

VMware App Volumes

Solution Overview

Q. What is App Volumes?

- A. VMware App Volumes is a portfolio of application and user management solutions for Horizon, Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop, and RDSH virtual environments. These solutions take desktop and application environments to the next level by providing radically faster application delivery, unified application and user management, while reducing IT costs by up to 70%.

Q. What are the benefits of using App Volumes?

- A. App Volumes takes Horizon, Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop, and RDSH virtual environments to the next level with an app delivery architecture and user environment management that helps IT reduce costs and increase productivity. Here's how:
- Reduce storage and operational costs by up to 70% with one-to-many provisioning, painless packaging, and stable installation
 - Free up crucial IT resources from repetitive application and user profile maintenance tasks, and decrease the time spent managing images by up to 95%
 - Increase employee productivity and satisfaction, without increasing IT staff, by delivering personalized applications and user environments that drive the business forward rather than maintain dated architectures

Q. How does App Volumes work?

- A. With App Volumes, IT can instantly deliver or upgrade applications to virtual desktop and published application environments in seconds and at scale. Applications are stored in read-only virtual disks that, with the click of a button, instantly attach to individual or groups of virtual desktops, published application servers, or users. To the end-user, applications perform like natively installed applications. The platform that App Volumes is built on also supports user profile and policy management, application isolation, and advanced monitoring capabilities.

Q. What's New in App Volumes 2.12?

- A. App Volumes 2.12 includes enhancements for even better end user experience with faster login and application

launch times. Improved Active Directory integration allows IT to manage assignments across multiple Active Directory domains using a single App Volumes management cluster. Security enhancements include agent to manager certificate validation. Windows 10 Anniversary Update and Office 2016 support are included in this release. The Tech Preview of Project Orion (Instant Clone Technology for Citrix) has also been updated. Please refer to the release notes for more information.

Q. I saw a demo of Instant Clone Technology for Citrix. Can you tell me more and when is it going to be available?

- A. Instant Clone Technology for Citrix, known as Project Orion, allows IT to rapidly clone and deploy XenDesktop virtual desktops. Combined with App Volumes and User Environment Manager, Just-in-Time desktop capability can be delivered to Citrix XenDesktop environments. Development is currently underway and the capability is in technology preview. For more information, please refer to: <http://blogs.vmware.com/euc/2016/05/watch-citrix-xendesktops-provision-faster-than-ever-imagined.html>.

Q. What happened to App Volumes 3.0?

- A. App Volumes 3.0 was released in Q1 2016, as a new extensible application and user management platform. The platform has capabilities such as integrations with User Environment Manager and was designed and optimized for cloud-based deployments. App Volumes 3.0 will be primarily used by our customers using cloud-based technologies such as Horizon Air. This will allow us to rapidly update the App Volumes 3.0 platform as we receive customer feedback.

While App Volumes 3.0 was made available for our Horizon 7 customers to evaluate, we recommend existing on-premises customers continue to use the App Volumes 2.x branch for production deployments, which will continue to evolve per the innovations released in App Volumes 2.12 and beyond.

Q. What are the App Volumes editions?

- A. App Volumes is available in three editions: App Volumes Enterprise, App Volumes Advanced, and App Volumes Standard.
- App Volumes Enterprise (formerly Horizon Application Management Bundle) – a complete enterprise application and user management solution that provides application delivery, isolation, and end-to-end monitoring for Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop environments.
 - App Volumes Advanced – an advanced application and user management solution for enterprise customers with virtual environments powered by Horizon, Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop, and RDSH.
 - App Volumes Standard – an application and user management solution for virtual environments powered by Horizon, Citrix XenApp and XenDesktop, and RDSH.

Q. Is App Volumes Enterprise only available for Citrix customers?

- A. Yes. Horizon customers can take advantage of these capabilities through the Horizon Enterprise Edition.

Q. Is App Volumes still available in Horizon Enterprise?

- A. Yes.

Q. How do Horizon, Citrix, and RDSH environments work with App Volumes?

- A. App Volumes delivers native applications to Horizon, Citrix XenDesktop and XenApp, and RSDH environments on-demand through VMDKs or VHDs, without modifying virtual desktops, application servers, or the applications. Because App Volumes enables the benefits of a persistent desktop on top of a non-persistent pool, significant storage and operational savings can be achieved. Published application environments benefit from reduced number of images managed by decoupling operating system images and applications using App Volumes, which also removes repetitive application maintenance tasks. Using App Volumes, user profile and policy can be dynamically assigned to users as they move from desktop to desktop or application to application. IT can also proactively monitor the health of their Horizon and Citrix environments.

Q. How does App Volumes work with user data?

- A. Each device or user optionally has a single writable volume that contains the device or user's data and user installed

applications. If a user moves from one virtual desktop to another, the data and user installed applications follow that user. User profile and policy settings can be managed via user environment management services included with App Volumes.

Q. How does App Volumes compare to Mirage?

- A. App Volumes is a portfolio of application and user management solutions for virtual environments. Mirage delivers image management to physical PCs through static offline composition.

Q. How does App Volumes compare to ThinApp?

- A. App Volumes is a portfolio of application and user management solutions for virtual environments. ThinApp isolates applications from the operating system. This provides benefits such as natively running legacy applications, such as IE6, on unsupported operating systems, such as Windows 7. ThinApp packages can be delivered through App Volumes as VMDKs instead of streamed across the network from a CIFS share. See <https://www.vmware.com/resources/techresources/10411> for more information.

Q. Where can I get access to demos and/or trials of this offering?

- A. You can get access to App Volumes through the VMware Hands on Labs or trial from my.vmware.com.

Licensing**Q. How can I purchase App Volumes?**

- A. Through VMware or any VMware channel partner.

Q. How is App Volumes licensed?

- A. Each edition of App Volumes is licensed on a named or concurrent user basis.

Q. Is there an upgrade path for customers who already bought App Volumes?

- A. Yes, there is an upgrade SKU to App Volumes Enterprise available for Citrix customers.

