XenDesktop Cloud Provisioning with CloudPlatform

Streamline management, improve predictability and increase operational efficiency of your XenDesktop/XenApp environment
As enterprise adoption of desktop and application virtualization grows, enterprises are looking for ways to streamline the management, resource utilization and efficiency of operating these environments. Many enterprises are adopting private cloud architectures to realize the benefits of increased business continuity, greater agility and flexibility, improved resource utilization and increased speed of deployment for their XenDesktop and XenApp environments.

Citrix® is dramatically changing the way IT delivers applications, desktops and data to the mobile workforce with solutions that transform any Windows application or desktop into a cloud service delivered across any network, to any device. Citrix XenDesktop® and Citrix XenApp® with Citrix CloudPlatform® provide cloud-enabled application and desktop service delivery from any type of private, public or hybrid cloud. This approach allows enterprises to couple cloud computing with application and desktop virtualization in a single platform to realize their combined benefits of resource optimization, infrastructure agility and cost efficiency. XenDesktop and XenApp with CloudPlatform is the only desktop cloud solution to deliver secure mobile access to a complete collection of apps and desktops.

**Challenges in traditional XenDesktop/XenApp environments**

Most traditional XenDesktop deployments use leading hypervisors such as Citrix XenServer® or VMware vSphere as a virtualization layer. In small to medium-size deployments, implementation and management are fairly simple. However, as environments scale, hypervisor-based deployments may encounter increased operational complexity and difficulty in scaling on demand to handle unpredictable future needs and provide highly available desktop environments based on user requirements.

**Operational Complexity:** Even though XenApp and XenDesktop are higher-level application workloads, they are somewhat unique in that administrators need a fair amount of understanding of the underlying infrastructure, e.g., compute, storage, networking, etc., to architect, implement and manage the deployment. As they grow, these environments place greater demands on administrators, becoming more complex to deploy, manage or efficiently scale.

**Unoptimized Capacity:** When deploying XenDesktop/XenApp, administrators need a good understanding of current and future scalability requirements so they can accurately architect the environment. Anticipation of future needs is necessary as traditional hypervisor-based deployments do not lend themselves to scaling on demand. If actual demand turns out to be lower than the environment was architected to handle, the result may be costly, wasted capacity. On the other hand, if demand is higher than expected, user experience can suffer due to the lack of resources.
Inability to adapt to end-user needs: In traditional desktop or apps environments the administrators are often unable to tune infrastructure service offerings based on end-user needs or to provide high-availability for user desktop or apps.

XenDesktop Cloud Provisioning with CloudPlatform
The XenDesktop Cloud Provisioning with CloudPlatform offering is an integrated desktop cloud provisioning solution to streamline management, improve predictability and increase operational efficiency of your XenDesktop or XenApp environments.

The solution provides the ability to seamlessly deploy and provision XenDesktop and XenApp environments on Citrix CloudPlatform-based private or public cloud infrastructures. Enterprise IT organizations can now implement a common service delivery architecture for all applications and desktops, leveraging common policies and tools that simplify deployment and management, increase agility and reduce cost.

Benefits of XenApp/XenDesktop Cloud Deployment
With Citrix CloudPlatform-based desktop cloud provisioning solution, XenApp and XenDesktop customers can realize significant benefits as highlighted below:

- Simplify desktop and app deployments and management
- Optimize capacity and reduce upfront and ongoing costs
- Leverage a common infrastructure management platform for multiple XenDesktop or XenApp deployments
- Improve XenDesktop and XenApp scalability with agile & rapid on or off-premise deployment
- Enhance app and desktop experience and availability

Reduce Complexity of IT Operations
Streamline operations by separating desktop & infrastructure administrator tasks
In Citrix CloudPlatform-based XenDesktop/XenApp implementations, there is a clean separation between the desktop/apps environment and the underlying infrastructure. Infrastructure administrators can monitor infrastructure usage and add compute, storage or networking capacity on as-needed basis. This additional capacity is then made available to the XenDesktop environment seamlessly, with no need for configuration changes to utilize it.

Simplified template management across hypervisor clusters
In Citrix CloudPlatform-based XenDesktop/XenApp deployments, the infrastructure administrator needs to upload images/templates once per deployment to the secondary storage. Citrix CloudPlatform ensures the availability of templates across the necessary clusters on demand, simplifying the management of templates across multiple clusters.

Optimize capacity and improve efficiency
Simplified and on-demand scaling of desktop infrastructure capacity
Citrix CloudPlatform allows for easy scaling of infrastructure by providing a modular & scale-out desktop cloud architecture. Administrators can design and deploy based on current needs and add infrastructure such as new hosts, clusters and zones on demand. This ensures the environment is neither under-provisioned, which can impact performance, nor overprovisioned.
Maximize efficiency by leveraging storage tiers
Administrators can leverage the ability of Citrix CloudPlatform to provide multi-tiered storage conveniently through disk offerings. This flexibility simplifies the management of desktop offerings and enhances user experience, as the administrator is now able to make the appropriate desktop environment available based on user needs.

Improve End-User Desktop Experience and increase availability
Manage multiple desktop availability zones for Disaster Recovery or High Availability
A key capability of Citrix CloudPlatform is that it allows desktops to be deployed across multiple availability zones. It can also spread the load across clusters, pods and zones. Deploying a XenDesktop/XenApp farm across multiple availability zones ensures that end user desktops are always available even in the event of host, storage or even data center failures.

Dynamically dedicate resources for XD/XA deployments
Citrix CloudPlatform can support multiple XenDesktop/XenApp environments and these simply appear as applications sharing the underlying infrastructure to a Citrix CloudPlatform environment. This architecture ensures that the administrator can pool all infrastructure used by various XenDesktop/XenApp deployments. At the same time, the administrator can carve out and dedicate certain resources such as compute or networking for a specific XenApp/XenDesktop environment.

Streamline management, increase operational efficiency and improve end-user experience for your XenDesktop or XenApp environments
XenDesktop Cloud Provisioning with CloudPlatform solution enables enterprises to seamlessly move their XenApp and XenDesktop deployments to the cloud. With this solution, you can streamline management, improve predictability and increase operational efficiency of your XenDesktop/XenApp environment.

Get more information and find additional resources on XenDesktop Cloud Provisioning with CloudPlatform at: http://www.citrix.com/products/cloudplatform/xendesktop-provisioning.html