

Migrating Applications with ThinApp During an Upgrade from Microsoft Windows XP to Windows 7

ThinApp 4.6

You must migrate all your applications, data, and settings manually from a physical Windows XP system to a virtual Windows 7 system, because you cannot directly upgrade from Microsoft Windows XP to Windows 7. Use VMware ThinApp™ to package your applications and deploy them on a Windows 7 virtual machine. You can configure and access your virtual Windows 7 system using VMware View™ client.

This technical note is intended for administrators who want to migrate multiple users from physical Windows XP systems to virtual Windows 7 systems. This technical note is limited to packaging and deploying applications when migrating from Windows XP to Windows 7. See the *ThinApp User's Guide* for complete information on ThinApp features and how to use ThinApp.

The information in this technical note is based on the following assumptions.

- You are migrating from a physical Windows XP system.
- You are migrating to a virtual Windows 7 system.
- You access your virtual Windows 7 system using VMware View Client.
- You have the latest version of VMware View Client installed on the virtual desktop. For more information, see the *VMware View Installation Guide*.
- You have a third-party application to migrate all your applications, data, and settings from the physical Windows XP system to the virtual Windows 7 system.

Benefits of Migrating with ThinApp

When you are migrating from Windows XP to Windows 7, you can use ThinApp to package and deploy your various applications. Migrating with ThinApp has the following benefits.

- You can package applications as single executables.
- You can run applications in complete isolation.
- You can eliminate application-to-application conflicts.
- ThinApp allows you to deliver reliable and flexible application access to all user profiles.
- You can package and deploy Internet Explorer 6 with ThinApp and use it on your Windows 7 system.
- You can deploy the same ThinApp application package for multiple users on different platforms, like Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, and Citrix Xenapp.

Operating Systems and Applications That ThinApp Supports

ThinApp enables you to package an entire application and its settings into a single executable file. Using this executable file, you can deploy virtualized legacy applications on Windows 7. ThinApp supports the following operating systems, applications, and systems.

- 32-bit platforms include Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows XPE, Windows Server 2003, Windows Vista, Windows Server 2008, and Windows 7.
- 64-bit platforms include Windows XP 64 bit, Windows 2003 64 bit, Windows Vista 64 bit, Windows Server 2008 64 bit, Windows Server 2008 R2 64 bit, and Windows 7 64 bit.
- 16-bit applications running on 32-bit Windows operating systems.
- 32-bit applications running on 32-bit and 64-bit Windows operating systems.
- Terminal Server and Citrix Xenapp.

ThinApp cannot convert some applications into virtual applications and might block certain application functions. In such cases, use the traditional install methods.

- Applications that do not natively support the deployment operating system.

If an operating system does not support the native installation of an application, that operating system is not a supported ThinApp deployment platform for that application.

- Applications requiring installation of kernel-mode device drivers.

You must install these device drivers in their original format on the host computer.

- Antivirus and personal firewalls.
- Scanner drivers and printer drivers.
- Some VPN clients.

Applications that provide shell integration have reduced functions when they exist in a ThinApp package.

Setting Up Physical Windows XP System for Migration

Before you migrate from Windows XP to Windows 7, you have to configure your physical Windows XP system so it is ready for migration.

- 1 Decide where you want to copy all your data and settings.

You can use an external hard disk or a network location. If you want to copy your data and settings to a network location, ensure that you have the network location mapped and you have read-write access to the network location.

- 2 Make a list of all native applications that you are using on your Windows XP system.

The migration moves only data and settings.

- 3 Re-install all native applications running on your Windows XP on the Windows 7 system.

You can choose any of the following methods to re-install:

- Use the original CDs or setup files.
- Package your native applications using Thinapp and deploy them on Windows 7. For more information, see the *ThinApp User's Guide*.
- Use Thinapp Converter to package multiple native applications. For more information, see the *ThinApp User's Guide*.

- 4 If you have decided to package your applications using ThinApp, copy the ThinApp packages to the external hard disk or network location.

- 5 Decide if you want to install the 32-bit or the 64-bit version of Windows 7.

- 6 Ensure that your programs and devices are Windows 7 compatible.
Download and run the Windows 7 Upgrade advisor. This tool provides a report that lists issues and suggests recommendations to improve Windows 7 compatibility. For more information, see <http://www.microsoft.com>.
- 7 Migrate all your applications, data, and settings information.
Many third-party applications can help you with the migration process. Microsoft's migration tool, Windows Easy Transfer, allows you to migrate your data and settings. For more information, see <http://www.microsoft.com>.

Migrating Applications Using ThinApp

You can use ThinApp to migrate applications to the Windows 7 system. You can capture applications to package an application into a virtual environment. The ThinApp Capture wizard is the main utility to capture applications and set initial application parameters. Expert users who must capture applications from the command line can use the `snapshot.exe` utility instead of the Setup Capture wizard.

For more information on how to capture Microsoft Office 2007 and Internet Explorer 6, see the *ThinApp User's Guide*.

Setting Up Virtual Windows 7 System

After you migrate your applications, data, and settings from a physical Windows XP system to a virtual Windows 7 system, you must configure and deploy the ThinApp application packages on your Windows 7 system.

Use the View Client to log in to a virtual desktop. For more information on how to configure the View Client, see the *VMware View Administrator's Guide*.

After logging in to the virtual desktop, the client window appears, and you can access your Windows 7 virtual machine. For information on creating and preparing virtual machines on the View Client, see the *VMware View Administrator's Guide*.

Migrating Applications to the Virtual Windows 7 System

After you set up the View Client and you can access your virtual Windows 7 desktop, you can copy all the applications, data, and settings that you downloaded from your physical Windows XP system before the migration.

- 1 Connect the external hard drive or to the network location to which you downloaded your Windows XP applications, data, and settings.
- 2 Copy all your data and settings to your Windows 7 system.
- 3 Install all native applications from their original CDs.

Alternatively, if you had packaged your native applications using ThinApp, deploy the applications on your virtual desktop. For more information on how to deploy and customize applications, see the *ThinApp User's Guide*.

You can now access the virtual desktop running Windows 7 with VMware View Client.

If you have comments about this documentation, submit your feedback to: docfeedback@vmware.com

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