HOW TO SIMPLIFY YOUR MIGRATION TO WINDOWS 10

Mr. Backup explains technology for migrating to Windows 10 while preserving mission critical data for end users.

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W hy is migration to Windows 10 different from past upgrades of the Microsoft Windows operating system? Migration from Windows XP to Windows 7 was not considered that big of a deal. But a lot has changed since Windows 7 was introduced July 22, 2009.

Back then you could still buy Windows on disks. Loading it on an XP machine was time-consuming but it didn't take much more than patience. That was before Microsoft reimagined Windows as a subscription service rather than a one-time purchase. It was before Office 365 was released in October 2010 with its subscription model, and data in OneDrive with integration into the Azure cloud. Now there are a lot of moving parts to a Windows upgrade.

The one thing end users fear most is the loss of their data following any upgrade. The apps they use may be different. The email interface may be different. But what about the mission critical data they have accumulated in the years since they first started working with Windows? Sales reports? Client contact information? Invoices? Letters? Memos? Was that data backed up? Was it archived? Is it going to be available when the user logs on to Windows 10 for the first time?

MR. BACKUP EXPLAINS THE PROBLEMS

This issue is top of mind for W. Curtis Preston, Chief Technical Architect for Druva, who is known as "Mr. Backup," having specialized in backup and recovery for more than 25 years.

He told the audience for a recent web-cast that he hears end users asking: "How do I have a new OS for this install but bring user data with me?"

Of course the easiest answer might be to just stick with trusty-rusty old Windows 7. That might work for an isolated end user. After all there are still individuals using Windows XP and even MS DOS. But it's not a solution in the corporate world for many reasons, the first of which is a support deadline.

"Microsoft ended mainstream support three years ago on Windows 7 and we are now on the extended support," Preston says. "Even that's going to end in 2020, which at this point may sound a long way away but if you've ever migrated a significant number of desktops then you know that's not that far away."

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With 2019 just months away that support deadline is looming. With all the cyberattacks in the news, no IT professional wants end users working with machines running an unsupported operating system without any security patches available.

But fear of losing precious data may drive users to avoid upgrading despite its benefits.

person responsible for hundreds or thousands of laptops, it is a big deal."

Druva has customers with thousands of laptops that need to be migrated to Windows 10 with mission critical data preserved and protected.

"Why is this so difficult?" Preston asks rhetorically. "There is a lack of an auto-

"MAYBE WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT MIGRATING TO WINDOWS 10 YOU THINK IT'S REALLY NOT A BIG DEAL BUT IF YOU ARE AN IT PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR HUNDREDS OR THOUSANDS IT IS A BIG DEAL."

"As a person who specializes in backup it just kills me that 40 percent of people who even went through that process still felt that they had lost data during migration," Preston told the webcast audience, citing a Druva survey of IT departments.

SLOW PACE OF MIGRATION
Druva's survey that found 60 percent of IT departments have migrated far less than half of their endpoints. Another 40 percent reported it would take at least another year to migrate.

"So it's a problem that's going to continue," Preston said. "The number one challenge that people reported is simply not having enough time to do this. When you think of it, it's one thing for an IT person to do this for themselves, on their own laptop. But if you are an IT

mated way to save the user state and also to provision the data as it comes along. There are some migration tools but again they tend to be focused on an IT person sitting down with a laptop. I've got a laptop on my lap and a laptop on the right and we're going to migrate the data from A to B. And that's great if you have twenty users to migrate but if you've got hundreds or thousands it just doesn't scale. The amount of time it requires on the IT side and then of course the amount of network bandwidth that's required is also quite challenging."

Preston cited a survey in Redmond magazine that found that it took an average of 18 to 32 months for an IT department to migrate all their organization's end users.

"That's almost three years for the average migration," Preston said. "And four to six hours to migrate a single device."

There is also the issue of lost productivity when end users are without a computer during the migration process. All this can be expensive; Preston notes that estimates show it costs $200 to $500 to migrate a single user. Multiply that by hundreds or thousands of employees and you've got a big expense.

ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES WITH REMOTE EMPLOYEES

Also, in an era when more and more knowledge workers are working from home or traveling and working from coffee shops and airports around the globe, IT does not have easy physical access to the machines they need to upgrade.

In summary, the problem is that migration to Windows 10 is not easy, it takes a very long time, it costs a lot of money, and end users say they have lost data in the process.

"What that leads to is the end users that are out there and they're holding onto their Windows 7 laptop, and God forbid, some of them may even have some XP laptops out there," Preston says. "And they're just holding on to it even though they know they're not supported. They don't want to take it to IT because they're going to lose their laptop for a day, and they've heard from their friends that they lost data during the migration."

DRUVA INSYNC PROVIDES A SOLUTION

Druva inSync makes the Windows 10 migration process much less painful, reduces the amount of time and cost, while scaling up to the number of users an IT department needs to upgrade, Preston says.

"First off, when we talk about remote employees, there's no need to ship the laptop. We are 100 percent cloud data protection, meaning when you install the agent on the laptop, that user's laptop will be automatically backed up directly to the cloud. There's no need to ship the laptop anywhere. You also don't have to wait for the migration tools to back up the data and settings. We backup the data and settings as part of a normal backup."

In the old school way doing a migration was a manual process where the IT pro had to gather all the user's setting and data by hand for upgrading that user to a new version of Windows or to a new laptop.

With inSync, Preston explains: "Everything you need to migrate for that user, including data, their application settings, user space settings, all that stuff is backed up directly to the cloud for that user wherever they reside. And it eliminates all those manual and error prone steps that typically happen during a migration and it provides a backup of everything that has to do with that user, whether a local drive, network drive, or cloud storage.

This provides assurances to a user, who as Preston jokes may be telling IT: You can migrate my Windows 7 machine when you pry it from my cold, dead hands.

"We make migration painless, so the user doesn't have to do anything up front," Preston explains. "We can get all their data and then we can easily, seamlessly, migrate that user to a new version of Windows and do it relatively seamless to the end user. The entire process across thousands, tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands of laptops can be managed centrally from a single control point."

This is important because it relieves IT of the chores involved in setting up all the user's configurations when it comes time to do the migration manually. All settings are handled automatically, including the user's network settings, their Wi Fi, their LAN, and their firewall settings. It also automatically saves all the user's settings for their Microsoft Office applications. Most importantly it protects and migrates the user's data and does not overwhelm your network.

"One concern that people have when they start backing up the laptops or desktops is that's a lot of data," Preston says. "It's important to understand that

BACKUPS WITH DRUVA INSYNC ARE SEAMLESS TO THE END USER, WHO WON'T EVEN NOTICE THAT THE BACKUP IS OCCURRING.

inSync makes it possible for IT to create from a central dashboard profiles that determine what's migrated, and then assign users to those profiles. Then with a single click it builds a backup configuration of commonly used files and folders. However, the IT pro is empowered to make the crucial decisions.

"If you're going to back up a My Documents folder, or whatever it is, you decide," Preston told the webcast audience. "You create a configuration that says when we back up our laptops, we back up this. We backup the C drive, we back up the user drive. And again, it backs up both the data and the settings."

you can limit that by configuring the number of backups that are allowed to happen simultaneously. You can also configure the amount of bandwidth that each endpoint can consume because we don't want to consume all of your bandwidth. We want to make this seamless."

Backups with inSync are relatively seamless to the end user, who won't notice any performance degradation while a backup is occurring. A popup notification lets the user know a backup has begun, and gives them the option to disable backups on a particular network connection. This allows the user to say they don't want to backup when they're connected to certain

connections, like their phone's hotspot, or a Wi Fi connection in a plane. One mouse click and InSync will never again attempt to backup via that connection.

"Our system scales infinitely, while keeping infrastructure cost as low as possible" he explains. "We are a cloud native application. Let me just speak to what that means. There are a number of products that are software running in VMs in Amazon or Azure or Google Cloud. We are not just software running in VMs. We are designed for the AWS infrastructure. We use Amazon Web Services S3, which is infinitely scalable for the storage of backups. We use Amazon DynamoDB, which is a NoSQL database and is an infinitely scalable elastic capacity database that we use to store all of the metadata about your backups, including all deduplication information. Then on the compute side, we have a dynamically scalable compute system that automatically spawns off and shuts down VMs and containers as appropriate to give us all the compute capacity we need at a particular time in the day – but no more. In the case of inSync, it's actually spinning off a container for each backup that's running. That container spawns off for the backup and then it automatically goes away when the backup is over."

CONCLUSION: DRUVA PROVIDES WINDOWS 10 MIGRATION MINUS THE COMPLEXITY

OS migration is a resource-intensive process that takes hours of IT time and leaves users without access to their data and unproductive. Organizations employ third party tools to assist but these are expensive, error-prone and provide no value outside of the migration cycle. inSync provides automated technology that saves IT migration headaches for both migration to Windows 10 and beyond with ongoing backup of data.

MANAGE MIGRATION WITH EASE

- Single pane of glass dashboard lets IT manage the entire migration process at scale through a central interface
- Automated backup of both data and system settings protect against data loss
- Integrated mass deployment tools and self-restore options reduce time and IT resources required
- Anytime, anywhere access to data limits user productivity loss during migration process

For More Information

Learn more about Druva inSync:

https://www.druva.com/products/ insync/

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