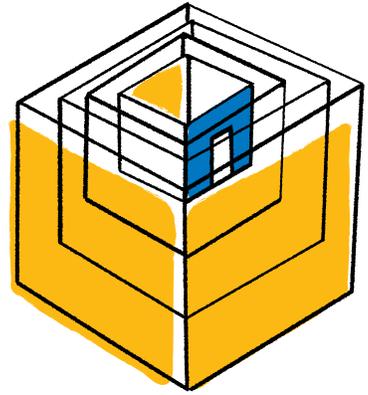




NetApp®



## Datasheet

# NetApp Virtual Storage Console for Citrix XenServer

Manage storage directly from Citrix XenCenter

### KEY BENEFITS

- Improve IT efficiencies by allowing Citrix® administrators to provision and manage storage for XenServer® environments, including XenDesktop® deployments, directly from XenCenter®.
- Reduce storage costs with thin provisioning, deduplication, and resizing of storage repositories directly from XenCenter.
- Enable a dynamic infrastructure by rapidly provisioning and cloning thousands of virtual machines in minutes for use in XenDesktop.
- Reduce risk through built-in compliance checks with Citrix and NetApp® storage best practices.

### The Challenge

#### Administrative dependencies limit productivity

Enterprise IT departments continue their shift toward virtualized data centers and the promise of higher efficiencies with lower costs. Unfortunately, the transition to virtual machines and desktops often leads to a simultaneous increase in storage growth and complexity.

Because a virtual server is essentially a set of storage files, the traditional boundaries between servers and storage are now less clear. Consequently, administrators of virtual infrastructures spend more time on storage operations.

Citrix XenCenter is a powerful tool for managing virtual servers and desktops, but Citrix administrators also need a way to manage the associated storage with ease and efficiency. Relying completely on storage administrators to provision, configure, and optimize storage for XenServers and XenDesktops requires coordination and consumes valuable time.

#### Inefficient provisioning and cloning of virtual machines

Sophisticated IT professionals understand that the ability to deploy

resources dynamically is required to quickly respond to changing business needs. Virtual machine cloning is an increasingly effective and popular means of speeding deployments. However, typical cloning methods can be expensive, inefficient, and slow because they require full copies of VMs and time-consuming script development to integrate cloning processes with storage solutions.

### The NetApp Solution

NetApp offers storage solutions that have been tightly integrated with Citrix technology to simplify storage management and reduce costs in virtualized environments. An example of this deep integration is the NetApp Virtual Storage Console (VSC) for Citrix XenServer.

This plug-in to XenCenter provides management capabilities for NetApp storage, including provisioning, deduplication, resizing, and destruction of storage repositories. Our VSC also enables Citrix administrators to deploy thousands of VMs in only a few minutes while consuming only a small amount of storage.

## Empowering Citrix Administrators Discover and configure NetApp storage

The Virtual Storage Console makes it possible for Citrix administrators using XenCenter to discover NetApp storage and to specify the network interface(s) as well as the storage aggregate(s) that should be used every time a new storage repository is created.

### Provision and manage storage

You can simplify the deployment and administration of storage for XenServer and XenDesktop environments with our Virtual Storage Console while saving substantial amounts of capacity relative to conventional storage systems.

Citrix administrators can provision, create, configure, and manage individual VMs or entire storage repositories directly from XenCenter using resources and interfaces assigned by the storage administrator. Storage repositories can be provisioned to XenServer hosts, clusters, or entire data centers from XenCenter with a management wizard.

While Citrix administrators gain new management capabilities with the Virtual Storage Console, the storage administrator retains ownership and control of storage policies. The VSC further reduces risk through built-in compliance with Citrix and NetApp best practices.

Using our block-level deduplication for primary storage can yield dramatic reductions to the storage required for virtual servers and desktops because VHD files are nearly identical in many cases. You can also resize and delete storage repositories as well as set

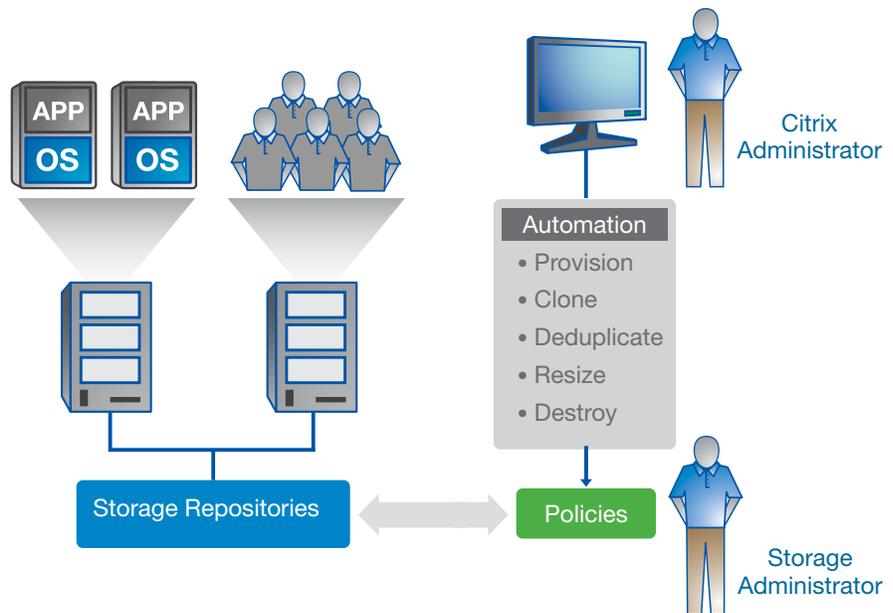


Figure 1) Empowering Citrix administrators without affecting storage policies.

policies that automatically grow or shrink your repositories to meet rapidly changing business requirements.

### Fast, Space-Efficient Provisioning and Cloning

The NetApp Virtual Storage Console provides extremely fast, cost-effective VM provisioning and cloning. Citrix administrators can use the VSC plug-in for XenCenter to create thousands of VMs in minutes without needing custom scripts or the assistance of a storage administrator.

This is made possible by NetApp FlexClone® technology, which leverages our Snapshot™ technology. FlexClone lets you clone and deploy a single VM, multiple VMs, or a pool of virtual desktops almost instantly. Each clone

consumes very little space—only enough for metadata and new or changed data blocks—because it references the data blocks associated with the original VM.\*

\* The Virtual Storage Console is available for download at no charge to all NetApp customers. However, there is a licensing fee for the FlexClone feature.

### About NetApp

NetApp creates innovative storage and data management solutions that deliver outstanding cost efficiency and accelerate business breakthroughs. Discover our passion for helping companies around the world go further, faster at [www.netapp.com](http://www.netapp.com).

Go further, faster®