Deliver cloud-based apps and data for flexible, on-demand IT

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This white paper discusses the new industry standard to define, design and deliver mobile Workspaces running on Citrix Cloud, including:

→ The key role of mobile workspaces in today's organisations

→ Challenges that can impede mobile workspace deployment

→ A better way to deliver great workspaces to people quickly, securely and flexibly

With Citrix Cloud, IT can quickly and easily create an integrated workspace that any employee can access anywhere, on any device.

Business Driver and Requirements

When in perfect alignment with business drivers, IT can be one of the strongest business enablers. An agile IT, able to adapt timely to evolving business needs will translate into competitive advantage.

An IT weighted by outdated or underutilised legacy systems, redundant applications, or modern IT that feeds legacy processes, will translate into too long time to market, complex and expensive management, potential vendor lock in, problems in security and - through all that - higher costs.

Citrix Cloud addresses the following primary risks of:

→ Purchasing, hosting and managing new hardware and hypervisor systems to deliver services

→ Reduce the investment in keeping the delivery components of the Citrix environment at a vendor supported level

Alongside addressing the primary risks, Citrix Cloud provides additional benefits including:

→ Reduction in the required number of managed hosting servers for the remote access solution

→ Reduce capital expenses and maximise investments

→ Align Citrix Cloud by utilising Microsoft Azure for core services

→ Expand business in the cloud at the pace of growth without the cost of additional infrastructure

→ Take advantage of performance improvements in the technology suite without significant costs

Moving IT to the Cloud

In our on-demand world, people expect the IT resources they rely on to be conveniently available any time they're needed, on any device. On-demand cloud delivery has much to offer IT as well, from the ability to provide services more flexibly and cost-efficiently to rapid scalability for optimal business agility.

A new approach: Citrix Cloud

Citrix Cloud now provides an integrated way to deliver cloud-based services through a unified control plane to assist in designing, publishing, and consuming workspaces. Powered by Citrix technologies based on industry-leading Citrix XenApp®, Citrix XenDesktop®, Citrix XenMobile® and Citrix ShareFile®, Citrix Cloud enables fast, straightforward workspace creation and delivery through a platform that's always on and always up to date with the latest technologies.

Citrix Cloud also has the unique ability to work with both existing data centres and the world's best clouds, giving customers complete control over workspace locations, security, performance, cost and data sovereignty. As an inherently multi-cloud, hybrid cloud, multi-site solution with no cloud vendor lock-in, Citrix Cloud offers a better way to adopt any cloud and a low-risk entry point for companies new to cloud-based workspace delivery.

Designed for the way people and organisations work today, Citrix Cloud moves beyond traditional notions of deployments and users to a more modern approach based on the relationship between people and the services they use. Workspace delivery centres on designing, publishing and subscribing services.

→ **Design** – Admins of all levels use simple tools to design and compose any number of workspaces with different combinations of apps, desktops, data and mobility to meet the needs of diverse user profiles and contexts.

→ **Publish** – Admins make each workspace available to specific individuals and roles throughout the enterprise as defined in corporate directories.

→ **Subscribe** – Users are notified, and then allowed to subscribe to their workspaces as a service that they can access at any time, on any device.

A unified delivery platform to move IT to the cloud

Citrix Cloud is a cloud-based management and delivery platform that integrates across Citrix technologies.

Going beyond virtual desktops to provide full workspace delivery, Citrix Cloud includes a cloud-based control plane to create workspaces on any infrastructure as well as the options to mix and match virtual application and desktop, mobility management and lifecycle management services. IT can choose from a variety of service packages according to their on-demand IT strategy and priorities, allowing the flexibility to experiment, grow and address changing needs over time. Services delivered by Citrix Cloud include:

Platform Services

The Citrix Cloud platform provides a unified environment for IT to manage customer accounts, including authentication and identity management integrated with Microsoft Active Directory.

The platform also manages secure communications between cloud-based control and specific resource locations.

Secure integration of application and desktops

IT can deliver secure virtual apps and desktops powered by industry-leading XenApp and XenDesktop technology—including both server-hosted and VDI desktops, Windows or Linux —to any device, on the infrastructure of their choice. IT maintains complete control over applications, policies and users while leaving much of the configuration, upgrades and monitoring to Citrix Cloud management. Employees get the best user experience on any device, under any network condition.
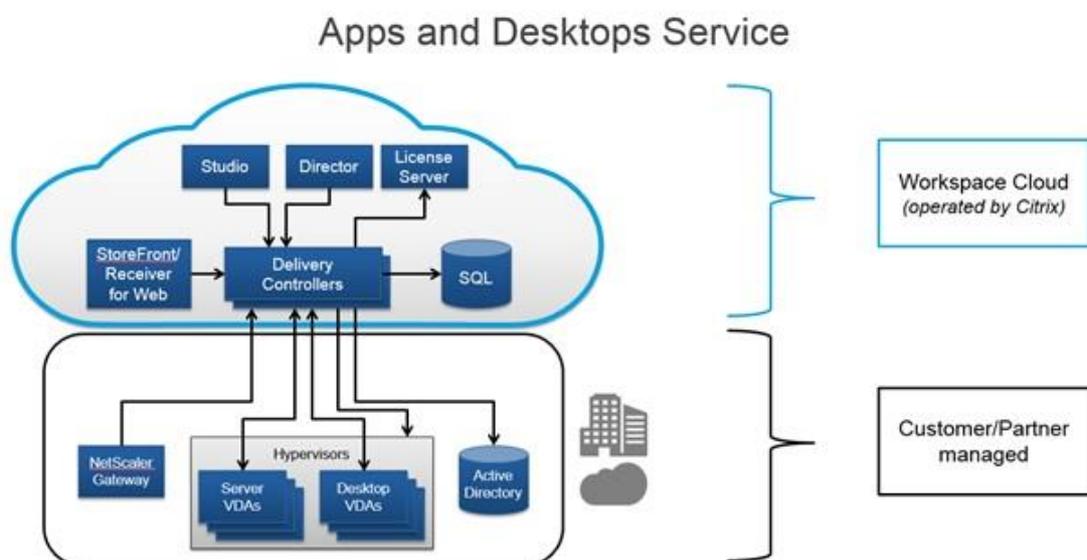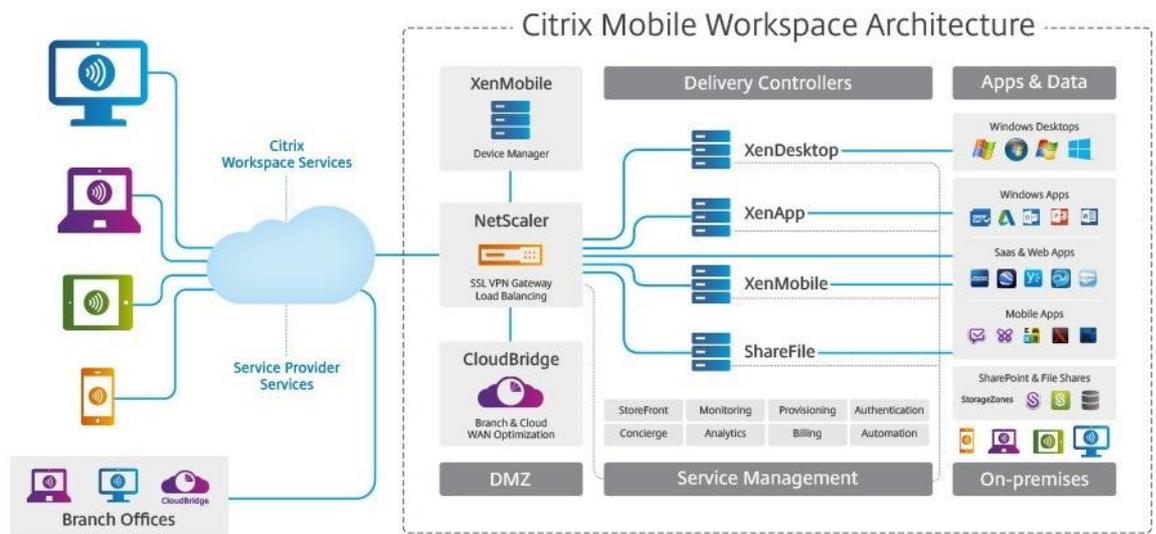

Figure 1: Apps and Desktops Services

Figure 2: Citrix Mobile Workspace Architecture

Mobility Management

Comprehensive enterprise mobility management (EMM) capabilities including mobile device management (MDM), mobile application management (MAM) and enterprise-grade productivity apps provide a secure user experience on BYO or corporate devices. Based on XenMobile technology, the service also enables IT to quickly create pilot environments and experience faster production time to value with automated EMM deployment.

Secure Documents

A secure enterprise file sync and sharing service based on ShareFile technology meets the mobility and collaboration needs of employees and the data security requirements of the enterprise. People can access data and files in sync across all their devices and securely share files internally or externally. IT can mobilize existing data in network shares, home drives and Microsoft SharePoint with full control over data storage, encryption, and access policies.

Cloud Services simplicity

Citrix Cloud expands Citrix management infrastructure with easier to use cloud-based management services. Cloud-based services centralize and simplify the design and deployment of virtual apps and desktops, mobility management and secure file sharing solutions—no matter where they are deployed. Centralized control can also lower IT operations costs up to 40 percent and enables faster updates and deployment of new services.

Infrastructure and cloud choice

Citrix Cloud provides IT with the simplicity of cloud-based management that controls where app workloads run and where data is stored. Most cloud services put management and workloads in one cloud for their own convenience, forcing IT to relinquish control. Citrix Cloud uses a unique control-plane architecture that gives IT choice and flexibility. IT can choose to locate and manage workloads in the datacentre, in preferred public clouds, or in private clouds. Only Citrix Cloud delivers this kind of hybrid cloud choice.

Citrix Cloud and Microsoft Azure Cloud Services

Microsoft Azure is a reliable and flexible cloud platform that allows applications to be quickly deployed across Microsoft-managed datacentres. Azure offers monthly service level agreements (SLAs) of 99.95% to meet strict requirements for continuously available services. By provisioning XenApp or XenDesktop desktops and application workloads on Azure Cloud Services, businesses can avoid expenses for internal infrastructure and rely instead on Microsoft to supply the necessary compute, networking, and storage resources for user workloads.

Microsoft Azure makes it possible to spin up new virtual machines in minutes and adjust usage as infrastructure requirements change. Virtual machines on Azure instances can support all of the infrastructure and XenDesktop services required for a deployment.

Thomas Duryea Logicalis can assist customers to leverage their investment within Microsoft Azure Cloud Services to host certain workloads in the cloud.