KEMET builds a better employee experience with Citrix Workspace

Citrix helps KEMET employees work more efficiently

Taking control of digital capabilities

Florida-based KEMET Electronics Corporation is a leading global supplier of capacitors, electromagnetic devices, and other electronic components. Founded in 1919, it now has thousands of employees around the world and its solutions are part of the daily lives of millions of people.

Communication systems, servers, personal computers, tablets, cellular phones, and automotive electronic systems all use KEMET technologies which are also incorporated into medical devices that keep users safe and healthy. In the fiscal year 2019, KEMET shipped an estimated 54 billion components to 188 countries and approximately 180,000 customers.

Stringent R&D and a leading-edge product range are important elements of KEMET’s success, but the company also relies on its philosophy of being easy to buy from and easy to design in, that means delivering an excellent customer experience.

KEMET’s vision is to be the preferred supplier of electronic component solutions for customers who demand the highest standards of quality, delivery, and service. Its mission is to make the world a better, safer, more connected place to live.

To achieve that, it must empower its employees to be as productive as they can and work to their best potential to achieve the highest levels of efficiency.

“We want to be easy to buy from and we want to be the emotional favorite of our customers,” says KEMET’s Global VP of IT, Chris Hall. “We are using digital capabilities in order to achieve those things.”

Intelligent capabilities enable staff to organize, guide and automate workflows

To boost productivity by building a better employee experience, KEMET chose the intelligent capabilities of Citrix Workspace which helps its staff organize and guide their workflows. It automates the apps, assets, and activities they need to do their best work and help the organization gain an edge.
"I selected Citrix Workspace because it will help IT work with the business to be a better partner," explains Hall. "The personalized feeds capability inside Citrix Workspace is one of the things that I jumped on immediately as being important to my users. It gives them a user experience that they are very accustomed to in their normal social media interactions."

The next stage of development planned by Hall is to introduce intelligent features to the workspace with the machine learning in Citrix Workspace Microapps. This is a streamlined workflow that unbundles applications to provide simple actions right within the workflow feed. Microapps utilizes application programming interfaces (APIs) available within Software as a Service (SaaS), web or home-grown applications, allowing users to see content without needing to fully launch the application. In this way they enhance and improve end-user productivity.

"I am hoping to not just have IT building Microapps but also lines of business starting to think how they can implement workflows that they do on a daily basis," says Hall. "In today’s modern workplace there are 10, 15 or 20 applications that employees are supposed to use on a daily basis. What we’re looking to achieve is to stop some of that context switching."

**Smoothing a move into the cloud**

In common with many other manufacturers, KEMET currently operates on a hybrid cloud model that enables it to face the constant trade-off between meeting productivity goals and investing in future growth. It needed a solution that would help it transition to cloud without an expensive ‘big bang’ implementation and again, Citrix provided the solution.

Citrix Cloud services simplify the delivery and management of Citrix technologies, helping companies to extend existing on-premise software deployments or move one hundred percent to the cloud. They can create and deploy secure digital workspaces in hours, not weeks, while placing sensitive app, desktop and data resources on any cloud or hybrid cloud.

"One of the big selling points of Citrix is that we can start on-premise and move into a cloud without impacting the user experience," says Hall. "Our design is to be cloud first but being a manufacturer, we’re never going to be cloud only. The primary use case initially, when I started talking to Citrix, was to centralize functions into a single platform and that has been nothing but a wild success. It gives my internal IT team the ability to manage that experience across geographies and across borders."

Evidence of this benefit is the use of Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops which enables KEMET to provide a great user experience by securely delivering and managing virtual apps and desktops centrally across multiple resource locations.

Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops provides virtualization solutions that give IT control of virtual machines, applications, and security, while providing anywhere access for any device. End-users can use applications and desktops independently of the device’s operating system and interface which creates an empowering employee experience.
“We have the ability to manage this locally or from the cloud and we have had a lot of success with virtual applications and virtual desktops,” concludes Hall.

About KEMET

KEMET offers our customers the broadest selection of capacitor technologies in the industry, along with an expanding range of electromechanical devices, electromagnetic compatibility solutions and supercapacitors. Our vision is to be the preferred supplier of electronic component solutions demanding the highest standards of quality, delivery and service. The Company’s common stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol “KEM.” Additional information about KEMET can be found at www.kemet.com.

“I am hoping to not just have IT building Microapps but also lines of business starting to think how they can implement workflows that they do on a daily basis.”

Chris Hall
Global VP of IT
KEMET Electronics Corporation