PC Repurposing

Stratodesk Whitepaper

Introduction

Although VDI is widely used for securely delivering virtual apps and desktops, many organizations still struggle overcoming the high entry bar required to deploy an effective VDI environment. Technical expertise and large investments in hardware and IT staff resources/time remain a major barrier preventing many from taking full advantage of the benefits VDI has to offer. An additional barrier is the Windows problem. In order to deploy an effective VDI, organizations must maintain Windows on each of their endpoint devices. This requires further investment in time and money beyond just the initial server investment.

Companies and organizations eager to reap the many rewards of Virtual Desktop Infrastructure will be glad to know that there is another option. It is in fact possible to get the full effect of VDI without overhauling an entire, existing network of endpoint devices. This solution is called PC Repurposing and it allows more organizations to make the leap to VDI and even scale the number of devices in their network.

This paper seeks to explore the benefits of PC Repurposing, some of the challenges facing companies and organizations that wish to make use of it, and finally, how Stratodesk software solves common challenges facing those who want to repurpose existing endpoints, even making it possible to add additional endpoints and managing both low cost hardware and repurposed devices in the same environment.

Summary of Challenges Facing PC Repurposing

Organizations and companies across many industries face significant challenges when making the leap to VDI. IT systems admins in particular feel these pains as they struggle to find a balanced approach to endpoint management while also growing the number of seats in their network. Their first obstacle is overcoming the Windows issue. In order to allow for VDI, organizations must house Windows on each of their endpoint devices. But installing Windows is only where the work begins for these already busy IT administrators. Endpoints must then be maintained, patched, and also have anti-virus and malware protection provided for them. Not to mention IT must provide and fund antivirus and malware protection for each and every device. To make things worse, different devices house different versions of Windows, which creates even more complexity. The cost and effort associated with all of the above is high and poses a significant obstacle for enterprises to overcome before even considering VDI.

Another challenge facing IT administrators is that of security. A key concern for most, system admins must not only increase and maintain a high security standard but must also find ways to enable flexibility in their environments to allow for Bring Your Own Device (BYOD), workers at home or on the go, or those accessing virtual desktops from the cloud. This causes great concern for IT administrators who now have an equally high demand put

not only on budget and security, but also on convenience.

Increased strain on staff resources is the third great challenge and cannot be stressed enough. Without an endpoint solution in place that is convenient and one that offers a seamless user experience, workers cannot function at peak performance. If there is any hassle at all on the end user, the benefits of VDI can quickly be lost as IT resources are redirected towards aiding and assisting workers. Technology that saves time not only for the worker but also for the IT system admin is of paramount importance.

Lastly, organizations face a hardware problem. In order to keep up with server demands, companies often look to Thin Clients as a method to deploy virtual desktops. Thin Clients, however, are incredibly expensive. However, even if the organization has the budget to do a complete overhaul of their endpoint devices, they still face the difficult challenge of standardizing those devices, managing and updating different versions of Windows –the list goes on.

For these reasons, it is clear that an all-in-one solution that encompasses endpoint management and security as well as one that cost effectively repurposes devices is necessary for companies and organizations to take full advantage of their VDI.

NoTouch PC Repurposing Solves Common Challenges Facing VDI Deployments

NoTouch PC Repurposing seeks to solve these major issues by providing a minimal footprint, Linux based OS that can quickly be deployed onto all existing devices, thereby repurposing them into secure, high performing endpoints. Not only does NoTouch boost security, it also saves your system administrator's time by automating the processes involved in endpoint management. By cutting costs, eliminating hassle, standardizing endpoints, and maximizing security, it is the solution of choice for businesses looking to scale their existing network of endpoint devices.

NoTouch revolutionizes endpoint computing, elevates the workspace and allows tens of thousands of devices to be managed from one central location. Additionally, NoTouch is the only endpoint management software that can be run on premises or from the Cloud, which makes it the perfect solution for both VDI and DaaS. NoTouch can also fluidly manages

both x86 and Raspberry Pi devices in the same environment, unlocking flexibility and convenience for companies using VDI.

NoTouch is the preferred solution to power the Raspberry Pi. By powering low cost devices, Stratodesk offers unparalleled opportunities for organizations looking to scale the overall number of endpoints in their network. In fact, the combination of repurposed x86 devices and the Raspberry Pi is the most versatile and cost effective solution on the market.

NoTouch PC Repurposing Overview

The key benefits of NoTouch Desktop and how NoTouch solves major concerns facing enterprises looking to scale are as follows:

Increase Security and Save On Costs

With NoTouch PC Repurposing, organizations unlock unlimited savings potential. Easily and effectively install NoTouch onto all of your existing hardware (PCs, laptops, Thin Clients, Raspberry Pis) and repurpose devices into high performing endpoints. NoTouch's minimal footprint OS is capable of supporting multiple monitors, Skype for Business, H.264 decoder, and much more. NoTouch effectively cuts out the costs associated with purchasing brand new hardware by being a fully software based, hardware agnostic OS.

Another important benefit of NoTouch PC Repurposing is its ability to remove the need to house Windows on your endpoints. Without Windows, organizations can increase their security while also cutting down costs associated with malware/antivirus contracts and Windows Licensing fees.

Streamline Endpoint Management and Scale

Manage thousands of devices from one location using NoTouch Center's easy-to-use and intuitive management interface. Save IT management hours when you manage your entire VDI with NoTouch Center. NoTouch OS runs on the newest and most cutting edge x86 and Raspberry Pi devices out there. NoTouch OS scales up indefinitely and can manage multiple worksites as well as offline and on the go workers.

NoTouch Desktop Enables BYOD

Another common concern facing IT is the growing trend of employees bringing personal devices into the workplace, or using their personal devices to work from home. Employees want and expect to perform integral work tasks on personal devices, either at home, in the office, or on the go. Stratodesk's software supports BYOD to meet these needs without opening up the network to security threats. Workers can simply boot NoTouch OS in Live Mode from any USB stick in order to access important work files wherever they are at. When they are done, they can exit their session and remove the USB stick. Native operating systems won't be affected.

NoTouch Is the Solution of Choice for PC Repurposing

Regardless of make model or manufacturer, NoTouch is able to run on any x86 device. NoTouch bypasses any 3rd party dependencies, including a windows operating system and allows you to retain hardware freedom, lets yourself be locked in by a traditional Thin Client vendor – separates hardware from software and allows you to retain your freedom to decide what hardware brand you want to buy.

On–Premises or Cloud-Based Administration

NoTouch is the only endpoint management software that can run both on premises or from the Cloud. With NoTouch Cloud, management updates are applied automatically, appliances are actively managed, and home machines and BYOD are enabled without opening your network up to unnecessary security risks.

About Stratodesk

Stratodesk is the world's leading endpoint OS and management solution. It is used by government and healthcare organizations, banks, SMBs and large enterprises to eliminate cost and scalability obstacles facing their complex network of devices. By delivering the only management software for mixed environments of x86, ARM and Raspberry Pi devices, Stratodesk is reinventing endpoint computing for enterprise IoT and VDI. Our cutting edge, linux-based solution, NoTouch, is hardware-agnostic and runs on the Raspberry Pi.

🌐 **www.stratodesk.com**
✉ **contact@stratodesk.com**
US: 🇺🇸 **+1 (415) 946 4029**
EU: 🇪🇺 **+43 (463) 890298**