Raising the grade with Thinspace SkyDesk and SkyDirect

User-centric access to virtualized applications and desktops

Education is no longer bound by the four walls of the classroom, from Pre-School, K-12 and Higher Education one common goal units all: improve the learning experience, accelerate educational outcomes and prepare students for the journey ahead. With the evolution of technology, there are now more ways than ever to accomplish these goals while setting up students and educators for success.

Education can no longer be a slave to technology, they need to leverage the reality of always on, and accessible from anywhere. The truth that no two snowflakes are alike is also true when it comes to students and how they learn, with the advances in content management and delivery, the ability to customize the learning experience for students has become a reality and is forging a new paradigm in learning.

With the advancements in technology the next generation of learning solutions offers major improvements in the quality of education across all socioeconomic sectors. The new generation of educators has been raised to leverage new devices, applications and testing methods, students of all ages have become comfortable with accessing content, data and research from the comforts of their homes. The old structured learning labs have become a thing of the past.

With the enhancements in Mobility and Virtualization the landscape for IT in education has to move in a direction whereby it can deliver solution based on the evolving changes in how we teach, where and when. With improvements to infrastructure and wireless networks lab environments have become virtual; eliminating the need for rows upon rows of hard to maintain static desktops with canned applications.

Personalized learning tracks can now be delivered to students based on their needs and skill sets with the proper implementation of mobility and workspace technologies. New devices have garnered an enormous amount of new stimulating and relevant content.

The significance of application and desktop virtualization in education

As education continues to transform, application and desktop virtualization increasingly plays a central role in supporting how student learn. Virtualization will continue to grow to address several of the emerging needs that follow:

BYOD deployments

To be successful, learning and teaching modules must be delivered to a variety of devices – including thin clients, laptops, tablets and some education-specific devices – across campuses and other learning settings. Moreover, it's critical for students and teachers to be able to use whatever device they choose – personal or organizational – without increasing management headaches or security risks. Virtualization enables device choice by empowering users to tech and learn how and where they prefer, making everyone more mobile, productive and satisfied.

Personal Devices

Many of today's students and teachers want to use their personal devices to access the data and applications they need, regardless of whether they're learning from home, on campus, or at nearby coffee shop. Virtualization accommodates the consumerization of IT, granting students and educators the freedom and flexibility they want while addressing the IT department's need to ensure information security and access control.

Enhanced security

Virtualization continues to be a major technology consideration whenever security and compliance are being reevaluated or there are concerns over data breaches. Through centralized application management, data storage and maintenance, IT gains more control over content and can remotely ensure a strict separation between education data and personal data on BYO devices. Security and compliance are simplified by leveraging virtualization to keep all electronic protected information in the data center rather than on the device itself, thereby significantly shrinking the overall potential threat of attack. Access rules can be enforced to limit the risks of full exposure to databases, and systems can be isolated from the virtualized apps to keep malware from spreading. In addition, with virtualization, security software and critical application patches can be centrally deployed to all user-facing application infrastructure at once.

Centralizing the IT function

Many educational institutions are looking to consolidate, simplify and cut costs in IT through virtualization, which helps eliminate IT silos across campuses to avoid redundancies and inefficiencies. Virtualization also enables rapid and consistent delivery of core IT services and applications to remote learners and teachers, making it possible extend the reach beyond the traditional campus environments. In addition, virtualization enables educational organizations to deliver IT services to the greater community, for example, large providers offering software-as-a-service (SaaS) to affiliated schools that lack the capability to locally install and manage their own infrastructure.

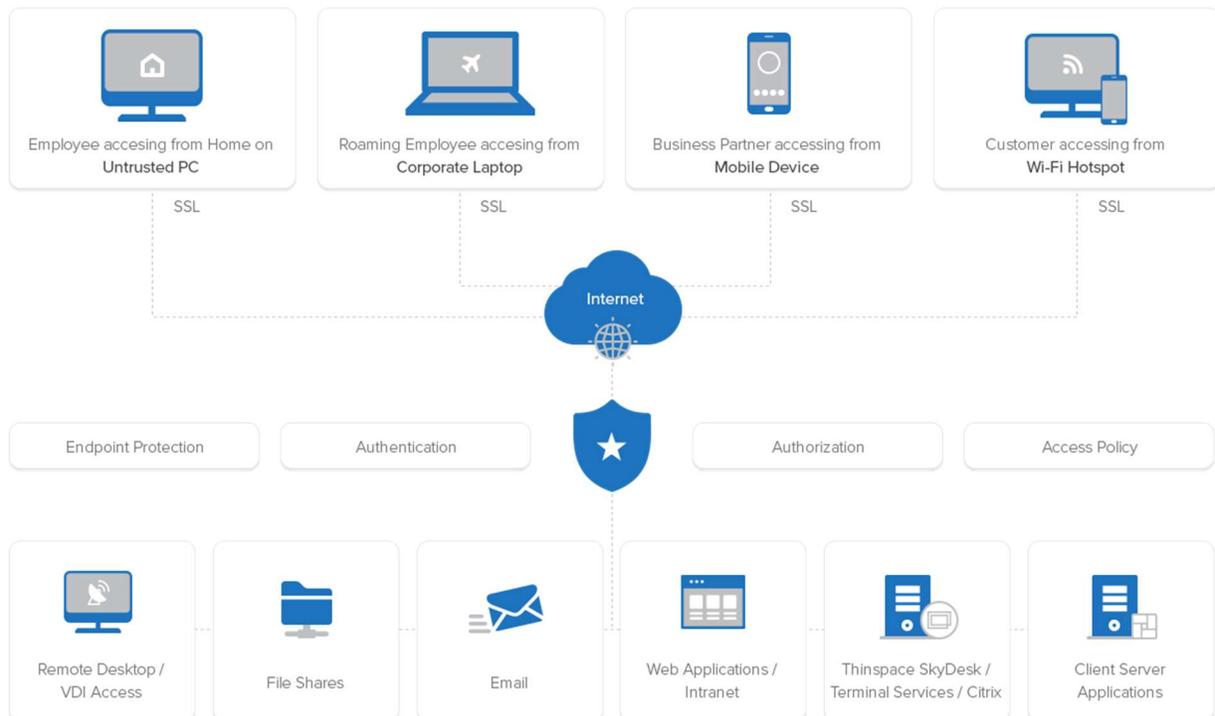## Remote learning or remote teaching initiatives

Virtualization also improves work-life balance for teachers and staff. For example, using virtualized apps and desktops, teachers can finish their grading and class preparation, at home, instead of having to perform these tasks on site at the campus. They also have the ability to monitor student progress on assignments or generate on line testing.

Desktop and application virtualization powered by:

Thinspace SkyDesk and SkyDirect

While educational organizations have several desktop and app virtualization vendors to select from, Thinspace has long history of providing the educational industry's with a reliable, scalable alternative to their application and desktop virtualizations requirements. Thinspace product suite focuses on ease of use, secure access and world class support. Below you will discover more about some of the basic features of our product and service offerings.

Figure 1: Transform educational IT with Thinspace SkyDesk and SkyDirect

SkyDesk and SkyDirect transform education IT by centralizing Windows applications and desktops, securely delivering them to users on any device in any location and streamlining updates and administration. With SkyDesk and SkyDirect (see Figure 1), you can:

Implement a comprehensive and successful Mobile learning strategy that centralizes desktop, app and data management, thereby lowering your risk of a security breach and reducing operational costs.

Deliver customized desktops, educational management apps and other critical administrative and learning apps on demand, thereby simplifying the overall cost of ownership, reducing or eliminating PC refreshes and strengthening security while significantly improving the user experience.

Provide secure access to your critical apps with a high-definition user experience from any device, over any connection, thereby delivering information immediately to enable improved teaching and learning environments.

Centralize your IT department to serve teachers, students and staff in distributed locations across the town or statewide, and to reduce the time and effort required to manage layers of technological complexity. Centralization enables faster onboarding of new users, efficient, system-wide distribution of new apps and upgrades and faster disaster recovery plan execution.

Enable greater productivity and increase mobility by permitting desktops and applications to follow users from device to device. By reducing the time required to launch applications on successive devices, providing a consistent experience from device to device and delivering actionable information right at the point of learning.

These IT benefits can dramatically improve the way teacher educate. With real-time access to data, apps and desktops that offer a high-definition experience on any device, today's education professionals and students spend less time logging in and more time seeing interacting.

How do SkyDesk and SkyDirect work?

With SkyDesk and SkyDirect, IT can mobilize education by delivering either full desktops or the apps alone to a range of devices, while reducing costs by centralizing the control and security of apps and data. The unified SkyDesk and SkyDirect virtual delivery platform permits users to accomplish their workflows on any PC, Mac, laptop, tablet or smartphone – both on premise and in the cloud, while enabling IT to secure information and manage varied mobile workspaces.

Secure by design

Because apps, desktops and data are managed within the data center, IT maintains data protection, compliance, and access control and user administration as easily on BYO devices as on organization-owned endpoints – within the same unified environment. Protected data, never leaves the data center. Used with SkyDirect, SkyDesk or, Thinspace OneGate Gateway™ secure access technology increases security, better enables mobile user access and reduces costs when compared with alternatives. OneGate Secure Gateway provides a single point of control and tools to help IT administrators ensure compliance with regulations and protect corporate information. It empowers users with a single point of access – optimized for roles, applications, devices and networks – to the enterprise applications and data they need.

High-definition user experience

With integration of Microsoft RemoteFX™ technologies, which feature capabilities that deliver a high-definition experience to users of Windows applications and desktops – on any device and over any network – the user experience rivals that of a local PC, even when using apps featuring multimedia, real-time voice and video collaboration, USB peripherals and 3D graphics

Education IT organizations are under more pressure than ever to be relevant in supporting and driving business objectives. Turning traditional IT organizations into internal service providers demands flexible infrastructure and streamlined, automated processes.

How SkyDesk and SkyDirect to improve student learning

Thinspace application and desktop virtualization solutions have a long history of market leadership in education. Thinspace provides real-time access to virtualized applications from any device, including zero and thin clients, mobile workstations and other endpoints.

About US: Thinspace Technology Ltd is a global provider of application delivery, desktop virtualization, and cloud client technology solutions. Our technology enables IT and service providers to manage and deploy secure application and desktop delivery solutions providing users instant access to applications on any device, over any network or cloud.

Headquarters: 1925 East Belt Line Road, Suite 349, Carrollton, TX 75006

Contact Us: info@thinspace.com