Fact sheet

HP Advances Desktop Virtualization with Lower Cost and Increased Scalability

The new HP Virtual Desktop Reference Architecture for VMware View is an innovative solution for virtualizing desktops that is built on the HP BladeSystem. As a result, the solution delivers breakthroughs in price point, performance and scalability. HP Virtual Desktop Infrastructure was demonstrated in VMware Chief Executive Officer Paul Maritz's keynote presentation Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009 at 8 a.m. PT.

Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) is a server-based computing model that gives users a similar experience to a desktop PC, while all applications, management and processing is driven from the data center. Until today, adoption rates were slowed due to high cost per user seat, performance bottlenecks and management complexities.

HP Virtual Desktop Reference Architecture, developed in collaboration with VMware, solves this problem by deploying the first virtual desktop for under $1,000 per user seat.(1) It provides increased data protection, performance and uptime over traditional PC environments.(2)

This combination of HP compute, storage, networking and management software along with VMware View and Intel® Xeon® 5500 processors establishes the new standard for virtualized client infrastructure. HP's infrastructure and software deliver a virtual desktop solution in a rack, further complemented by HP clients. By providing prescriptive configurations, HP offers a complete, proven and tested architecture for deployment.

The solution enables double the number of users per blade from previous versions with HP BL490c G6 ESX servers using Intel Xeon 5500 series processors. Companies can start at 200 users and scale all the way to 1,600 users in a single rack. Large data centers can easily scale the solution to multiple racks. HP provides customers with detailed, pre-defined user types to determine headcount and performance.

Using HP LeftHand clustered iSCSI technology allows customers to implement fast, reliable storage without the cost and complexity of Fibre Channel. This simplifies storage administration and reduces costs. The solution provides scalable storage capacity and performance for VDI implementations with up to four MDS-600s as a modular storage building block. Each block contains 70 hot pluggable SAS drives as an iSCSI SAN.

Virtual desktop implementations can create major network demands. HP manages these demands with Virtual Connect Flex-10 network architecture. With Flex-10 customers can set the exact bandwidth they need for workloads and applications.

HP and Intel are partnering to have HP VDI Reference Architecture configurations in several HP Solutions Centers worldwide. This will provide customers a location to do VDI

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testing and proofs of concept of different configurations in a lab environment to ease the deployment process.

HP offers a full range of services from planning, implementing and optimizing virtual desktop environments.

The full architecture includes the following technologies that optimize the virtual desktop infrastructure:

- HP BladeSystem c7000 enclosure
- HP Virtual Connect Flex-10 (two to four per enclosure based on scale)
- HP SAS Switches
- HP BL280c management servers
- HP LeftHand P4000 series storage blades
- HP BL460c G6 ESX servers
- HP MDS600 Storage Array

HP sells and supports all components including the VM software stack, providing a single point of contact for problem resolution.

The HP Virtual Desktop Reference Architecture starts at under $1,000 per user and is planned to be available in the first half of 2010.[1]

More information about HP's end-to-end portfolio and services to deliver virtualized desktops is available at http://www.hp.com/go/vdi.

[1] Sub $1,000 per user price calculation includes the VDI hardware and software components (VMware View Premier, Microsoft VECD, and HP software licenses) for a fully loaded virtual desktop configuration for 750 productivity users.

[2] Calculation based on aggregate HP best practice guidelines.