Citrix VDI-in-a-Box

Simple, personalized virtual desktops that cost less than new PCs.

Citrix VDI-in-a-Box is an all-in-one VDI solution that delivers personalized virtual desktops for less than the cost of new PCs. Available as a virtual appliance, VDI-in-a-Box runs on industry standard servers and eliminates the need for expensive datacenter infrastructure.
Desktop virtualization helps organizations address the rising cost and complexity of desktop management—especially as organic growth and M&A lead to globally distributed operations—while meeting new requirements for security, compliance and user mobility. By centralizing and standardizing desktop operations, IT can realize economies of scale to help the business grow and adapt cost-effectively. For many organizations, though, the cost and complexity of the typical desktop virtualization solution make its benefits out of reach.

**Citrix VDI-in-a-Box**

Desktop virtualization made simple—and affordable

Citrix® VDI-in-a-Box™ is a simple, all-in-one VDI software appliance that lets Windows® desktop administrators deliver centrally managed virtual desktops to any user, anytime, on any device for less than the cost of new PCs. The solution reduces costs through integrated connection brokering, desktop provisioning, load balancing and user profile management—all packaged on a single virtual appliance that runs on industry standard servers with direct-attached storage. Servers can be connected to form a highly available grid, which scales simply by adding more servers on-demand. Citrix HDX technology ensures an excellent user experience.

**Key benefits**

- Reduce costs
- Personalize virtual desktops
- Scale on-demand
- Achieve built-in high availability
- Simplify management
- Deliver a high-definition user on-demand experience

VDI-in-a-Box is simple to deploy, manage and scale
Reduce VDI infrastructure costs
VDI-in-a-Box eliminates over 60 percent of traditional VDI infrastructure by providing integrated connection brokering, desktop provisioning, load balancing and user profile management, and leveraging industry-standard servers with direct-attached storage instead of expensive SAN storage. Centralized administration and single-instance management lower desktop management and support costs by up to 80 percent, and image storage costs by more than 60 percent. IT can maintain one master copy of desktop images while preserving the personalization of user applications and data, dramatically reducing management overhead.

Deploy personalized virtual desktops for every user
Users can install their own applications, set up individual profiles and store their data. IT administrators can update and manage these personalized desktops just like pooled desktops by updating and managing the single master image from which they were generated.

Start small and scale on-demand
A deploy-as-you-grow model gives organizations the flexibility to start small and add more off-the-shelf servers as needed. The hot-pluggable VDI-in-a-Box grid can be reconfigured on demand without having to turn off a production grid; the desktop administrator simply adds a hypervisor-equipped server and answers two questions, and the grid automatically updates the server with all the necessary software and data, then brings it online.

Increase service levels with built-in high availability
Using the N+1 model, the VDI-in-a-Box grid architecture delivers built-in high availability without shared storage, connection brokers or external load balancers. In IT environments configured for Microsoft® Active Directory® failover, VDI-in-a-Box will default to a backup Active Directory server when a primary Active Directory server fails, increasing availability. Grid-wide virtual IP addresses ensure that the entire grid is accessible by one highly available virtual IP address.

Simplify desktop virtualization with easy setup and management
VDI-in-a-Box can be deployed in hours, including built-in, policy-based dynamic desktop provisioning, load balancing and connection brokering. A grid architecture automatically shares configuration and desktop images, and enables management of all servers as a single entity, so IT can focus on managing centralized desktop images instead of individual endpoints. A wizard-driven, point-and-click user interface abstracts virtualization details so a Windows administrator can set up and manage virtual desktops without any virtualization, SAN or datacenter expertise. The desktop agent is automatically installed whenever a master image is created or updated, saving administrators time.

Provide a high-definition user experience
Built-in HDX technology ensures a high-definition, high-performance desktop experience for virtual desktop users anytime, anywhere, on any device. Integration with Citrix user profile manager customizes the user experience by delivering personalized virtual desktops. VDI-in-a-Box supports multiple data stores to offer better virtual desktop density by overcoming the input/output operations per second (IOPS) challenge with small, high-IOPS SSDs. The three data store arrangement with SSDs and regular SAS disks offers an even better user experience.

VDI-in-a-Box saves our district thousands of dollars on hardware purchases each year because it enables us to lengthen our PC refresh cycles and redeploy old hardware with the VDI architecture.

Manager of IT Infrastructure, Education

We got the solution up and running overnight. Best part is, our agents find the virtual desktops to be faster than their local PCs.

IT Director, Real Estate

I run a VMware shop and I know how complex VDI can be. I couldn’t believe how simple VDI-in-a-Box was.

Senior Support Analyst, Manufacturing

The ease-of-use is unmatched, simply power-on the appliance and go!

IT Director, HealthCare

With VDI-in-a-Box, the old POcs we tested with AutoCAD ran faster than the expensive dedicated endpoints we’d been using.

IT Manager, Government Agency
user experience while reducing cost per virtual desktop. The optimization pack for Google Earth™, a 3D rendering application, eliminates the need for a GPU to provide high-resolution graphics for Google Earth while providing a good user experience.

**Ensure high levels of security, compliance and data protection**
Nothing is stored on the endpoint, so data is never at risk in the event of a lost or stolen endpoint device. Single sign-on lets users connect securely to their virtual desktops via VPN. Users and computers can be placed in specific Windows domains to enforce more stringent relationships between users and their desktops as needed. A network time protocol (NTP) interface lets IT time stamp every log entry, aiding regulatory compliance.

**Choose from industry-leading hypervisors**
An open architecture allows many options for platform and protocol. VDI-in-a-Box is available on Citrix XenServer, Microsoft® Hyper-V® and VMware vSphere™ hypervisors. It is also protocol agnostic, supporting both HDX and Microsoft® RDP technologies.

“VDI-in-a-Box made it possible to provide better performance and service without having to do a full-scale change-out of our desktop hardware.”

Systems Manager, Library System

“We’re impressed with the functionality, accessibility and speed—we were up and running within minutes. VDI-in-a-Box gives us a solution we can easily replicate across our manufacturing sites, as it can be handled by differently trained and skilled IT staff.”

Senior Support Analyst, Manufacturing