



## **Make VDI a Reality Today with Existing IT Investments**

A Leostream white paper

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### The vision

The promise of virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) is tremendous. By virtualizing the desktop environment, organizations can reap a number of benefits including:

- Reduce desktop provisioning and management efforts
- Achieve hardware independence
- Improve data security and regulatory compliance
- Reduce down time

### Reality check

For your VDI deployment to be successful, you need to be able to integrate security, network management, and other critical systems into the VDI. An overly homogenous solution can “lock in” an IT shop and also prevent the deployment of innovative solutions in the future. It can also limit the ability to maximize investments in existing resources.

### Reality check

For your VDI deployment to be successful, it needs to be accepted by end users. When a VDI solution is deployed, the look and feel of the end-user experience should be immediately familiar and identical to or better than that of a conventional desktop in terms of performance and functionality. More than any other factor, a sub-optimal end-user experience can reduce organizational confidence in virtualization and cripple the future of VDI initiatives.

### Reality check

Despite what vendors will tell you, there is no single solution that will enable you to successfully deploy VDI in your enterprise. Brian Madden, the “fiercely independent” desktop virtualization expert, commented that VDI is nowhere “near the complete nirvana solution” and must be accomplished by “cobbling together” products from a range of vendors, each of which is the “go-to” vendor for a particular piece of functionality. Mark Bowker of Enterprise Strategy Group said: “It is becoming clear that desktop virtualization is going to take a hybrid approach that involves multiple pieces of technology that may even be from different vendors. The trick, then, is gluing it all together and matching the technology with the user.”

**Keys to success** It is becoming increasingly clear that for many organizations, no single vendor can provide a functionally complete VDI that will integrate all your existing systems and provide an acceptable or better end-user experience. But whether a single-stack or hybrid solution is appropriate, you need to ensure that the connection broker technology you deploy will support your organization's requirements.

Connection management technology is the single most important system from the standpoint of VDI interoperability. Frequently referred to as a "connection broker," this type of software is essentially the "glue" that brings VDI together.

The connection broker manages the link between client devices – such as laptops, desktops, or thin clients – and the back-end systems, such as the virtual machines or physical servers on which the desktop images are hosted. It also integrates other essential data center systems – such as authentication servers, load balancers, VPN hardware, external databases, and others – ideally in a lightweight manner that avoids any changes to these systems. Finally, it provides centralized management of all these resources and policy control for machines and users.

**A cautionary tale** The connection broker is central to creating a functional, enterprise-class VDI, but it can be overlooked until its inability to play nicely with other systems brings a VDI deployment to a grinding halt. Some IT administrators have learned a hard lesson by deploying a connection broker that their vendor had "thrown in" as part of a much larger installation package. Many connection brokers bundled into homogenous vendor "deals" have proven to be less than robust. These brokers can fail to interoperate with existing resources, creating IT headaches such as requiring users to adapt to a new and unfamiliar environment. Performance can also degrade after the number of end users exceeds a few hundred.

### Turn the vision into reality

Make sure that the connection broker technology you select will support all of your organization's needs for a successful VDI deployment. Make sure that it can:

- Provide the flexibility and independence you need to create a hosted environment for the different systems you have in place
- Deliver the necessary applications and sessions in addition to desktops
- Accurately implement policies based on your organization's business rules
- Scale as needed, even on a global level

### The Leostream Connection Broker

Leostream has focused on connection broker solutions since hosted and virtualized desktops emerged, and provides a complete connection broker solution enabling organizations to make VDI a reality. The Leostream Connection Broker is a "best-in-class" broker that simply and securely connects end users with hosted desktops, virtual desktops, applications, and other resources hosted in the data center, enabling access whenever and wherever it is needed.

See for yourself; download a 30-day trial of the Leostream Connection Broker at: [http://www.leostream.com/products/trialform\\_30.php](http://www.leostream.com/products/trialform_30.php).



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