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Legacy Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Solutions: IT-managed VDI

Citrix provides IT with maximum flexibility to quickly and securely deliver apps and desktops from any cloud or datacenter worldwide with our desktop as a service (DaaS) and VDI solutions. Legacy Citrix editions are compared in the matrix below. To compare the current Citrix subscriptions, please view this feature matrix.

Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops is an IT-managed VDI offering for a robust, enterprise-grade app and desktop virtualization environment for those facing strict compliance standards or who need to stay in the datacenter for operational reasons.

Editions: Citrix Virtual Apps Standard, Citrix Virtual Apps Advanced, Citrix Virtual Apps Premium, Citrix Virtual Desktops Standard, Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Advanced, Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Premium

App and desktop delivery

Product component	Citrix Virtual Apps Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps Premium	Citrix Virtual Desktops Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Premium
Server-based virtual applications	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

(Server-based hosted apps)

Enable secure access to Windows and Linux apps on any type of device including Windows, Mac, Linux*, iOS, Android, and web browsers for on-demand access from anywhere. Host apps on multi-session operating systems as well as single-session operating systems when required. The application performs as if it were installed locally on the device.

*Linux available in Advanced and Premium Editions only

Server-based virtual desktops	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

(Windows and Linux hosted-shared desktops)

Highly-scalable, multi-user virtual desktops that provide the flexibility and mobility benefits of desktop virtualization while maximizing IT control through enhanced security and simplified management.

VDI				✓	✓	✓

(Pooled and dedicated)

Desktop operating systems, such as Windows 11, Windows 10 and Linux*, are hosted in the datacenter and securely delivered to users on-demand. These desktops can be made available in a pooled fashion from a common base image or dedicated to users for personalization to meet the needs of advanced users.

*Linux available in Advanced and Premium only

Single session server VDI					✓	✓

(Pooled, Dedicated, Personal)

Delivers a desktop from a server operating system for a single user, supported on Windows Server 2019 and Windows Server 2016.

Remote PC Access					✓	✓

Provide secure remote access to physical PCs and laptops leveraging the full HDX experience without SSL VPNs or the need to migrate desktops to the datacenter. Wake on LAN support allows users to turn off their PCs when not in use to save energy costs and power on automatically when users click the icon to launch a session.

VM hosted applications	✓	✓			✓	✓

Ease Windows OS transitions and overcome application compatibility challenges by delivering virtual apps from a desktop operating system. With VM-hosted apps, the app can be hosted on individual desktop VMs and published for seamless delivery to users just like a server-hosted virtual app.

User experience and productivity

Product component	Citrix Virtual Apps Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps Premium	Citrix Virtual Desktops Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Premium
HDX user experience optimization	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Delivers a superior high-definition user experience on any device, over any network. With Citrix HDX, the virtual experience rivals a local PC, even when using multimedia, real-time voice and video collaboration, USB peripherals (like smart cards and drawing/signature tablets) and 3D graphics.						
Optimization for Microsoft Teams		✓	✓		✓	✓
Optimize the delivery of voice, video and telephony features of Microsoft Teams within a virtualized environment. Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops maximizes server scalability by redirecting multi-media capabilities to the client for a high-performance user experience.						
Browser content redirection	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Redirects the full contents of a web browser to be rendered on the client for maximum server scalability and optimal user experience.						
Unified Communications optimization	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Seamlessly integrates solutions from Cisco and Avaya to deliver real time communication applications with "local PC" quality without having to increase bandwidth investments with built-in optimized point to point transfer of voice and video traffic.						
HDX 3D Pro	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A set of specialized technologies that enable the delivery of 3D professional graphics applications from Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops. HDX 3D Pro works with any hypervisor, cloud, device, or GPU, enabling customers the best possible experience with the flexibility of choice.						
Citrix Casting			✓			✓
Allow users to securely and seamlessly move Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops sessions from a mobile device to any display connected to Citrix Ready workspace hub.						
Workspace Environment Management		✓	✓		✓	✓
Extend the value of your Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops deployments by optimizing the user experience, accelerating user logins, improving manageability of the user environment, and saving money with improved server scalability.						
HDX seamless local apps			✓			✓
Blend a locally installed application on the Windows endpoint into a virtual desktop, providing a seamless user experience.						
HDX user experience templates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fine-tune the user experience based on specific use case requirements such as security and control, graphics performance, and environment scalability.						
Superior user experience for graphic-rich apps	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sharing enables multiple users to share a single GPU without compromising the graphics experience for cost-effective, high-definition performance. Citrix Hypervisor allows NVIDIA, AMD, and Intel Iris Pro drivers to be loaded directly into the hypervisor to ensure proper management of graphical application performance in a virtual app and desktop scenario.						

User experience and productivity continued

Product component	Citrix Virtual Apps Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps Premium	Citrix Virtual Desktops Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Premium
Citrix App Personalization	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Customize your Citrix client apps with your own app name and co-branded app icon, providing an end-to-end personalized user experience. *App personalization is managed via the Citrix cloud console						
Global app configuration service	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Seamlessly deliver Citrix Workspace service URLs and Citrix Workspace app settings through a centrally managed service. *Global app configuration service is managed via the Citrix cloud console						

Management and monitoring

Product component	Citrix Virtual Apps Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps Premium	Citrix Virtual Desktops Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Premium
App and desktop probing			✓			✓
Proactively monitors the health of apps and desktops by scheduling automated launches to test overall system or site health.						
Basic app layering	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Create distinct layers for operating systems, applications, and user personalization, which are combined at runtime to provide an optimized user experience. Layered deployments can provide significant cost and management benefits, while giving users a customized desktop experience.						
Citrix App Layering with advanced configuration			✓			✓
Focused on management at scale and multi-site needs, Citrix App Layering enables the delivery of the same application layer to multiple hypervisor types, multiple clouds, multiple provisioning mechanisms, and multiple broker types—without repackaging layers. Includes OS layer, Platform layer, App Layer, and User Layer for dynamic customization of images. *User layers are not supported with multisession deployments						
User personalization layers				✓	✓	✓
Extends the capabilities of non-persistent machine catalogs, by preserving users' data and locally installed applications across sessions. This enables IT organizations to provide a persistent experience to users logging into non-persistent machines. This feature replaces Personal vDisk (PvD).						
Unified management console	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Studio dramatically simplifies and automates large scale deployments, including multi-tenant, multi-zone and hybrid-cloud implementations.						
Citrix Director	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Provides a unified view where IT help desk admins can monitor, troubleshoot and assist users with virtual desktops and apps for thousands of users as easily as for one. The same console can be used to assist users with delivered apps and desktops.						

Management and monitoring continued

Product component	Citrix Virtual Apps Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps Premium	Citrix Virtual Desktops Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Premium
Director historical reporting and trend analysis	1 week	1 week	1 year	1 week	1 month	1 year
Citrix Director gives you historical data retention and trend analysis.						
Director Premium Edition			✓			✓
Provides view of capacity trends, customizable reports, proactive alerts (including SNMP integration, reboot warnings), Citrix Application Delivery Management integration, and override control over roaming sessions.						
Custom delegated administration (Studio)		✓	✓		✓	✓
Provides the ability to designate specific administrative tasks to individual users or groups, such as helpdesk staff or support teams. Gives large IT departments the ability to isolate the scope and role of administrative functions for compliance and control.						
Configuration logging (Studio)		✓	✓		✓	✓
Tracks administrative changes made to configure deployments, by whom and at what time they were made to simplify and accelerate troubleshooting and ensure audit compliance.						
User experience network analysis			✓			✓
Isolate and manage your HDX network performance. *Citrix Gateway Advanced or Premium and Citrix Application Delivery Management required						
Robust high availability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ensures that users can connect to resources should the site database link go down. Local Host Cache technology allows users to connect to their applications and desktops in the event that the connection to centralized management is broken.						
Citrix Provisioning for Citrix Virtual Apps		✓*	✓		✓	✓
Centralized, comprehensive image management and network-based image streaming of Windows and Linux workloads to both virtual and physical target devices. For more details, view the latest Citrix product documentation *Citrix Provisioning for Citrix Virtual Apps Advanced is available for VMHosted application instances running on a desktop operating system only.						
Citrix Provisioning for virtual desktops				✓*	✓	✓
Centralized image management simplifies deployments of all sizes, physical or virtual, by streaming Windows and Linux OS workloads. This approach reduces shared storage requirements, and simplifies patching and updating machines with fast rollout and rollback functionality. *Physical desktop support not available with the Citrix Virtual Desktops Standard Edition						
Citrix Machine Creation Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Image management and provisioning control from within the Citrix Studio console for simplified administration, especially beneficial in a public or hybrid cloud deployment. Integrates directly with APIs of public clouds and hypervisors to streamline management.						
Microsoft App-V integration	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Distribute App-V applications to virtual desktops or servers through the Citrix Studio console without requiring a separate App-V server and database infrastructure. App-V applications can also share a common isolation environment for intercommunication.						

Management and monitoring continued

Product component	Citrix Virtual Apps Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps Premium	Citrix Virtual Desktops Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Premium
Integrated profile management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
(User Profile Manager) Intelligently manages user profile settings between active Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops sessions to ensure user settings are consistent. It intelligently streams profile settings and data on-demand to ensure no matter the profile size, the profile performance is optimized and the user login and logoff processes expedited.						
Enterprise scalability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops has been tested and proven in global enterprise implementations supporting tens of thousands of users.						
Hypervisor agnostic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Permits virtual apps and desktops to be deployed on any hypervisor including Citrix Hypervisor, Microsoft Hyper-V, Nutanix Acropolis and VMware vSphere, cloud management platform, or storage infrastructure to give IT the freedom and flexibility needed to control costs, without impacting the user experience or performance.						
Hyper-V with System Center Virtual Machine Manager (SCVMM)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Easily integrate with your existing Hyper-V solution for provisioning machines and the flexibility to expand or change your infrastructure at any time.						
Citrix Hypervisor	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Citrix Hypervisor vGPU sharing provides the best possible graphics experience when virtualizing 3D applications.						
VMware vSphere integration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Easily integrate with your existing vSphere solution for provisioning machines and the flexibility to expand or change your infrastructure at any time.						
Nutanix AHV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Integration within Citrix Studio offers a turnkey hyperconverged infrastructure solution that simplifies deployment and reduces infrastructure costs.						
Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM) integration		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Makes it easy to manage pooled desktop and server images from System Center while leveraging policy enforcement and report processes and tools provided in SCCM.						
Citrix Connector for System Center Configuration Manager			✓			✓
Provides administrators with an end-to-end solution for managing Citrix delivery sites and published applications from within the Configuration Manager console.						

Management and monitoring continued

Product component	Citrix Virtual Apps Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps Premium	Citrix Virtual Desktops Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Premium
Citrix ADC load balancing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
(optional) Actively monitors services and web traffic to intelligently load balance users across Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops infrastructure to assure optimal uptime and consistent user access even during planned, unplanned, or scheduled maintenance window. Requires Citrix Gateway appliance, sold separately.						
VDA restore	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
In the event of a VDA installation or upgrade failure, the software will automatically restore the VDA back to its pre-upgrade state. An admin can assess information logs as to why it failed and make the necessary changes to fix the issue. The VDA will be in a stable, usable state without the need to take more significant, time-consuming corrective actions.						

Security and access control

Product component	Citrix Virtual Apps Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps Premium	Citrix Virtual Desktops Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Premium
FIPS compliant			✓			✓
Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops meets Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 140-2 compliance. (Available for 7.15 LTSR)						
Common Criteria certified			✓			✓
Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops 7.15 LTSR meets Common Criteria Certification. * For additional details refer to https://www.commoncriteriaportal.org/products/.						
Credential Guard compliant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
This Microsoft security feature introduced in Windows 10 Enterprise and Windows Server 2016, guards against ''Pass-the-hash'' type attacks and can be utilized with Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops workloads.						
Strengthened IT security	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Protection of all mission-critical data in the datacenter unless it can be audited, controlled and enforced by policy. Only screen updates, mouse clicks and keystrokes—not data—traverse the remote connection keeping application data safe from hackers and protecting the corporate network from unmanaged devices.						
Multi-factor authentication	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Enhances secure access from anywhere through integrated solutions such as RSA SecureID, RADIUS server, and Aladdin SafeWord for Citrix StoreFront via Citrix Gateway.						
Federated Authentication Service	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Integrates with Citrix StoreFront and SAML-based identity providers (i.e. Azure AD, Okta, Ping, etc.) via Citrix Gateway to deliver secure, single sign-on to apps and desktops while also simplifying account management of contractors, partners and employees who utilize B2B integration.						

Security and access control continued

Product component	Citrix Virtual Apps Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps Premium	Citrix Virtual Desktops Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Premium
Smart card integration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Saves time for workers who need fast access to information. Support for smart card authentication to hosted applications and desktops as well as passthrough support on Citrix StoreFront via Citrix Gateway. Includes such cards as Common Access Cards (CAC) and Personal Identity Verification (PIV).						
Accelerated logon for smart card users	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Expedite the user logon process for healthcare workers who depend on smart card identification for access to the virtual applications and desktops that provide patient healthcare information.						
App Protection	Add on	Add on	Add on	Add on	Add on	Add on
Protect corporate data against key logging and screen capture malware by scrambling keystrokes and saving screen shots as blank images.						
ICA Proxy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Provides secure access to virtual Windows apps and desktops published on Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops while keeping apps, desktops and data safely protected within the datacenter without requiring a VPN. *Gateway appliance is required separately for on-prem deployments. The throughput of the appliance is 50 Mbps.						
SmartAccess			✓			✓
Fine-grained context-based policy engine employs smart access policy management to balance the needs of varying use case scenarios by granting or denying individual tasks, such as printing, copy/paste or mapping drives, at a granular scenario-specific level. Provided with Citrix Gateway Universal License included in Premium. *Citrix Gateway appliance, priced separately.						
Session watermarking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Configurable security policy to display a text-based watermark on an app or desktop session to deter and track data theft.						
Intelligent session recording			✓			✓
Records the on-screen activity of any user session hosted from a VDA for Server OS or Desktop OS, over any type of connection, subject to corporate policy and regulatory compliance.						
Citrix Content Collaboration integration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Integrates Citrix Content Collaboration content with an optimized on-demand experience for file access and collaboration. Administrators control security policies and end user presentation to meet compliance or data sovereignty needs.						

Self-service and BYO choice

Product component	Citrix Virtual Apps Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps Premium	Citrix Virtual Desktops Standard	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Advanced	Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops Premium
Any device access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Empowers employees to choose the devices that are right for them and their work style with a universal client that works natively on the broadest range of desktops, laptops, tablets and smartphones to ensure device investment protection without added work for IT.						
Enterprise app store (StoreFront)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Customer-managed hosted enterprise app store that aggregates resources from Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops, providing self-service access to Windows and Linux applications and desktops and internal web applications through a single portal from all devices.						
Self-service password reset				✓		✓
Citrix StoreFront simplifies the set-up and configuration of self-service password reset. An intuitive, web-based, self-service portal allows end users to easily and quickly unlock or reset their domain password.						
Clientless HTML5 access	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Provides breakthrough performance for access to business applications and desktops from popular browsers, as well as Google Chrome devices. Enhances the graphics experience for both 2D and 3D applications and provides an improved audio-video experience at significantly lower bandwidth.						
Universal printing services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mitigates the administrative burden associated with the management of hundreds or thousands of network and local printer drivers through centralized, universal printing services and further optimizes printing performance across local, mobile, and remote connections.						

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