Solution Spotlight

VMware App Volumes Enhancements Accelerating Application Delivery

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Simplifying Application Management

Virtual desktops and published applications have helped businesses in a variety of ways, but the cost of managing a growing number of applications across virtual workspaces is a constant balancing act for IT organizations, especially as the pressure to deliver applications faster and within a limited budget intensifies. Compounding the situation is the rate of application upgrades, patches, and security fixes, which can consume an enormous amount of IT's time and resources—including operational and help desk teams. The good news is that companies like VMware are addressing these dynamics with a modern architecture approach aligned with key considerations that business teams are using to justify IT investments.

Justifying Investments to Improve Application Management

The investment in improving application management aligns well with the overall goals that ESG has witnessed among business management teams. These goals include the priorities of improved security, return on investment, business process improvement, and reduced operation expenditures, which are important in justifying IT investments.[1] The benefits of modern application delivery and management architecture align directly with these business priorities and can help companies create a valuable cost benefit analysis, resulting in a leap forward for delivering and managing applications.

THE TOP 4 MOST IMPORTANT
considerations for justifying IT investments to organizations' business management teams

39%
Improved security and risk management

35%
Return on investment

32%
Business process improvement

27%
Reduction in operational expenditures

VMware App Volumes

VMware App Volumes is a portfolio of application and user management solutions for Horizon, Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop, and RDSH virtual environments. These solutions help IT professionals improve desktop and application environments by providing faster application delivery, unified application and user management, and cost savings. Well-executed deployments can help organizations to benefit from:

- Reduction in costs attributed to storage infrastructure and the operational burden that comes with managing the capacity.

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[1] Source: ESG Research Report, _2016 IT Spending Intentions Survey_, February 2016.

- Less time spent on mundane, routine IT tasks (e.g., repetitive application and user profile maintenance), as well as minimized time spent managing images.

- Increase in employee productivity and satisfaction, by delivering personalized applications and user environments.

Once an application is vetted internally, business quickly wants to place it in the hands of the end-user, while also being able to manage the application throughout its lifecycle without generating tedious IT tasks, and a laundry list of user grievances. VMware App Volumes is helping businesses customize application delivery with automated workflows by decoupling the application from the operating system image and simplifying operational routines.

What's New with App Volumes?

VMware's latest App Volumes 2.12 continues to make improvements as an enterprise-class application delivery and management solution with:

- Support for multiple Active Directory domains for improved integration in large environments with complex Active Directory deployments.

- Improved security through certificate validation between VMware vCenter and the App Volumes agent.

- Support for Microsoft Office 2016 and Windows 10 Anniversary Update.

- Tech preview of a read-only role that has the potential to help integrate with existing help desk processes.

VMware is demonstrating its focus on addressing the pain of application installs at scale, in complex environments. These enhancements demonstrate how VMware is expanding on the App Volumes solution to fit the requirements of larger enterprise organizations, which have the potential to realize significant benefits as they modernize application delivery processes that have been around since the early days of the Windows operating system.

The Bigger Truth

Businesses using VMware Horizon, Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop, and RDS hosted applications have an opportunity to modernize the application delivery and management architecture with VMware App Volumes. Businesses can use initiatives such as Windows 10 Anniversary Update, Office 2016, the changing device landscape, and security as principal drivers to explore and embrace App Volumes. IT operations will be able to appreciate the benefits of App Volumes, which can make their job easier via unified application and simplified user management. The dependence applications have had on the operating system image has long created a continuous stream of headaches for IT and end-users. That said, separating the application from the OS image is a welcome game changer for IT—enabling the organization to lower costs, improve agility, address rising security concerns, and streamline the process for getting the right applications into the hands of the end-user.