Simplify VDI and Lower Risks with Citrix Validated Solutions for Nutanix

CITRIX®

Successful deployments of desktop and application virtualization always start by choosing the right solution from the right partners. Whether you are deploying hosted shared or virtual desktops, or virtualizing end-user applications, Citrix® and Nutanix® can help you succeed. Using the Citrix Validated Solution for Nutanix Virtual Computing Platform running Citrix XenDesktop® and XenApp®, you can deliver an excellent end-user experience for a diverse mix of users spread across different locations, for hundreds to tens of thousands of end users.

Take Control of Desktop Virtualization

Citrix created the Validated Solution (CVS) as a fully tested, end-to-end design that describes a complete solution for Citrix Hosted Virtual Desktops and Hosted Shared Desktops. Starting with a validated solution and using a structured delivery methodology can facilitate rapid deployment and eliminate the performance and sizing-related risks associated for both deploying persistent and non-persistent virtual desktops in pilot and production.
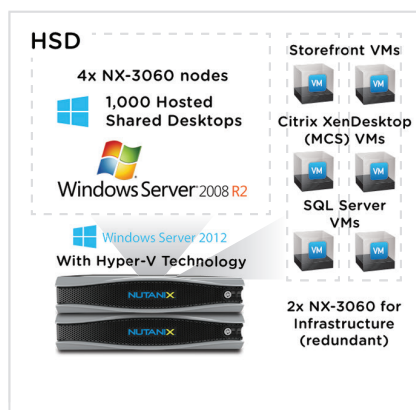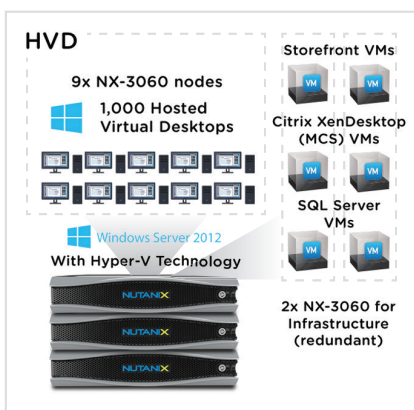
Two CVS for Nutanix were tested:

• Hosted Virtual Desktops (HVD) for up to 1,000 individual XenDesktop Hosted Virtual Desktops running Windows 7 Enterprise x64. Users can remotely connect to their own desktops from a pooled or dedicated group, depending on the deployment model used.

• Hosted Shared Desktops (HSD) for up to 1,000 individual user sessions running XenDesktop Hosted Shared Desktops on Windows Server 2012 R2 Remote Desktop Session (RDS) Hosts. By using published desktops on the RDS hosts, users are presented with an interface similar to the Windows 7 look and feel, each running in a separate session.

Configurations for the HVD and HSD validated solutions used the Nutanix Virtual Computing Platform running Microsoft Windows Server 2012® R2 with Hyper-V as the hypervisor. The Nutanix Controller VMs ran on Hyper-V on all nodes of the hyper-converged Virtual Computing Platform, stitching all storage in the cluster into a single, fast, intelligently tiered, and highly available pool.

Key Benefits

• Accelerate time to production with validated configurations and design and structured delivery methodology.

• Mitigate the upfront risks associated with VDI with an extensively tested solution.

• Start small without upfront costs and dynamically scale as needed.

• Deliver an excellent user experience, regardless of scale or deployment type.

• Adopt user-based purchasing and deployment for both virtualization IT infrastructure and software.
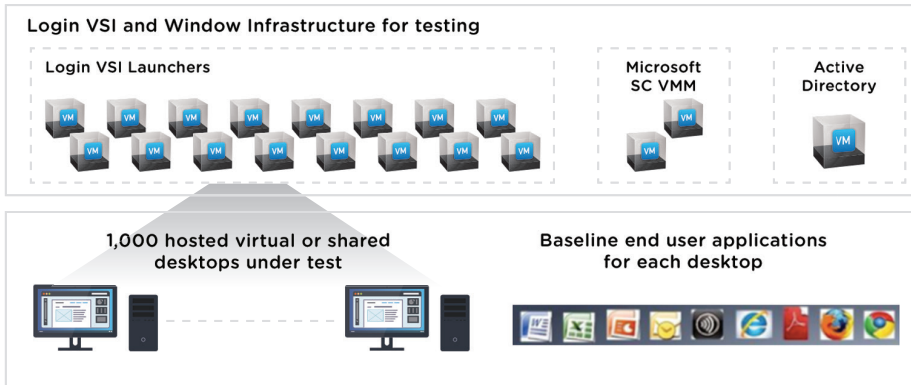
The validated configurations in CVS deliver excellent user density, resulting in lower OPEX including facilities costs.

- HVD: Occupying just six rack units of space (6U)
  - Nine (9) NX-3060 with 256GB RAM for desktops
  - Two (2) NX-3060 with 128GB RAM for infrastructure
- HSD: Occupying just four rack units of space (4U)
  - Four (4) NX-3060 with 256GB RAM for RDS servers
  - Two (2) NX-3060 with 128GB RAM for infrastructure

All VDI services, including XenDesktop Delivery Controllers with MCS, Storefront, and SQL Server were deployed with 100% redundancy for high availability.

Designed for the Real World

The two configurations were extensively tested using the Login VSI Virtual Session Indexer (VSI), an industry standard tool for user / session benchmarking. The "medium" VSI workload setting, simulating the average office worker during normal activities, was used for testing with excellent results.

Login VSI and Window Infrastructure for testing

Login VSI Launchers

Microsoft SC VMM

Active Directory

1,000 hosted virtual or shared desktops under test

Baseline end user applications for each desktop

Both HVD and HSD solutions were validated using Login VSI

VDI Scaling Simplified

Once deployed, virtual desktop infrastructure can easily be scaled with the patented Nutanix Distributed File System (NDFS). Organizations can granularly scale deployments to tens of thousands of users by simply adding new nodes to their existing Virtual Computing Platform, leveraging either Citrix Provisioning Services (PVS) and Machine Creation Services (MCS). This approach greatly simplifies administration, as there are no separate storage or infrastructure pods or silos to add and manage. It also eliminates the upfront infrastructure and licensing costs, enabling a pay-as-you-grow model.

Get started

Learn more about the Citrix Validated Solution for Nutanix, including a structured delivery methodology by contacting your local Nutanix and Citrix representatives or authorized resellers.

About Nutanix

Nutanix delivers web-scale IT infrastructure to medium and large enterprises with its software-driven Virtual Computing Platform, which natively converges compute and storage into a single solution to drive unprecedented simplicity of the datacenter. Customers can start with a few servers and scale to thousands, with fully predictable performance and economics. With a patented elastic data fabric and consumer-grade management, Nutanix is the blueprint for application-optimized infrastructure. Learn more at www.nutanix.com or follow us on Twitter @nutanix.

> " Using Nutanix, we managed to deploy infrastructure to support our 4,000 user Citrix deployment in about a day and a half. Being able to move so rapidly helped solve one of our major pain points. We also found the cost to be lower than comparable con- figurations, which helped us achieve our cost goals. "
>
> – Victor Irlandez, Senor Technical Architect

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