



Executive summary

Scale virtual desktops faster and provision virtual apps more easily with VMware Horizon and VMware App Volumes

Compared to Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops, VMware Horizon deployed virtual desktops in less time and fewer steps, required fewer tasks to deploy apps, and enabled simulated users to log into virtual desktops in less time

The work-from-home trend will continue into the near future, with potentially 22 percent of US employees working remotely by 2025.¹ Desktop and app virtualization, through virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) and desktop-as-a-service (DaaS), can promptly provide essential productivity applications for remote workers, but IT admins might find it challenging to manage and provision numerous VDI or DaaS sessions. A VMware® Horizon® 8 VDI environment allows IT admins to deploy and provision virtual desktops and accompanying apps quickly and easily, potentially saving time in an admin's workday. Additionally, Horizon could enable remote workers to be more productive by reducing the time they must wait to access essential resources.

At Principled Technologies, we tested the performance of two desktop and app virtualization solutions—VMware Horizon 8 and Citrix® Virtual Apps and Desktops™ 7—in three phases. First, we measured the speed and ease of non-persistent virtual desktop deployments. Next, we focused on app delivery through VMware App Volumes™ 4 and Citrix App Layering™. Finally, we tested the non-persistent virtual desktop application performance of both VMware and Citrix VDI environments. In each phase, the VMware solution offered advantages over the Citrix solution, which could mean saving time for VDI admins and delivering a better experience to end users.

Scale VDI virtual desktops more quickly

75.9% less time to scale from 50 to 100 VMs

Deploy apps to virtual desktops more easily

13 fewer tasks for VDI admins to complete

Deploy non-persistent virtual desktops more quickly and easily by using VMware Horizon 8

When we tested the speed and ease of deployment for each VDI solution, the VMware Horizon solution scaled VMs in up to 75.9% less time than the Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktop solution

Time to deploy 50, 100, and 200 non-persistent virtual desktops and make them usable

Time in minutes and seconds (lower is better)

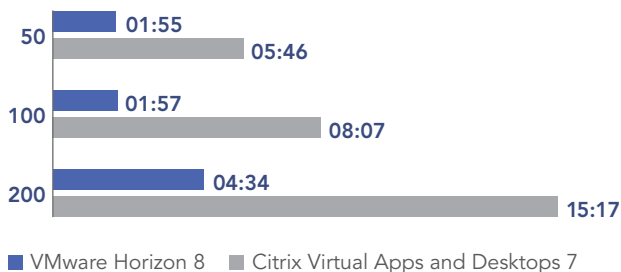


Figure 1: The elapsed time, in minutes and seconds, for each solution to deploy additional virtual desktops, register them, and make them available to use. Lower is better. Source: Principled Technologies.

Deliver virtual apps more easily using VMware App Volumes

The two VDI solutions we tested use different approaches to running non-persistent VDI environments and delivering applications to end users: VMware App Volumes 4 and Citrix App Layering. We logged the number of major tasks a VDI admin would need to complete to deploy Microsoft Office® 2019 using each solution. We found that the VMware solution required 14 major tasks to deploy an application—just over half of the 27 major tasks required by the Citrix solution.

Number of major tasks to deliver an app to a virtual desktop

Number of tasks (lower is better)



Figure 2: The number of major tasks necessary to deploy an application using each solution. Lower is better. Source: Principled Technologies.

Faster logins for non-persistent VDI environments with VMware Horizon

To assess login times on non-persistent virtual desktops, we used the LoginVSI™ Login Enterprise benchmark. We also measured the Login Enterprise EUX score for both solutions and the results appear in the full report. Our results indicate that VMware Horizon 8 offers significant advantages for VDI admins without a negative impact on the end-user experience.

Time for simulated users to log into 25 virtual desktops as reported by Login Enterprise

Time in seconds (lower is better)

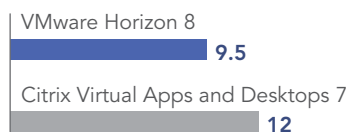


Figure 3: The total login time for each solution. Lower is better. Source: Principled Technologies.

Conclusion

In our testing, a VMware Horizon 8 VDI solution with App Volumes 4 offered many advantages over a Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktop 7 and Citrix App Layering. Using VMware Horizon for your VDI environment could save time for your VDI admins and help get non-persistent virtual desktops ready for users sooner.

1. Upwork, "Upwork Study Finds 22% of American Workforce Will Be Remote by 2025," accessed July 22, 2022, <https://www.upwork.com/press/releases/upwork-study-finds-22-of-american-workforce-will-be-remote-by-2025>.

Read the report at <https://facts.pt/1fQOJG3>



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