Citrix StoreFront 2.0

Proof of Concept Implementation Guide
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Introduction

Citrix StoreFront provides users an enterprise app store that aggregates resources from XenDesktop, XenApp, XenMobile App Controller, and VDI-in-a-Box in one place. Each StoreFront user is able to subscribe to their favorite application and desktop resources, these favorite resources then automatically follow the user between devices. With Citrix Web Interface reaching end-of-life in 2015, it is important that administrators become familiar with StoreFront to facilitate a successful transition between products.

StoreFront’s new modular architecture improves upon the existing design of Web Interface. It includes a new user authentication method which directly queries Active Directory rather than the existing double-hop Web Interface process where user credentials are sent from the Web Interface server to the XML broker who then negotiates authentication with the Domain Controller. StoreFront also makes the process of deploying multiple servers easier through its configuration synchronization feature.

Customers that require a single point of access and self-service for Windows, Web, and SaaS applications should consider integrating StoreFront with XenMobile AppController. ApController, which is part of XenMobile App Edition, is an additional product that must be purchased. StoreFront is a no-cost product that is freely available for download for Citrix XenDesktop and XenApp customers. For a complete list of XenMobile AppController features, visit the product page.

The goal of this document is to guide the reader through the steps required to create a successful StoreFront proof of concept environment. Citrix Consulting recommends implementing StoreFront in a phased approach beginning with mobile users. This user group will receive the greatest benefit since they access resources from multiple devices both inside and outside the corporate network. Selecting the correct user group will ensure that the full breadth of StoreFront’s features and self-service capabilities are showcased within this proof of concept.
Architecture

Citrix StoreFront employs a modular architecture, as shown in the following diagram:

![Citrix Storefront Receiver Architecture](image)

- **Authentication Service.** Authenticates users to XenDesktop sites, XenApp farms, and AppController, handling all interactions to ensure that users only need to log on once.
- **Store Services.** Retrieves user credentials from the authentication service to authenticate users to the XenApp and XenDesktop servers providing the application and desktop resources. Enumerates the resources currently available from the servers and sends the details to Citrix Receiver.
- **Receiver for Web.** Enables users to access applications and desktop resources through a web page providing the same user experience as accessing those resources through Citrix Receiver.
- **Resource Subscription Database.** Stores details of individualized user subscriptions plus associated shortcut names and locations.
- **Beacon.** Citrix Receiver uses beacon points to determine whether users are connected to internal or public networks and then selects the appropriate access method.
Hardware and Software Requirements

In preparation for executing all the steps outlined in this Proof of Concept (PoC) Implementation Guide, the following components will be required:

- **Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1 / Windows Server 2012**: Receiver Storefront is only available for installation on these versions of Windows Server.

- **Citrix Receiver 3.3+ (Standard) Windows/ 11.6+ Mac**: The Citrix Receiver versions that supports direct connections to StoreFront and take advantage of automatic account provisioning. Receiver 3.1+ for Windows and 11.5 for Mac support direct connections to StoreFront but do not support automatic account provisioning. Previous versions of Citrix Receiver, Citrix Online Plugin, and Receiver Enterprise can be used, but applications and desktops will only be available from the Receiver for Web site or by a legacy site.

- **NetScaler Access Gateway 10.0.69.4nc+**: While not required for internal access to resources, Access Gateway is a key feature to enable secure remote access and allow the HTML5 client and Account Services features to function.

Installation and Configuration

The purpose of this document is to provide step-by-step instructions for the implementation of each component within the Proof of Concept environment. Each step is broken down into the following individual sections:

- **Section 1**: [StoreFront Initial Deployment](#)
- **Section 2**: [Configure Second StoreFront Server](#)
- **Section 3**: [Accessing Applications through Receiver](#)
- **Section 4**: [Configure NetScaler Gateway Authentication](#)
- **Section 5**: [NetScaler Load Balancing Configuration](#)
## Section 1: StoreFront Initial Deployment

Citrix StoreFront can be setup in a single or multi-server deployment. Citrix Consulting recommends that StoreFront be deployed in a multi-server configuration to ensure high availability. The following steps detail the installation of StoreFront.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Choose the StoreFront installation file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Downloads Folder" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Click <strong>Yes</strong> to install the .NET framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Citrix StoreFront Setup" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Check the accept terms of license box</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Internet Information Server (IIS) will be deployed as part of the installation
Select Next
Select **Install**
Any pre-requisites missing will be installed automatically by Receiver StoreFront installer
The installation has now been completed
Select Finish
The StoreFront Receiver administration console will automatically appear
Initial Server Configuration

The first step in configuring Receiver StoreFront is importing and binding a SSL certificate inside Internet Information Server (IIS). The following section walks through the steps needed to complete these tasks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial Server Configuration</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Screenshot" /></td>
<td>Before beginning the configuration, a SSL certificate matching the hostname chosen <strong>must be imported and bound</strong> to the default IIS Web Site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>This is accomplished in IIS Manager.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select the local Server from the left menu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select <strong>Server Certificates</strong> from the features menu.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Select **Import** on the Actions menu.

3. Select the certificate file to import.
   - Select **OK**.

4. The certificate is now imported.
- Select Default Web Site
- Select Bindings

- Select Add

- Select https as the Type
- Select the SSL Certificate from the dropdown menu
- Select OK
Create New StoreFront Deployment

The section walks through the steps to configure the first StoreFront server in a deployment.

1. When the administration console opens, two options are available. Since this is the first server in the deployment, select **Create a new deployment**
2 Since a SSL certificate has already been bound, the hostname will automatically be filled in. This is the **Hostname** of the load balancing vServer on the NetScaler for the Storefront servers. If the hostname is blank, go back to the SSL certification installation steps

Select Next

3 Wait for the Store to be created...

4 Enter in a **Store Name**

   It is recommended choosing a name that helps users identify the apps and desktops. This is the name that will appear inside Receiver.
5 This menu allows XenApp, XenDesktop, and Cloud Gateway Enterprise resources to be added to the Store.

To begin adding resources, select Add.

6 First, a XenApp server will be added to the Store.

Choose a Display name

Choose XenApp from the Type list
Change the **Transport type** and **Port** accordingly

Select **Add**

Enter the FQDN of the XenApp server. Select **OK**
The XenApp server is now listed. Select OK.

To add a XenDesktop resource, the same steps are followed.
Begin by selecting Add

![Delivery Controllers GUI]

11 The XenDesktop type is now selected.

Once a server has been added, select OK
Now both XenApp and XenDesktop are listed.
Select Next
This step will begin the Remote Access configuration through NetScaler Gateway. There are two options available: No VPN tunnel and Full VPN tunnel

Choose one and then select Add

Enter a Display Name, Gateway URL, and Callback URL
The SubNet IP address field can be left blank

Select Next

15 Select Add
16 Enter the STA URL and select OK

![Add Secure Ticket Authority URL]

- STA URL: http://xenapp01.ccslab.net:8080/scripts/ctxsta.dll

- OK

  - Cancel

17 Select Create

![Secure Ticket Authority (STA)]

- Issues session tickets in response to application connection requests.

- Secure Ticket Authority URLs:
  - http://xenapp01.ccslab.net:8080/scripts/ctxsta.dll

- Add...

- Edit...

- Remove

- Enable session reliability

- Request tickets from two STAs, where available

18 Select Create
19 Wait for the Store to be created ...

20 Click Finish
21 Click on Authentication

Observe that the configuration wizard enabled access through NetScaler Gateway and explicit username/password.
Authentication Service

The authentication service collects user credentials once and grants access to all stores on this server.

Overview

Token validation service: https://storefront.ccslab.n...
Number of enabled methods: 2

Status

✓ Service using HTTPS.
Enable the Pass-Through Authentication Service

By default, during the initial configuration of StoreFront, only Explicit and NetScaler Access Gateway pass-through authentications are enabled. To allow users on the domain to pass-through their Windows credentials to Citrix Receiver, the Domain Pass-Through method must be enabled. This pass-through option only works with the desktop Receiver, not the Receiver for Web page. For Citrix Receiver to utilize single sign-on, it must be installed with the following parameter: CitrixReceiver.exe /includeSSON.

Initial Server Configuration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screenshot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Select <strong>Add/Remove Methods</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Screenshot of Citrix StoreFront with Add/Remove Methods selected]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authentication Method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User name and password</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass-through from NetScaler Gateway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Select **Domain pass-through** and then click **OK**.
Section 2: Configure Second Receiver StoreFront Server
Once the first server has been configured, a second server should be added to the multi-server deployment.

1 On the first server deployed select **Add Server** from the **Server Group** menu.
2. This server will now show an **Authorization code** that must be entered on the next server joined to the deployment.

   ![Add Server](image)

   **Authorize New Server**

   Enter the authorization information shown here on the joining server.

   Authorizing server: **storefront**
   Authorization code: **32720072**

   ![Please wait](image)

   ![Add Server](image)

3. On the second server select **Join existing server group**
Welcome to StoreFront

Select an option below to create a new store or extend your existing citrix store.

Create a new deployment
Set up a deployment to deliver self-service apps, data, and desktops.

Join existing server group
Add a server to an existing load-balanced group.

Join Server Group

Join Server Group

To authorize this server, first connect to a server in the group and choose “Add Server”. Enter the provided authorization information here.

Authorizing server: storefront

Authorization code: 3272007d
Joining server group...

Preparing

![Join Server Group]

 Joined Successfully

`STOREFRONT-2` is now part of a multiple server deployment.

![Join Server Group]
Citrix StoreFront

Server Group

Group Details

Base URL: https://storefront.ccslab.net/
Number of servers: 2

Server Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Server Name</th>
<th>Synchronization Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>storefront</td>
<td>Successful on 6/6/2013 4:23:12 PM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>storefront-2</td>
<td>Successful on 6/6/2013 4:23:12 PM.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 3: Accessing Applications through Receiver

To simplify the Receiver provisioning process, StoreFront has introduced an auto-discovery service called Account Services. Available beginning with Receiver 3.3 Standard for Windows (Mac 11.6, iOS 5.6, Android 3.1), this feature allows Receiver to automatically provision a user for internal and remote access. This service eliminates the need for users to download Provisioning files and manually import them into Receiver.

To allow users outside the corporate network to provision Receiver, NetScaler 10 build 69.4.nc and higher now includes a new entry in the session policy profile where the StoreFront Account Services URL is specified. The following steps walk through the process of a user provisioning their account inside Receiver through NetScaler Gateway.

1. **Configure the Account Services Address on the NetScaler Gateway Session Profile**

![Configuration screenshot](image.png)
Click Yes
5  Click Finish

6  Receiver will now display the subscribed resources. Applications and desktops are now
ready to be launched

Click the Settings icon

---

Stores can be added and removed from this menu
Receiver for Web

In addition to accessing StoreFront Stores within Citrix Receiver Standard, users can also access applications and desktops through a web page. The Receiver for Web site allows users to easily connect to their resources on devices that might not have Citrix Receiver installed. It supports launching applications with the full Receiver, Receiver Web Plug-in, or HTML5 client. This gives users the flexibility to access resources on devices on which that they do not have permission to install the full Receiver. Receiver for Web also separates applications and desktops and into tabs, with all desktops available to the user automatically appearing on the desktop page. It also provides user driven desktop restarts functionality for XenDesktop resources.

Figure 2: Apps View

Figure 3: Desktops View

Section 4: NetScaler Load Balancing Configuration

This section will give an overview of the steps necessary to configure a NetScaler to load balance StoreFront. NetScaler 10.1 includes a new health monitor designed to intelligently monitor StoreFront. This allows NetScaler to provide a high level of reliability to the deployment.

1. From the Load Balancing menu, select Servers
   Select Add
Choose a name and enter in the IP Address for both StoreFront servers. Select **Create** after each server is entered.
3 Both StoreFront servers are now listed

4 From the Load Balancing menu, choose **Monitors**
Select Add
Choose a name for the Monitor and select **StoreFront** as the **Type**
Leave the Standard Parameters settings default and choose the **Special Parameters** tab
Enter in the **Hostname** used for the StoreFront group along with the **Store Name**
Check **StoreFront Account Services**
Click **Create**

Choose Service Groups from the Load Balancing menu
Creating a Service Group allows a single health monitor to be attached to both servers
Select **Add**
Enter in a **Service Group Name**. Choose SSL for the **Protocol**. Select the two StoreFront servers and enter 443 as the Port and then click **Add**.

Select the **Monitors** tab and choose the previously created StoreFront monitor and click **Add**. It will then appear as a configured monitor.
Choose the **Advanced** tab

Click **Override Global**, uncheck **Use Source IP**

Click Client IP Header and enter in **X-Forwarded-For**

---

Choose the **SSL Settings** tab

Select the SSL certificate for the StoreFront servers and click **Add**
11 Select Virtual Servers from the Load Balancing menu. Select Add

12 Enter a Name and IP Address for the Virtual Server. Choose SSL for the Protocol
13 Choose the **Service Groups** tab
Choose the previously created **StoreFront** Service Group

14 Choose the **Method and Persistence** tab
Select **COOKIEINSERT** as the Persistence
Choose the SSL Settings tab
Select the SSL certificate and click Add
Click Create
Section 5: NetScaler Gateway for Remote Access

To provide remote access for users located outside the corporate network, it is recommended that StoreFront be deployed in conjunction with NetScaler Gateway, formally known as Access Gateway. NetScaler Gateway acts as a reverse proxy, tunneling all Citrix HDX traffic over SSL. Remote users have the option of accessing their resources from either the locally installed Citrix Receiver or via the Receiver for Web site. For an optimal deployment that allows users to easily connect from inside and outside the organization, it is recommended that the Account Services feature be implemented. This feature will allow users to seamlessly configure their locally installed Receiver for external access through NetScaler Gateway. This feature essentially automates the process of downloading and importing a Provisioning file.

A Provisioning file is a XML file that includes the necessary information to allow Receiver to decide whether it should connect directly to StoreFront or through NetScaler Gateway. This decision is made by using the beacon addresses included in the file. If Receiver is able to resolve the internal Beacon address, it will connect directly to StoreFront. By default, the internal Beacon address is set to the load balancing hostname for the StoreFront servers, although this can be changed in the Beacons menu inside StoreFront. For more information on configuring the Receiver Provisioning file, please reference Citrix eDocs.

Session Policies

To direct remote users to the optimal location, multiple session policies should be created on NetScaler Gateway. Using HTTP headers, the NetScaler is able to detect if the connection is being made from a web browser or directly from inside Receiver. Below is an example of the session policies required for Native Receiver and Receiver for Web access.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Policy Name</th>
<th>Expression</th>
<th>Profile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10       | Native Receiver   | REQ.HTTP.HEADER User-Agent CONTAINS CitrixReceiver &&
            |                   | REQ.HTTP.HEADER X-Citrix-Gateway EXISTS        | Native Receiver   |
| 20       | Receiver for Web  | ns_true                                        | Receiver for Web  |
To function correctly, Citrix Receiver requires that the StoreFront Services traffic not be rewritten, as would normally be the case when NetScaler Gateway is operating in Clientless Access (CVPN) mode. To disable rewriting, it is necessary to define a custom rewrite policy for Clientless mode. Under the Clientless Session Policies tab, a new policy should be created and binded. The URL Rewrite policy should be set to `ns_cvpn_default_inet_url_label` and the expression set to `true`.

![Figure 4. Clientless Access Policy](image)

![Figure 5. Clientless Access Profile](image)
HTML5 Receiver Client

StoreFront 2.0 is packaged with a native HTML5 Citrix Receiver client that can be used as a fallback client if the native Receiver is not installed. Receiver for HTML5 allows connections to through a browser without having to install any software on the endpoint. The Java client, which was previously used as the fallback option with Web Interface is no longer supported with StoreFront. The HTML5 client can be enabled during the initial StoreFront configuration or afterwards on the Receiver for Web section of the administration console. Administrators have the option of configuring the HTML Receiver the primary client for all users or configuring it as a fallback if the native Receiver is not installed. The only exception to the configured options is ChromeOS which always will use the HTML5 client. Before deploying the HTML5 client, please verify your environment against Citrix eDocs for a list the prerequisites that must be in place.

Conclusion

Citrix Consulting currently recommends StoreFront be implemented in a phased approach beginning with pilot environment for mobile users. This user group will see the greatest benefit from having a seamless experience between devices regardless of their location. The pilot environment should deliver resources from the production XenDesktop & XenApp deployments. Additionally, StoreFront should be deployed in parallel to the existing Web Interface environment on a separate Windows server instance. This will ensure a smooth transition while not disturbing any user groups that are utilizing Web Interface.

Acknowledgments

Citrix Consulting Solutions would like to thank all of the individuals that offered guidance and technical assistance during the course of this project – Roger LaMarca, Carisa Stringer, Andy Baker, Peter Schulz, and Adolfo Montoya. Additionally, thanks go to Peter Smeryage who helped with the build out of the environment.
References


Revision History

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Revision</th>
<th>Change Description</th>
<th>Updated By</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Initial Document</td>
<td>Citrix Consulting Solutions</td>
<td>March 27, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Document Update</td>
<td>Citrix Consulting Solutions</td>
<td>April 12, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Document Update</td>
<td>Citrix Consulting Solutions</td>
<td>July 31, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>Document Update</td>
<td>Citrix Consulting Solutions</td>
<td>June 28, 2013</td>
</tr>
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