Virtualizing CAD environments with IBM and Citrix

Extend virtualization to workstations running 3D and CAD applications

Despite the benefits of desktop and application virtualization, adopting it in computer-aided-design (CAD) environments has proven to be a challenge. Efficiently rendering three-dimensional (3D) graphics often required a separate, physical workstation, tethering designers to their desks.

With IBM Smart Business Desktop Cloud, IBM and Citrix Systems can extend virtualization to these demanding applications. Using a single workstation, thin client or even mobile device, users can access both CAD and enterprise applications, improving workflow, collaboration and the security of proprietary design data.

Helping extend the benefits of virtualization

With shrinking product development cycles, virtualization can help increase productivity and reduce time to market by enabling users to collaborate more easily, both internally with other designers and externally with vendors and partners.

Centralizing the data and applications away from vulnerable workstations also helps ensure data security, protecting intellectual property. With design data, blueprints and office applications in a private cloud environment, employees can access work from virtually anywhere in the event of a disaster or outage.

Highlights

- Helps extend the key benefits of virtualization to 3D and CAD applications, enabling users to more securely access applications from most any device, anywhere
- Helps users more efficiently render large-scale graphics
- Virtualizes physical graphics workstations to help reduce costly refreshes and support business recovery
Rendering large graphics more quickly and effectively

Citrix XenDesktop® deployments with Citrix HDX 3D Pro allow a physical graphics processing unit (GPU) to be assigned to a virtual machine. Using the latest Citrix XenServer® software, with Citrix optimization across the stack, IBM helps enable virtual desktops that support many widely used CAD programs.

Citrix pioneered the virtualization of 3D graphics applications more than a decade ago, and this robust technology has helped deliver an optimal user experience over most networks, even many low bandwidth and high latency wide-area-network (WAN) connections.

Using virtualization and cloud to bring the enterprise together

Industries with the most CAD users can virtualize workstations in production lines, clean rooms or factory floors to help provide on-demand, cloud-enabled access to critical documents—and a more security-rich, collaborative environment. When an Asian automaker needed to improve the engineering workflow, it worked with IBM and Citrix to enable mobile devices to virtually access CAD applications on the plant floor. The company reduced its workstation footprint, encouraged design collaboration, and felt better prepared for business recovery.

Why IBM and Citrix?

IBM and Citrix have worked together for more than 20 years. IBM’s global scale, cloud computing infrastructure and services complement Citrix Systems’ leading virtualization technology to deliver expertise that helps clients transform traditional desktop environments into virtualized, open-standards-based frameworks.

For more information

To learn more about the IBM and Citrix Systems alliance solutions, please contact your IBM representative or visit the following website: ibm.com/services/