Microsoft®

SoftGrid for Terminal Services

Consolidate servers, eliminate siloing, and improve ROI.

Microsoft SoftGrid transforms applications into virtualized, network available services. This results in the dynamic delivery of software that is never installed and never conflicts, reducing costly application compatibility testing. It enables IT to be flexible and responsive to business needs, and reduces the cost of server management.

www.microsoft.com/softgrid

Challenges with Today's Server Environment: Rigid, Costly, and Unwieldy

Server growth is a costly issue for organizations that rely on terminal services. To avoid post-installation application conflicts, applications must be tested up front to determine which applications will collide and, therefore, must be separated and run on different Terminal Server silos—a time-consuming and costly process. Servers are routinely underutilized because each one is locked into a specific configuration, capable of serving only a limited set of non-conflicting applications, typically using just 25% of capacity. Often, 20 servers are required to support 1,000 users. Microsoft SoftGrid for Terminal Services completely changes this situation.

Microsoft SoftGrid for Terminal Services Advantages

Consolidate servers and end server siloing, increasing server farm ROI

SoftGrid's application virtualization allows any application to run alongside any other—even applications that normally conflict, multiple versions of the same application, and many applications that previously could not run under Terminal Services. This eliminates the need for server silos and significantly improves server utilization. As a result, the number of servers needed is much lower, operational costs for managing the remaining servers is reduced, and the server farm ROI is increased. For instance, it has enabled Russell Investment Group and Fidelity National Financial to shrink their application server farms by 33–40%.

End application conflicts and regression testing

By eliminating the need to permanently install applications on servers, and shielding the operating system and applications from changes created when installed applications run, Microsoft SoftGrid for Terminal Services prevents problems that hinder deployments. The need to perform lengthy regression testing is also significantly reduced.

Build business continuity for applications

Replicate your virtualized applications like any other enterprise data to maintain an instant-on failover plan for your applications. Applications can be kept up to date between live sites and back-up sites by automatically replicating virtualized application files on the live sites' SoftGrid servers to SoftGrid servers at a back-up site (using third-party tools).

Simplify OS migrations and patching

Turn time-consuming migration and patching projects into largely automated, conflict-free processes. Applications typically do not have to be repackaged for OS migrations. Patching and migrations do not require regression testing.

Simplify packaging

Applications that use SoftGrid only need to be packaged once for desktop or terminal services platforms. This reduces the need for "double packaging" or creating two different processes and packages when providing the choice for running an application on a desktop or via a Terminal Server. This simplifies administration, troubleshooting, and support.

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Microsoft SoftGrid for Terminal Services Components

Microsoft SoftGrid for Terminal Services delivers:

Application virtualization

This enables applications to run without local installation. Through extensive virtualization, it virtualizes per user, per application instance, all the key application components. Its patented ability to virtualize applications—without changing source code—means applications can execute without installation, conflicts, or changes to the host computer. SoftGrid decouples applications from the OS and enables them to run as network services. This simplifies image management and ensures there is no degradation of the host operating system or other applications.

Dynamic streaming delivery

Rather than "pushing" down and installing entire applications, the first time an application is requested, the client rapidly "pulls" only the code necessary to start the program from a central Server—typically 20–40% of the total code. When the session terminates, application settings and profiles are saved in a non-volatile cache, providing instant access for subsequent use.

Centralized, policy-based management

Application management tasks for mobile, branch office, and disconnected users are easily administered. Set policies for users, applications, and delivery, and turn daily management over to the system itself. Active Directory integration reduces application assignment and change management to a few clicks. To terminate applications or rights, simply disable the application in the management console.

Scalability

SoftGrid's unique approach enables applications to be centrally stored and then delivered and executed on Terminal Servers on demand. Application files are only delivered once from the SoftGrid server to the Terminal Server, where they are cached for repeat use by multiple users. As a result, SoftGrid is a bandwidth-efficient method of distributing applications to Terminal Servers ensuring that the SoftGrid server can support many Terminal Servers and thousands of connected users.

Integration with Microsoft SMS

With the SoftGrid connector for Microsoft Systems Management Server (SMS), IT administrators get the benefits of SoftGrid's application virtualization and dynamic streaming from within the SMS infrastructure. This allows you the flexibility to choose the best way to deploy and run applications while maintaining OS level patches, updates, inventory, and asset tracking with a single, integrated management point.

Web access and self-service

SoftGrid ZeroTouch™ provides a web front-end, making applications accessible from an Internet browser. In addition, ZeroTouch also allows for application self-service, enabling users get access to new applications without the assistance of IT.

Customer Impact

Eliminate the need for server silos, reduce server farms, and cut operational costs for managing the remaining servers, thereby dramatically increasing the ROI on your server farm.

"Using this technology, Purdue Pharma L.P. expects to increase utilization on each server, enabling it to cut its 90 servers in half while supporting the same number of end-users. In addition to reducing management costs, this consolidation will save money on physical hardware, power and cooling costs, and rack space."

**JOE GIMIGLIANO
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, ARCHITECTURE & SECURITY, PURDUE PHARMA, L.P.**

SoftGrid is also available for applications that run on the desktop. SoftGrid for Windows Desktops combines with three other tools to make the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance, which delivers dynamic desktop solutions: Microsoft Asset Inventory Service, which translates software inventory into business intelligence; Microsoft Diagnostics and Recovery Toolset, powerful tools to accelerate desktop repair, recovery, and troubleshooting of unbootable Windows machines; and Microsoft Advanced Group Policy Management, which enhances group policy through change management tools.

To learn how Microsoft SoftGrid for Terminal Services and the Microsoft Desktop Optimization Pack for Software Assurance can help you, go to www.windowsvista.com/optimizeddesktop.

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