

Improve VDI Printing with LRS VSPA

Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) offers many potential business benefits. It can help reduce costs, improve security and data protection, simplify administrative tasks associated with desktop deployment, and promote greater hardware utilization and consolidation. VDI also improves worker mobility and provides businesses with greater flexibility and agility. However, printing in a VDI environment can be problematic for administrators and users.

Problems with VDI Printing

Unlike traditional Windows desktops, there is generally no persistency between desktop logon/logoff sessions in a VDI environment. For example, when a user adds or deletes a printer definition during a virtual desktop session, the change is lost at logoff. Users must involve IT support staff for such changes, and these changes can impact other users that run the same master desktop image.

Users may also encounter problems as they move from one terminal to another because they may not fully understand the difference between “logoff/logon” and “disconnect/connect”, and how these processes affect their printer definitions. For example, a user may need to logoff/logon, as opposed to disconnect/connect, to get the correct default printer associated with the terminal they are using.

Finally, administrators lack the tools to easily associate users, printers and terminals in an intelligent manner to improve the productivity and mobility of users. They also lack the ability to automate the management and dynamic deployment of printer drivers across the virtual desktops to ensure that users receive the correct versions for the operating system and printers that they are using.

These differences and challenges can result in user dissatisfaction, increased support calls, and additional administrative workload

Easier VDI Implementation with VSPA

The Virtual Session Printer Agent for VPSX (VSPA) application provides a complete solution for managing Windows printer definitions in a VDI environment. It supports an administrative capability to associate users, printers and terminals in an intelligent manner, and ensures that these definitions are persistent across desktop sessions. This capability allows administrators to more easily support “proximity-based” printing, so users can conveniently print nearby as they move from one terminal to another to access their virtual desktop.

VSPA ensures that the correct terminal and user printer definitions are configured for the virtual desktop, regardless of whether the user logged off or disconnected from their previous desktop session. By intelligently managing user- and terminal-specific printer definitions, a worker always has the ability to print to a nearby device; to their printer back at the office, or to any network printer that they are authorized to access.

The VSPA solution also lets users add or delete printers to their virtual desktops and ensures that these devices are always accessible across multiple virtual desktop sessions. By making virtual desktop printing more like traditional workstation printing, VSPA software improves the user experience with VDI, which increases overall productivity and reduces support calls.



Extending Enterprise Output Management in Your Organization

- Accounting
- Auditing
- Mobile Printing
- Pull Printing
- Self-Service Printer Portal

Supported Platforms

The VSPA solution consists of a Windows desktop agent that executes as part of the master desktop image and a web application for administrative tasks that is part of the LRS Enterprise Output Server. The VSPA web application lets administrators manage a central printer database that maintains the relationships between users or terminals and their printers, and it can be accessed from any computing platform using a standard web browser. In addition, the LRS Enterprise Output Server solution runs on the following platforms:

- Microsoft® Windows
- IBM® AIX
- HP-UX
- Sun Solaris
- Linux
- Linux on IBM System z

VSPA software improves the user experience with VDI, which increases overall productivity and reduces support calls.

VSPA and the LRS Enterprise Output Server

VSPA software extends LRS® Enterprise Output Server capabilities to the VDI environment, routing application and user documents to their destinations while providing feedback on delivery failure or success.

In the event of network or hardware problems, the Enterprise Output Server can re-route output to alternate destinations to minimize the impact on your business.

Support for Citrix and VMware

VSPA works with Citrix XenDesktop VDI desktops and VMware Horizon (with View) VDI desktops (4.0 or higher). It allows an organization to reap the benefits of virtual desktop deployment without negatively impacting their document-related applications and business processes.



Benefits of VSPA for VDI Environments

- Simplifies tasks and reduces workload of IT administrators to configure, change and maintain their VDI print infrastructure
- Supports any terminal hardware platform, providing greater choice and flexibility
- Improves mobility by letting workers conveniently print documents near any terminal location in the enterprise
- Makes VDI transparent to users by giving them a similar print capability to what they had with traditional Windows desktops
- Reduces support calls due to fewer issues for users

Contact LRS to learn more about the VSPA application and other Output Management solutions.



Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc.

www.LRSOutputManagement.com