



UNCATEGORIZED

AUG 6, 2015

## Shortcut Creation for Locally Installed Apps Via Citrix Receiver

**Thomas Fuhrmann** 18

Once in a while, I get requirements from customers that force me to take a deep dive with one of our products. In this case, the customer wanted a combined start menu integration for both locally installed and published apps within a Xen Desktop 7 based hosted shared desktop environment. So, consider the following scenario:

*"Ideally, we want Receiver to create shortcuts for our locally installed applications in order to place them in our start menu."*



- Users are accessing a Hosted Shared Desktop on Server A
- The majority of all applications is installed locally on Server A, however the user should not be able to access all of them
- A minor part of the applications is installed on Server B and accessed via Citrix Receiver installed on Server A
- Startmenu integration should be performed for both local and published applications
- Users should not be able to remove applications via the SelfService UI

Locally installed apps in this hosted shared desktop environment should be assigned for all users via Citrix Studio and Citrix Receiver to have a common administrative instance for both locally installed and published applications from another server.

So, the first thing that came into my mind was obviously using the well known *"KEYWORDS:prefer"* to let Citrix Receiver start an application locally if it is installed. However, the drawback for this solution is that the shortcuts already have to be in the start menu for the prefer keyword to work. In this case, we want to use the *"prefer keyword"* the other way around.

Ideally, we want receiver to create shortcuts for our locally installed applications in order to place them in our start menu. This ensures that the local app is started and that no additional HDX session is opened within the hosted shared desktop.

## For realizing such a scenario

A feature enhancement has been built into Citrix Receiver for Windows 4.1 Cumulative Update 1. This enables auto creation of shortcuts for preferred applications and allows you to use a "prefer template" directory where all shortcuts for locally installed applications can be placed. When using such a template directory (which can also be a network share) Citrix Receiver first checks in that designated folder for a matching shortcut and then copies this shortcut to the start menu.

Since the release of Citrix Receiver 4.2, can even fine-tune this shortcut placement via GPO (icaclient.adm) instead of setting the needed parameters via registry (such as the Startmenu folder and Category Path). You can as also set the keys for removing the apps upon logoff or exit.

**Per default subfolders are created in the start menu if Application categories are defined within the application properties in Citrix Studio, this can also be disabled here:**

**Manage App shortcut**

Previous Setting    Next Setting

☐ Not Configured    Comment:

☒ Enabled

☐ Disabled

Supported on:

Options:

Startmenu Directory:

Desktop Directory:

☐ Disable Startmenu Shortcut

☐ Enable Desktop Shortcut

☐ Disable Categorypath

☐ Remove apps on Logoff

☐ Remove apps on Exit

Help:

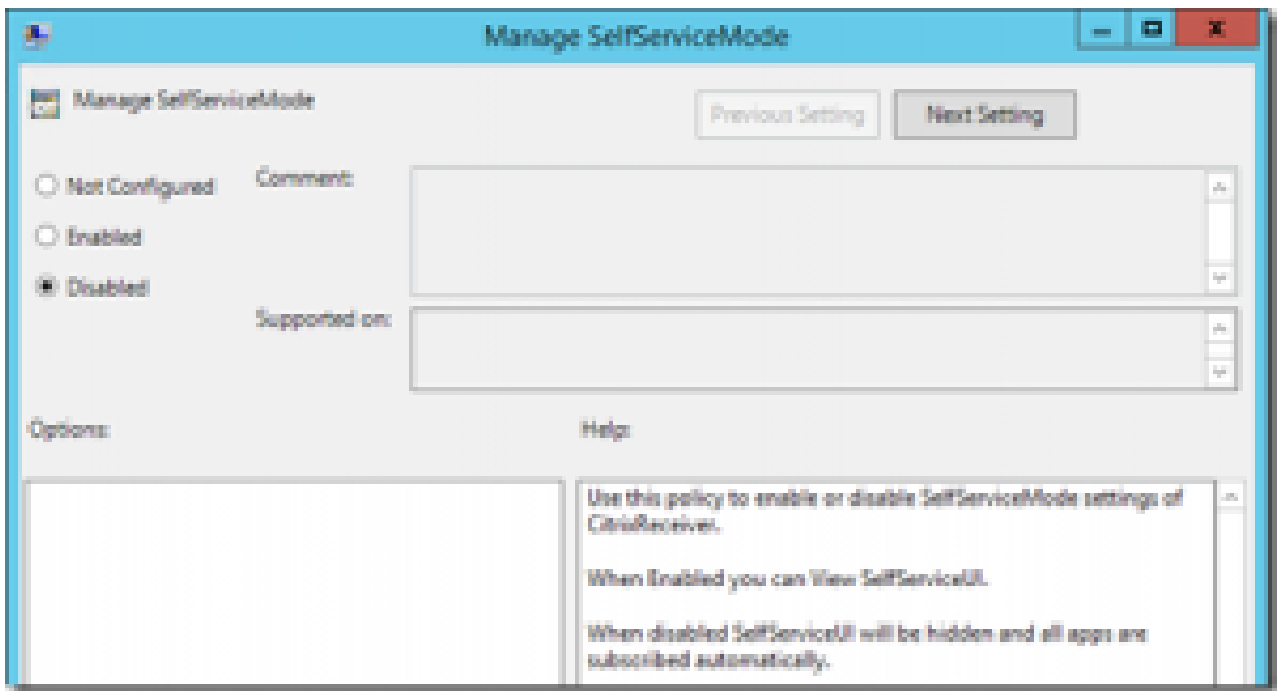
Use this policy to Manage Shortcuts.

If not configured Citrix Receiver will use default settings - Startmenu shortcuts are enabled, Desktop shortcuts are disabled, Categorypath is enabled and apps shortcuts remain on your machine on logoff and exit.

Default settings can be changed by enabling this policy. When this policy is enabled a Directory named 'Citrix' will be created in Startmenu by default. The name of the directory could be customized in the policy settings.

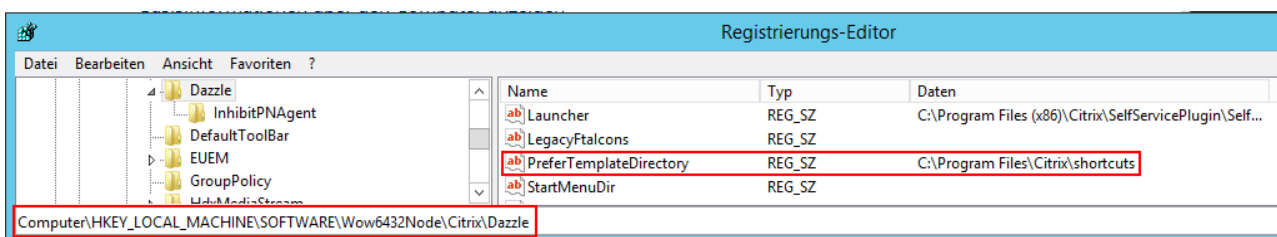
OK    Cancel    Apply

You can even disable the SelfService UI if you only want the users to access applications via the start menu:

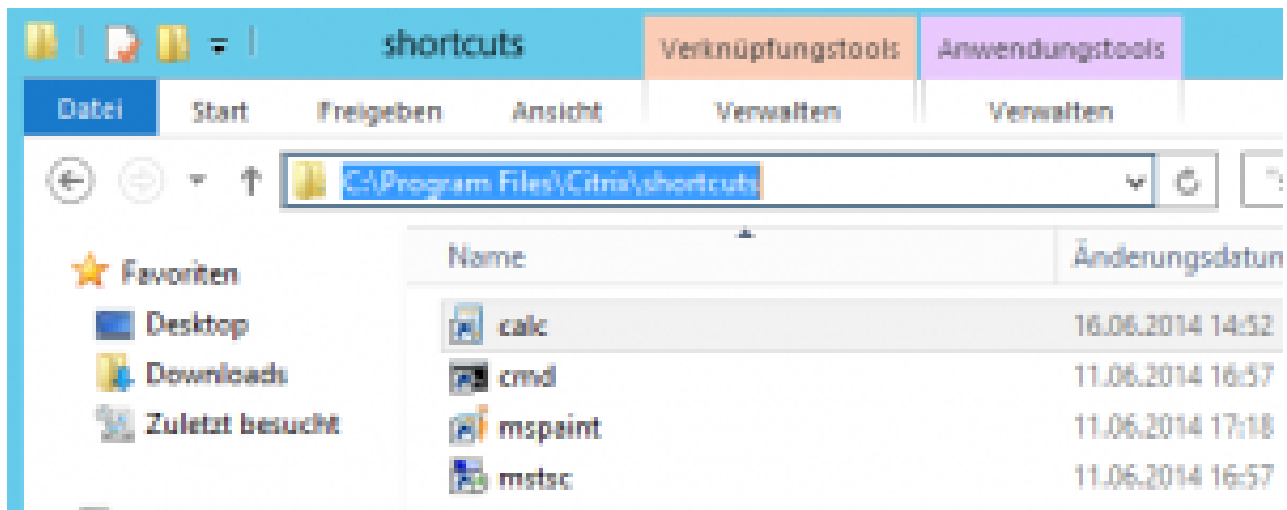


**Configure application settings in XenDesktop and Citrix Receiver for shortcut placement in the start menu:**

1. First, install Citrix Receiver with SingleSignOn. This is usually recommended for a scenario as described above. A how-to can be found here: <http://support.citrix.com/article/CTX133982/>
2. As described before, Citrix Receiver searches a predefined path for local shortcuts that are already in place. Still, we want to centrally administer the shortcuts for the locally installed apps in a network share. So, we have to create the registry key "PreferTemplateDirectory" in *Computer/HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE/SOFTWARE/Wow6432Node/Citrix/Dazzle*. This path can either be a local one or an UNC path:



3. Create shortcuts for the local applications and put them in the previously defined directory. It is important to choose different shortcut names than those already in *C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu* (if there are some). Otherwise, Receiver does not know which one to select:



4. Under application properties in Citrix Studio, add the following line in the description field for each of the applications with the corresponding name of the shortcut that was placed in the path defined with the "PreferTemplateDirectory" key: *KEYWORDS:prefer=shortcutname*

5. Finally, configure auto subscription for all users including the designation that "no application can be manually removed by the user. One possibility would be to add the keyword *mandatory* to the application properties right after the prefer statement separated by a semicolon. However, when using the latest StoreFront version 2.6, I prefer to globally disable subscriptions for the Store providing the apps in StoreFront. This can be found under Stores -> Actions -> Disable User Subscriptions. If you are using Citrix Receiver 4.2, you could also disable the SelfService UI via GPO (which also auto subscribes all assigned apps for a user and only makes them available via the start menu).

## Additional information

Please feel free to utilize [Citrix eDocs](#) to see how to further customize your XenDesktop / Receiver configuration.

**Thomas Fuhrmann**

Principal Consultant

Citrix Consulting Central Europe



Tagged under:

18 Comments

Citrix Blogs

 Login ▾ Recommend Tweet Share

Sort by Best ▾



Join the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS **Ben Rogers** • 4 years ago

A quick question!

I have noticed that when using this technique the Citrix Receiver does not display the applications in Category Paths as configured in Citrix Studio.

You can see that applications are created in the correct folders in the user profile but they are only displayed in the Default Category set in the Policy e.g. Citrix

Has anyone found a way to get apps to show in the Application Category in the Start Menu e.g. Microsoft Office?

Thanks

Ben

  • Reply • Share ›**Ben Rogers** • 4 years ago

Great article Thomas.

I found that when doing this with CTX Profile management it is worth following this excellent guide from Carl Stalhood

<http://www.carlstalhood.com...>

The only exception would be to remove the !ctx\_Startmenu! from the exclusion list.

This ensures that start menu items are retained across logons.

Also Add to the File to Synchronise List the following location:

AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\appsFolder.itemdata-ms

This will ensure that any Pinned Items to the Start Menu are retained for each user.

Ben

  • Reply • Share ›**David** • 4 years ago

Hi,

Thank you Thomas for the great article.

However, I'm surprised that nobody point out that with this method, when you delete or modify a shortcut, it doesn't come back even if you make a refresh with Receiver.

Clearly not reliable....

  • Reply • Share ›

**Alessandro Miotto Marques** ➔ David • 2 years ago

I'm workarrounding this issue removing shortcut files using a logoff script, but.. I found a strange behaviour where some randomic users are reporting that they are working normally during the day and for some reason the shortcut files are removed from the start menu and desktop folder without any user interaction..

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**David Pisa** • 4 years ago

This method works perfectly with Receiver 4.2.100.

Just one obviously note. Remember to enable the " Domain Pass-through" method on the Store.

David

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**satish pal** • 4 years ago

How do I published or access my local app in Citrix Xendesktop flyout menu?? Is there any way to modify the flyout menu and integereted our local app to be listed in Flyout menu.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**David Brassard** • 5 years ago

Finally ! Good thing it is now possible. We were waiting for that specific functionality since we upgraded our Receiver to version 4. However, the combination of this with UseCategoryAsStartMenu=true isnt working at all for us.

For an unknown reason, if I create an application that has a shortcut in the PreferTemplateDirectory, use the KEYWORD:prefered and want to place that shortcut in a folder in the Start Menu (existing or not), the application wont appear at all. If I simply remove the Category, now the applications shows itself in the root. Am I the only one having this problem ?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Michael Kwok** ➔ David Brassard • 5 years ago

Hi David, your nor the only poor soul which has this problem, i have the exact same issue and have tried everything to get it working but it doesnt work. the SelfServiceLog has the following error " Could not find a part of the path " this did not happen with 4.1.200.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**David Brassard** ➔ Michael Kwok • 5 years ago

HI Michael,

We opened a case for the issue at Citrix and it was said that it is clearly a regression from 4.1. They are working on a fix I guess.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›





**Clinton Dunn** → David Brassard • 5 years ago

Hi David,

Have you had an update on this? We are suffering from the same issue and I would prefer if my apps appeared in the start menu under a folder.

Thanks

Clinton.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Marc H** → Clinton Dunn • 4 years ago

Hi Clinton and David,

I have the same issue as well since upgrading to Receiver 4.2. Did you ever get to the bottom of this? It was working fine in 4.1.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Franco Koenig** • 5 years ago

Hi Thomas

With Citrix Receiver 4.2 the preferred Keyword is not working anymore. And how it David says, we want back the real session sharing feature, and with Receiver 4.2 we have back the functionality from integrated Startmenu. That is the right Step in the right direction :), so Citrix now give us back the last failed thing, SESSION SHARING.

Regards

Franco

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Thomas Fuhrmann** → Franco Koenig • 5 years ago

I have not explicitly tested with Receiver 4.2 but as far as I know the prefer keyword should still work. Did you check that you have set the prefer parameter exactly as mentioned in edocs i.e. with lower case ?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**David** • 5 years ago

Hi Thomas,

First of all thanks for this trick. Anyway it is a bit difficult to use. Preferred keyword is designed for local (client) applications integration, isn't it?

So your solution is working fine if the HDX session starts from a Thin Client, but if it starts for a full Desktop you can have issues with shortcuts names and the start menu will not be populated.

Anyway, normally I install locally on XenApp most common applications. So it is easy to overlap the full Desktop ones. Again normally customers prefer maintain standard applications names to avoid issues with users

As you know the best options is reintroduce session sharing on Citrix Receiver. I know it is not an easy task but it is all what we need.

Otherwise a good logon script can populate the user start menu easier than Citrix

Receiver.

Personally I use it only to integrate applications published on different (silo) servers

All the best

David

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Thomas Fuhrmann** → David • 5 years ago

Hi David, thanks for your comment. The prefer keyword is indeed used for local application integration but in my scenario the published desktop acts as the client since we access applications from another server. With regards to shortcut names there should not be any issues because we are using the PreferTemplateDirectory. You would choose unique short names for the shortcuts which should be different from existing shortcuts if there are any. Receiver would then copy the shortcut from the PreferTemplateDirectory to the Start Menu and rename it with the application name you have set within Citrix Studio.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Paul Stansel** • 5 years ago

Thomas, I am struggling to understand how this method prevents access though from the apps on Server A. If shortcuts are created by the default OS install is this somehow going to hide them? It certainly does nothing if the users create their own shortcuts to the program files, right? Maybe I am just missing something.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



**Thomas Fuhrmann** → Paul Stansel • 5 years ago

Thats correct, the mentioned scenario does not prevent access if the path to the local executables is known by the users, you would have to prevent this by locking down the OS image. In my scenario Receiver is used as the only method for populating the start menu. So you should also remove all shortcuts from the start menu of the master image before deploying the image.

YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

ENDPOINT MANAGEMENT

EXPERIENCE &amp; PRODUCTIVITY

AUG 21, 2018

## Citrix is a Leader in TWO IDC MarketScape Reports

When customers succeed, Citrix wins. Citrix has been recognized as a Leader by IDC in not one, but TWO...



Calvin Hsu

0

Stay Informed.  
Subscribe Today.

SUBSCRIBE

Yes, I'd like  
to hear  
about offers

and services from Citrix by email.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Citrix will process your data according to our [Privacy Policy](#)

UNCATEGORIZED

JUL 26, 2018

## Citrix Director — The Connoisseur of Logon Complexity

Every day, in every way, and with every release, Citrix is getting better and better. And our XenDesktop 7.18...



Vikas Hiremath

3



UNCATEGORIZED

MAY 15, 2018

## We've Passed the Point of No Return. Welcome to the Future of Work!

Was that an earthquake this morning, Synergy? No! "It was the seismic waves we're sending through the industry right now..."



Meri Summers

0



[CITRIX.COM](#)

[ABOUT](#)

[CONTACT](#)

[TERMS OF USE](#)

[COOKIE PREFERENCES](#)

© 2019 Citrix. All rights reserved.

