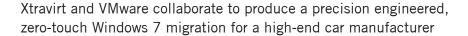
xtravirt





The marque of distinction







We partnered with:



The customer

The customer's business is built around two well-known British car brands that design, engineer and manufacture in the UK. For more than 6 decades it has been at the forefront of technical innovation in all areas of vehicle development.

The challenge

To deploy Windows 7 as a zero-touch upgrade to a 20,000 user estate from both Windows XP and Vista clients.

This was driven by the imminent end of extended support for Windows XP, the fact that Vista was already in extended support, and increasing difficulties with hardware and software compatibility for both operating systems.

The solution

In partnership with VMware, Xtravirt was engaged to deliver a VMware Horizon Mirage solution, including a functional Proof of Concept, to achieve a zero-touch Windows 7 migration.

The first phase involved performing a full discovery to define requirements for the Windows build, including the following key items:

- Security policy
- User rights
- Encryption
- Application distribution strategy
- Hardware requirements

The second phase involved piloting a Windows 7 build, created for the use of a Proof of Technology, which was subsequently developed into a formally-accepted production build.

Using a Proof of Concept environment, including a range of customer client desktops, laptops and workstations, all using the standard Windows XP/Vista builds in the estate, a battery of tests was completed to qualify the migration capabilities and other features of VMware Horizon Mirage against a range of scenarios, such as:

- WAN links
- Encrypted devices
- Older client devices

This involved working closely with the VMware Horizon Mirage product development team within VMware to add enhancements to the product, some of which have since been adopted in the publicly released code.

The Proof of Concept successfully demonstrated that Horizon Mirage was able to migrate a Windows XP/Vista client, without user intervention, whether over a LAN or WAN connection.

Project at a glance



Requirements

- Develop a Windows 7 x64 standard
- Build and test a VMware Horizon Mirage solution, with particular focus to its use for a Windows 7 migration

Solution

- VMware Horizon Mirage infrastructure
- Full legacy testing Windows XP/Vista
- Documented Windows 7 x64 build, leveraging Microsoft Deployment
- Functional testing and demonstrability of Horizon Mirage in the customer environment

Results

- Windows 7 x64 subsequently accepted as a standard build for production use
- Successful Proof of Concept proving capability as well as rollback, end-user data protection, build compliance and application deployment
- Improved time and flexibility to test pre-production SAP changes with ability to roll-back via VM snapshots
- Improved service levels to the business and faster development

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Consultant commentary

"Close liaison with both VMware and the customer assured delivery of a successful and valuable concept solution architecture, particularly given the very specific application requirements needed in a demanding, high-tech environment. The new environments perform exceptionally well and have provided a first rate enterprise solution which will expand and scale as the business grows."

Curtis Brown, Senior Consultant, Xtravirt

The results



- Xtravirt was able to provide the customer with support in developing a production-capable Windows 7 client build
- The customer was provided with an impartial assessment of VMware Horizon Mirage and whether it was functionally capable of meeting the requirements of their environments
- Xtravirt also provided the customer additional support as a trusted advisor, in developing the requirements to support a successful Windows 7 deployment, including advice around application delivery and infrastructure changes

About Xtravirt

Xtravirt is a leading, independent provider of enterprise virtualisation solutions. We deliver data centre, workspace and cloud transformational solutions to clients across public and private sectors, both in the UK and internationally.

Our consulting organisation is recognised globally for contributions to industry and community development which, combined with our astute management, methodology and proven track record, provide unsurpassed value to our customers.

Please visit our case study library at xtravirt.com where you can read more of our success stories.

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