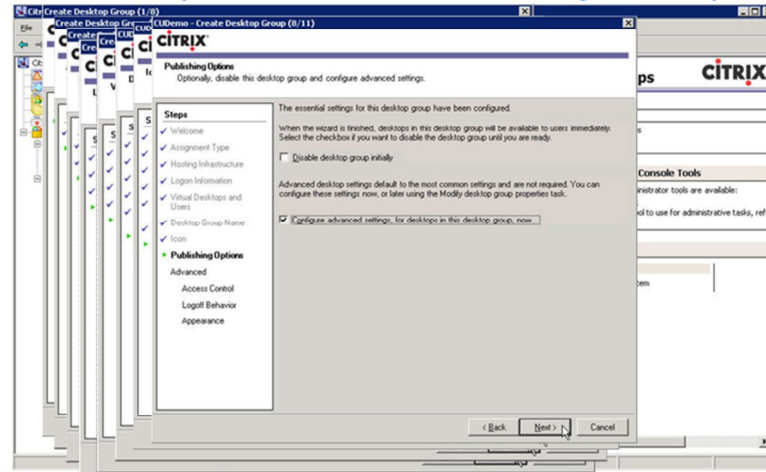


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XenDesktop Administration – Creating Desktop Groups

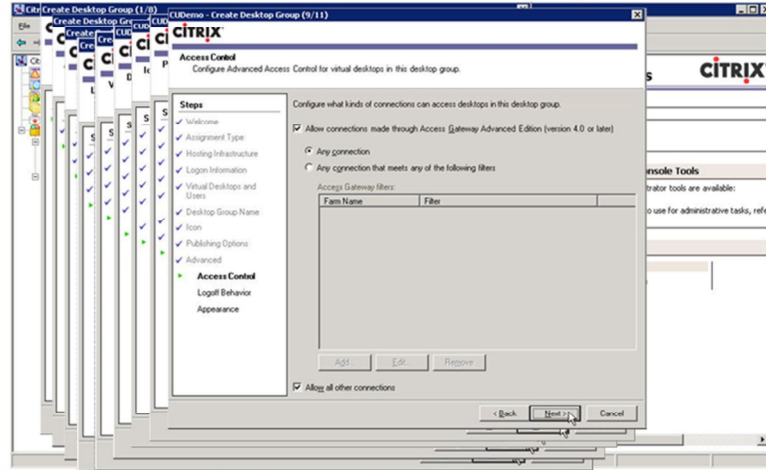


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XenDesktop Administration – Creating Desktop Groups

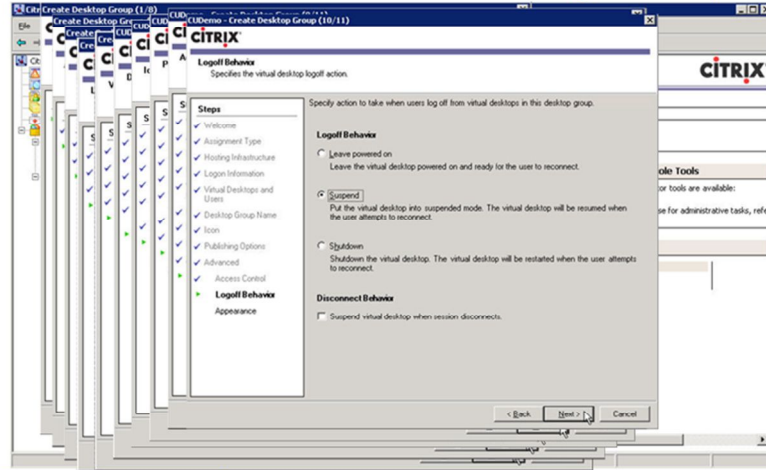


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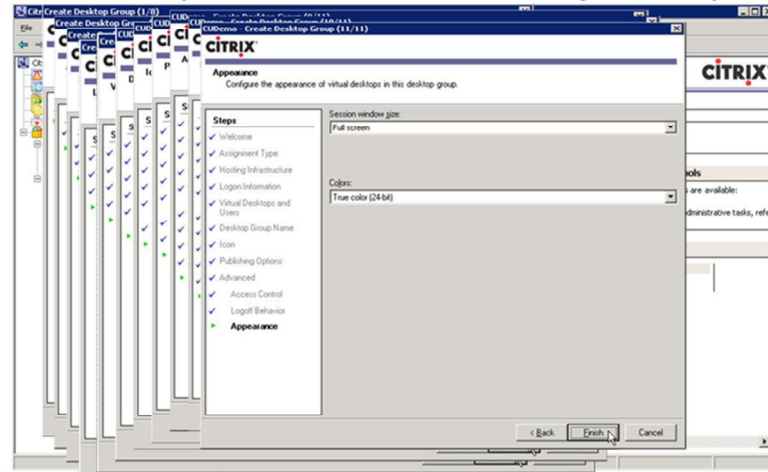
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XenDesktop Administration – Creating Desktop Groups



XenDesktop Administration – Creating Desktop Groups



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Disconnect and Logoff

- Disconnect from desktop keeps the virtual running
- Logoff behavior can be configured to
 - Restart the virtual
 - Do Nothing
 - Leave On (For Assigned Only)
 - Suspend (For Assigned Only)
 - Shutdown (For Assigned Only)
 - Disconnect (For Assigned Only)
- Logoff Disconnected Sessions is a desktop (PortICA) setting
- Note: Assigned Virtual Desktops run for 5 minutes after disconnects before Pool Management suspends it

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Disconnecting from a published desktop

Pooled virtual desktop group

A virtual machine will remain running when a user disconnects; the pool manager will not attempt to suspend or shut the machine down.

The desktop has a setting (described in the PortICA Feature Specification) to logoff disconnected sessions. Once logoff has occurred, the workstation will follow the same behavior as if the user or administrator had initiated the logoff.

Assigned (Pre-assigned, Assign on first use)

A virtual machine will remain running for 5 minutes after a user disconnects; the pool manager will then suspend it. This behavior can be changed by the administrator via the AMC, where the user can determine if they want disconnected machines to be left running or to be suspended after a short delay.

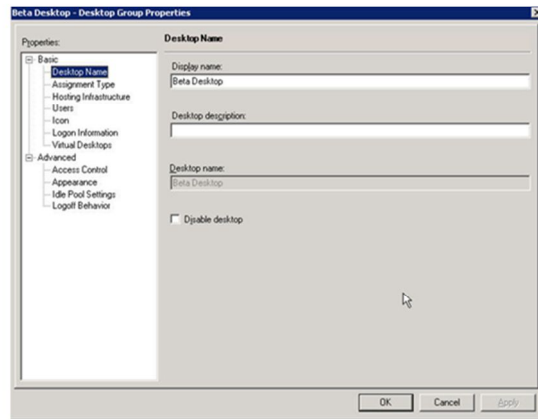
XenDesktop Administration – Modifying Desktop Groups

The screenshot displays the Citrix Access Management Console interface. On the left, a navigation pane shows a tree structure with 'Desktop Groups' highlighted. The main workspace is titled 'Beta Desktop' and contains three task lists: 'Common Tasks' (Change display, Enable desktop group, Modify desktop group properties, Move to folder, Delete desktop group), 'Other Tasks' (Create a new desktop group), and 'Related Tools' (Presentation Server Console, Citrix Knowledge Center). On the right, a 'Virtual Desktops' table is shown with columns for 'Virtual Desktop Name' and 'Connection State'. It contains one entry: 'testvm.CitrixUniversity.net' with a state of 'Idle'. The Citrix logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the console window.

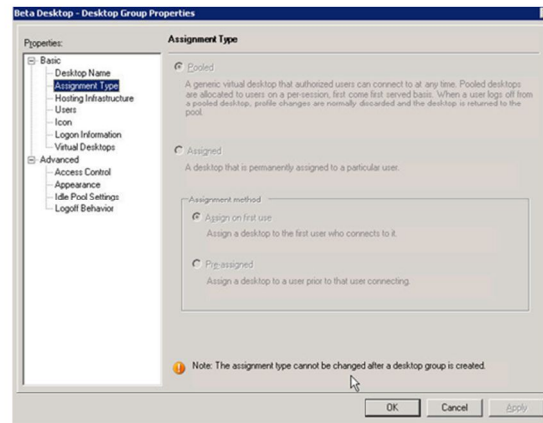
Virtual Desktop Name	Connection State
testvm.CitrixUniversity.net	Idle

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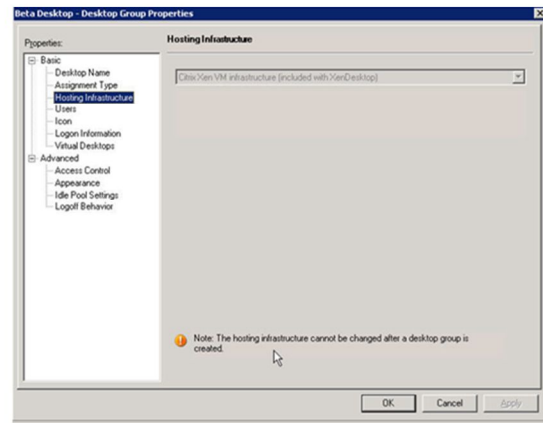
XenDesktop Administration – Modifying Desktop Groups



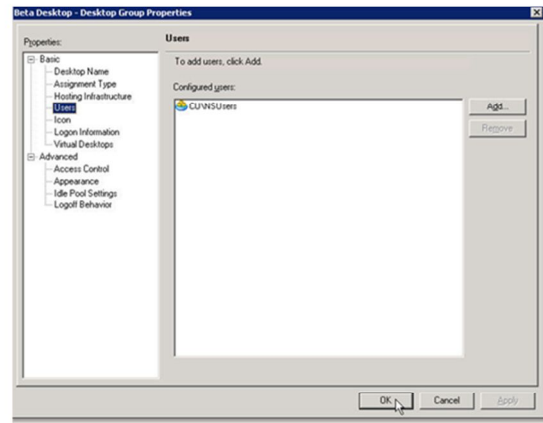
XenDesktop Administration – Modifying Desktop Groups



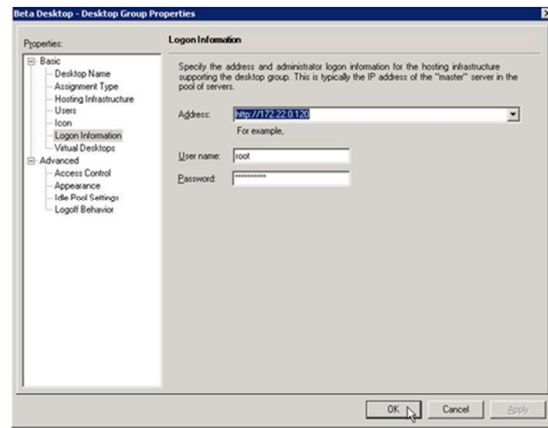
XenDesktop Administration – Modifying Desktop Groups



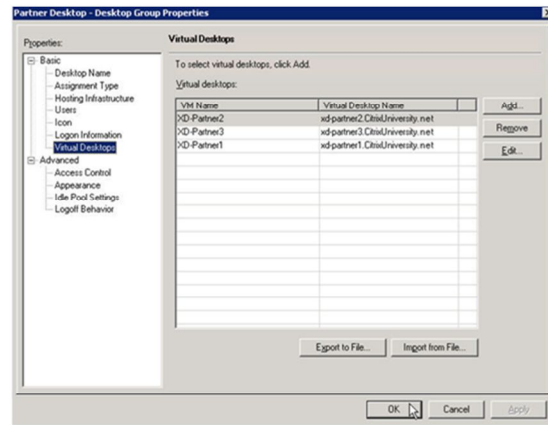
XenDesktop Administration – Modifying Desktop Groups



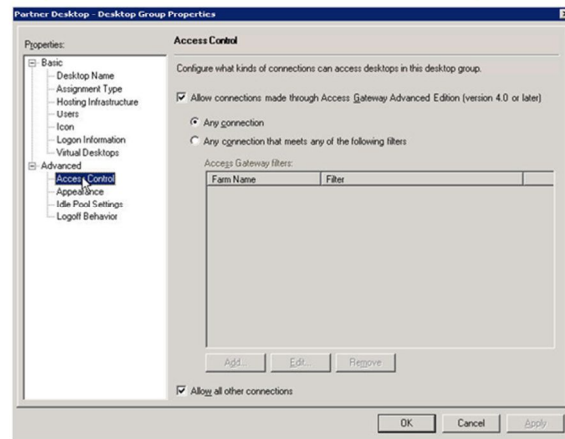
XenDesktop Administration – Modifying Desktop Groups



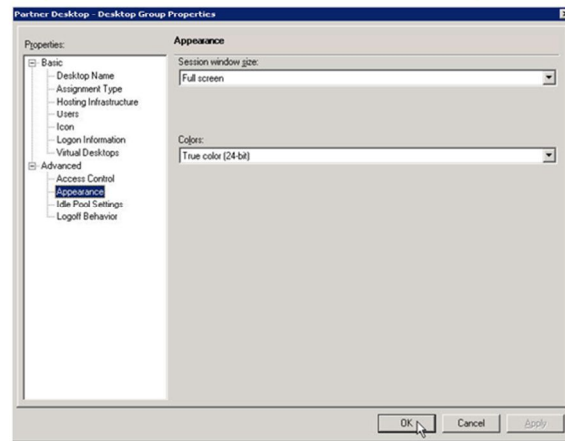
XenDesktop Administration – Modifying Desktop Groups



XenDesktop Admin – Advanced Desktop Group Settings



XenDesktop Admin – Advanced Desktop Group Settings



XenDesktop Admin – Advanced Desktop Group Settings

Partner Desktop - Desktop Group Properties

Properties:

- Basic
 - Desktop Name
 - Assignment Type
 - Hosting Infrastructure
 - Users
 - Icon
 - Login Information
 - Virtual Desktops
- Advanced
 - Access Control
 - Appearance
 - Idle Pool Settings**
 - Logoff Behavior

Idle Pool Settings

Business Hours

Business days: Mon ☒ Tue ☒ Wed ☒ Thu ☒ Fri ☒ Sat ☐ Sun ☐

Time zone: (GMT-07:00) Arizona

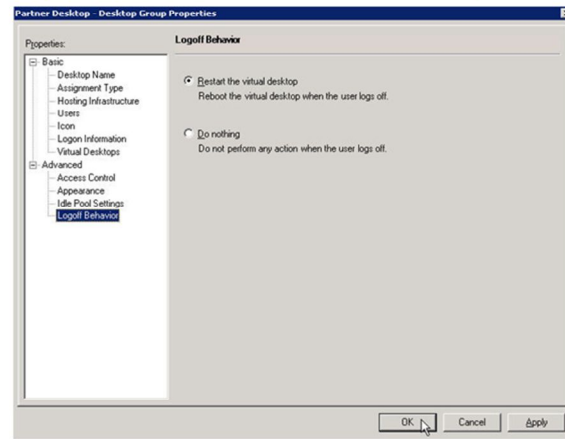
Start time: 8:30 A Peak period: 01:00 End time: 5:30 P

Idle Desktop Count

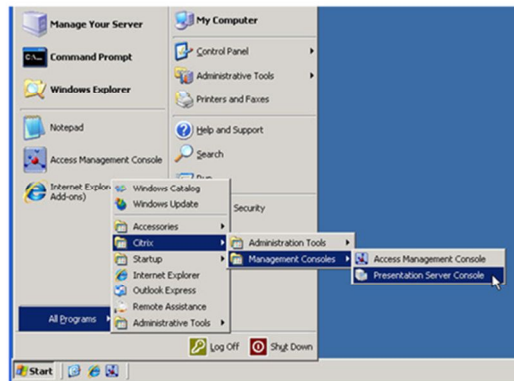
Business hours: 1 Peak time: 1 Out of hours: 1

OK Cancel Apply

XenDesktop Admin – Advanced Desktop Group Settings



XenDesktop Admin – Presentation Server Console

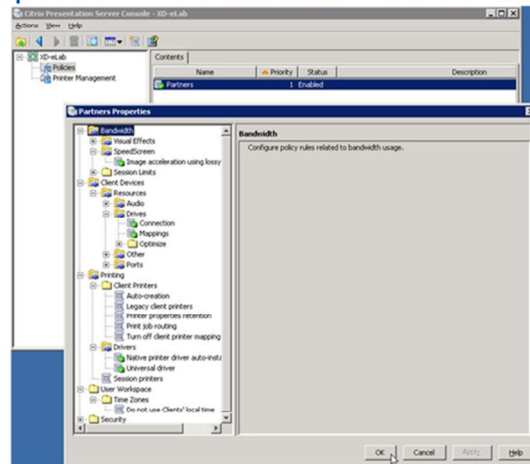


XenDesktop Admin – Presentation Server Console

The screenshot shows a Windows-style dialog box titled "Log On to Server Farm". It contains the following fields and controls:

- A text box for "Citrix Presentation Server:" with the value "172.22.0.111".
- A section titled "Enter your Citrix Administrator credentials." containing:
 - A "User Name:" field with the value "jrichardna".
 - A "Password:" field with masked characters "*****".
 - A "Domain:" field with the value "jcu".
- At the bottom, there are three buttons: "OK", "Cancel", and "Help".

XenDesktop Admin – Presentation Server Console



XenDesktop Setup Tool



- Must run on the Provisioning Server
- Simplifies and automates Desktop creation
- Can create one to many Desktops in seconds
- Command Line Interface MCLI.exe (PVS 4.5 SP1)
- Requires Domain Admin rights

Full Screen Only Mode

- Steps to perform
 - Run *liveindesktop.msi* on endpoint after running *lca32pkg.msi* (PNAgent)
- *Liveindesktop.msi* changes default shell from *explorer.exe* to *PNAgent.exe*.
- *PNAgent.exe* running as shell at logon
 - Immediately tries connecting user to its virtual desktop
 - Assumption: Single Sign-on enabled and desktop assigned to user
- User is completely unaware of any local desktops or local OS's

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“Full Screen only” mode (previously called “Live-in Desktop”) is an entirely transparent connection to a Xen Desktop. It was originally planned for thin client access but now covers desktops from both XP or XPe hosts.

If desired, the user’s device can be configured to run XenDesktop only in Full-Screen mode, turning it into a XenDesktop appliance or kiosk. When *liveindesktop.msi* is installed, the PNAgent becomes the OS’s shell with a config URL that cannot be changed by the user. The Config URL can be edited using GPO or through the PNAgent *config.xml* redirection.

PNAgent will use single sign on and then will request ICA files. The response should be limited to 1 XenDesktop resource, which will be automatically launched. If more than one XenDesktop ICA file is returned the alphabetically first desktop resource will be launched. If none are returned an error message will be displayed and the user logged off. This is not standard PNAgent behavior and will be switched on by the fact that PNAgent is the default shell in the registry.

Steps to setup for full-screen only mode:

- On the endpoint device, log on as a local administrator account.
- Download or run the appropriate language version (for example, *fullscreenonly_en.msi*) and double-click the file. The Citrix Full-Screen-Only Desktop Setup wizard appears.
- On the **License Agreement** page, read and accept the Citrix license agreement and click **Install**. The Installation Progress page appears.
- In the **Installation Completed** dialog box, click **Close**.
- When prompted, restart the endpoint computer. If you have been granted access to a full-screen-only desktop and you log in as a domain user, the computer will restart in full-screen-only mode.

PortICA connections will support Cascading Logoff and cascaded lock. (Explained on next slide.)

Cascading Logoff

- Desktops can be configured so that
 - When user logs off of the virtual desktop
 - User is also logged off of the end point device seamlessly
- Full Screen Only Mode will support
 - Cascading Logoff
 - Cascading Lock

Citrix Desktop Toolbar



- Administrators can allow end users to be able to control virtual workstation (stop, start, minimize)
- Similar to the RDP client

ICA Client Feature Mapping

Client	Full Screen Mode	Dynamic USB Drive Mapping	Desktop Toolbar
Win32 (WinXPe)	•	•	•
WinCE	•	•	
Linux for XD (RTM May 2008)	•	•	

The following client versions are also supported, but do not support the Citrix Desktop Toolbar, fullscreen-only mode, or dynamic client drive mapping:

- Client for Java 9.x
- Client for Linux x86 10.x
- Client for Solaris SPARC 8.x
- Client for Solaris x86 8.x
- Client for Macintosh OS X 10.x

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Linux ICA Client

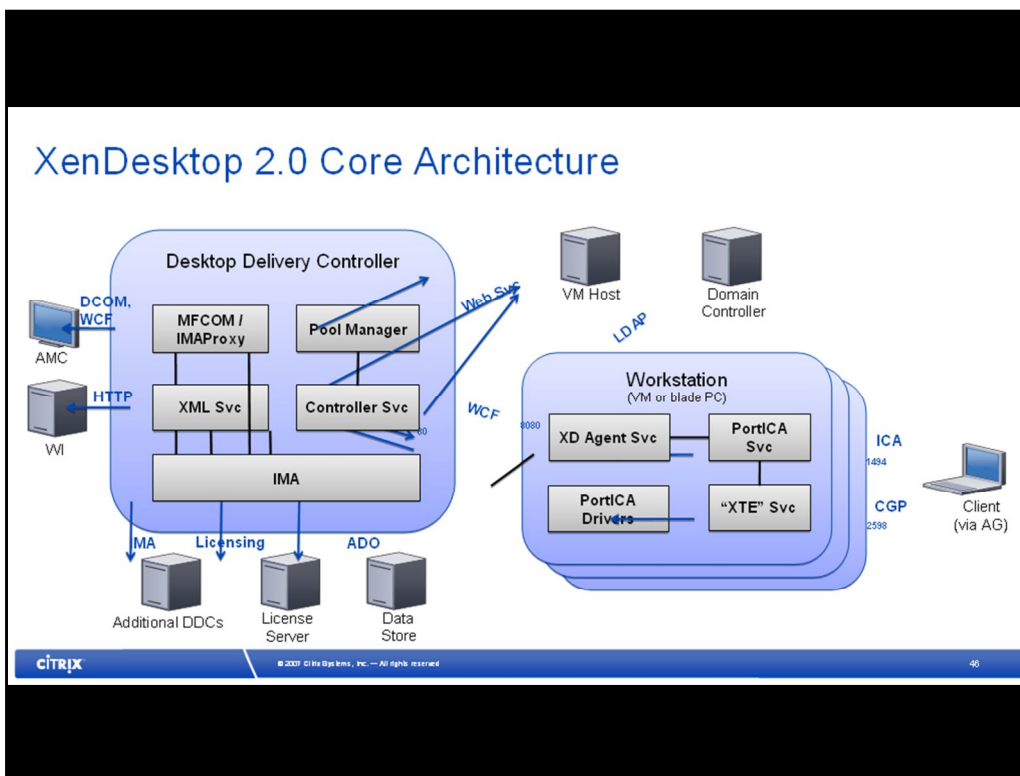
A Linux XD ICA client will be released in May 08 to coincide with the XenDesktop release. This release will contain the Live-In-Desktop and Dynamic CDM (USB Drive mapping) functionality to provide live-in-desktop functionality to linux clients and linux based Desktop Appliances.

WinCE ICA Client

The WinCE ICA client will also be released in May 08 to coincide with the main XenDesktop release. This client will contain only the LID and DCDM functionality.

The following client versions are also supported, but do not support the Citrix Desktop Toolbar, fullscreen-only mode, or dynamic client drive mapping:

- Client for Java 9.x
- Client for Linux x86 10.x
- Client for Solaris SPARC 8.x
- Client for Solaris x86 8.x
- Client for Macintosh OS X 10.x



The Desktop Deliver Controller (DDC) is based on CPS (XenApp) technology.

MFCOM/IMAProxy is used to communicate with the Access Management Console (AMC), which uses DCOM and Windows Communication Foundation (WCF). The DDC communicates with Web Interface using the XML Service, just as Xen App does. The IMA service is used to communicate with other DDCs in the farm, with the License server, and the Data Store, just as with XenApp.

The Pool Manager and the Controller Service are WCF web services that require .NET 3.0.

The Pool Manager has plug-ins that make it capable of working with XenServer, VMware, and (coming soon) Microsoft Hyper-V. The Pool Manager is responsible for choosing a VM from the Desktop Group and assigning it to a user.

The Controller service manages querying Active Directory for user authorization and then setting up the PortICA user connection to the VM.

The Virtual Desktop Agent (VDA) provides the XD Agent service on the VM that communicates via port 8080 (default, can be changed) with the Controller Service on the DDC. The VDA queries LDAP for XD farm information only on installation or reconfiguration. The VDA also provides the PortICA, and XTE services, and PortICA drivers necessary for the endpoint device using the ICA client to communicate with the VM over 1494 or 2598.

