The Top 5 Considerations to Address *before* Deploying a Large-Scale Hosted Desktop Environment (VDI and HDI)

Your hosted desktop environment, whether it is a virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) or a physical hosted desktop infrastructure (HDI), needs to be robust, highly resistant to failure, and flexible enough to meet individual user needs, but there are a host of other questions that need to be addressed in order to ensure a successful VDI rollout. Below, we've outlined five items for consideration before transitioning to a large-scale VDI deployment.

Key Considerations	Questions to Help Determine Your VDI Requirements
1. Ability to handle multiple technologies	• Do you need to support a mixed virtual and physical environment created from workstations, desktops, virtual machines, and thin clients? • Do you need to enable Microsoft Remote Desktop Services alongside virtual and physical desktops? • Do you need to deliver desktops and applications, potentially using different display protocols for each? • Do users need to access remote desktops running 32-bit Windows, 64-bit Windows, and Linux operating systems? • Do you have Windows and Linux desktops that you can repurpose as clients devices? • Will you host virtual machines on hypervisors from a variety of virtualization vendors? • Do you need to include automatic virtual machine provisioning in the design?
2. Display protocol support	• Do you need to use more than one display protocol (Microsoft RDP, Citrix ICA, HP RGS, etc.)? • Do you need a high-performance display protocol (HP RGS, Teradici PCoIP, Exceed onDemand, etc.)? • Do users need to access desktops from different types of Web browsers, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, or Apple Safari?

3. Directory services and authentication	• Do you need to integrate more than one type of directory service, such as Active Directory, eDirectory, NIS, etc? • Do you need to support multiple domains and multiple authentication servers within one domain? • Do you have multiple untrusted domains? • Do you need to integrate existing hardware-based SSL VPN devices? • Do you need to integrate smart cards, fingerprint readers, or other multi-factor authentication solutions?

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4. Desktop control	• Do you want to control the power state of virtual machines (i.e., starting, stopping, suspending, etc.)? • Do you want to specify display protocol parameters and configuration files on a per-policy basis (i.e., a single policy would assign desktops running Linux and Windows and use a different display protocol based on the desktop's operating system)? • Do users have multiple monitors? • Do you need granular control over the use of USB devices on the remote desktop?
5. Policies	• Do you want to create policies based on users' authentication server properties and their client locations? • Do you want to automatically and transparently redirect traveling users to their desktop resources based on policy settings? • Do you want to leverage existing fault tolerance and resiliency mechanisms? • Do you want to define the length of time that a desktop is assigned to a particular user, to share resource between users? • Do you want to allow one user identity to simultaneously log in from several clients (e.g., in a classroom environment)? • Do you need to monitor idle user sessions

The promise of virtual desktop infrastructure is tremendous but the transition to VDI can be a complex and daunting initiative. For large-scale VDI deployments, it can be difficult to know the right questions to ask or where to find the answers that you need to make smart decisions for your organization. Not all VDI deployments were created equal: this guide is meant to jumpstart your VDI planning and help you create a roadmap to address your current and future business needs.

Since desktop virtualization emerged, organizations across a range of industries have relied on Leostream to make VDI a reality. For more information, visit www.leostream.com.