Spotlighting a tool to let you quantify your ROI from VDI technology

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Remote work is here to stay. Businesses and employees all know it. They are working hard to be productive and drive business in a new way that's secure, reliable, and efficient. Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) or Desktop as a Service (DaaS) are generally the methods of choice to deliver the applications, resources, and data access to that users need to maintain business continuity.

While VDI and DaaS are the technologies of choice to enable the remote workforce, it's not a piece of cake to deliver. VDI is hard, time consuming and requires highly skilled VDI IT staff, and requires significant preparation and evaluation. Determination of running VDI on premises, versus in the public cloud or a mixture of both must be considered. Expensive infrastructure much be purchased and maintained if on-premises is the direction of choice. Many businesses are finding that they do not have the time, IT resources, nor equipment to deliver VDI, especially at enterprise scale. The current trend for modern workforces is to migrate the VDI workload to the cloud or clouds of choice. But where should businesses start? Where do you start?

NetApp delivers VDI at enterprise scale with cloud services that let you streamline deployment, automate management, and optimize your cloud spend. NetApp Virtual Desktop Service (VDS) is a SaaS-delivered global control plane that uses machine logic and automation to deliver VDI management at enterprise scale. VDS enables you to deploy VDI in Azure, Google, and AWS, as well as on-prem. You can even deploy your VDI in your hybrid and or multi-cloud simultaneously. What would take days and weeks of work, replicated across your various environments, now will only date hours through a series of selections in a single pane of glass.

With the continued adoption of global control planes to replace manual effort, technology can even more directly support business initiatives. Higher return on investments (ROI) from the technology spend can be realized, while risk is reduced.

How does this play out in a VDI scenario? Ultimately, all the above processes to deploy and

manage the VDI environment take time and IT resources. Do you know how many man hours it takes to administer your VDI environment? How would you accurately calculate those man hours to provide an accurate expenditure for your VDI administration? Where do you start? We at NetApp have done the hard work for you.

Today, we are announcing our NetApp VDS ROI calculator. The VDS ROI calculator was painstakingly built to determine just how many man hours it takes an average VDI admin team to deploy, manage, and optimize cloud-based VDI environments of any size, and what the ROI could be if they used advanced technology to do those jobs for them. It is based on Server StorageIO's published whitepaper outlining a pro-forma methodology that considers each step necessary to deliver public cloud VDI or DaaS, including economies of scale with regards to management efficiency.

In formulating the methodology, each task in the cloud-based VDI management scheme was evaluated and documented for both initial deployment and ongoing maintenance. Once that baseline was established, the tasks were then executed and re-evaluated using NetApp VDS's global control plane, utilizing automation and machine logic. The completed tasks and times for both approaches were documented in the above whitepaper.

In comparing various user population sizes, the average savings calculated across multiple configurations is around 63% by leveraging the VDS technology. The analyst validation also confirmed and recommended that utilizing a SaaS-delivered global control plane was the most efficient and optimal means for managing VDI at enterprise scale.

What does all this mean for you? Why does it matter? Well, we are all being asked to do more with less, especially now as we adjust to our new normal. Implementing VDS to allow your IT staff to manage your VDI environment saves you real dollars, allowing your IT staff to work on proactive projects that drive the business, rather than spending all their time managing your VDI environment to provide baseline end-user access. Imagine being able to have IT staff working on projects like enhanced security, data protection and recovery, implementing other solutions to assist with your overall efficiency, or just allowing you to utilize the staff you have on hand, versus having to outsource or overworking them. Also, with VDS, your IT staff doesn't need extensive VDI knowledge. If you are outsourcing your VDI management out of necessity versus desire, you now have the option to bring it inhouse without requiring additional training or the expense of highly skilled VDI specialists. You are in control of your own VDI IT administrative spend.

Take a look at the ROI tool to see how much you might be able to save implementing VDS as a global control plane for your VDI management. Enable your administrators the opportunity to manage the VDI environment efficiently and effectively with tools that really make a difference.

Where do you start?

1. Read the analyst report, [ROI Form Use of Global Control Plane for Expanding VDI Environments](#) by Server StorageIO®

2. Read the associated [blog](#) from the same analyst

3. Try the [VDS ROI Calculator](#) yourself

We hope that you find this resource valuable and look forward to speaking with you more about NetApp Virtual Desktop Services.

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