VMware Dynamic Environment Manager

AT A GLANCE
VMware Dynamic Environment Manager™ offers personalization and dynamic policy configuration across any virtual, physical and cloud-based Windows desktop environment. Dynamic Environment Manager simplifies end-user profile management by providing organizations with a single, lightweight and scalable solution that leverages existing infrastructure. It accelerates time-to-desktop and time-to-application by replacing bloated roaming profiles and unmaintainable, complex login scripts. It maps environmental settings (such as drives and printers), and dynamically applies user and computer policies and personalizations. This focused, powerful and scalable solution is engineered to deliver workplace productivity while driving down the cost of day-to-day desktop support and operations, and is a key component of Just-in-Time Management Platform (JMP)—the next generation of desktop and application delivery.

KEY BENEFITS
• Centralized and simplified dynamic environment management with policies and settings helps accelerate day-to-day operations.
• Consistent and personalized experience follows users and dynamically adapts across devices and locations for faster application access.
• Enterprise-grade scalability across virtual, physical, and cloud-hosted environments.

The Choice Customers Had to Make
When it comes to desktop virtualization, many organizations have traditionally had to choose between deploying persistent desktops (desktops tied to a specific user) and non-persistent desktops (generic desktops that are destroyed every time a user logs out). And while persistent desktops provide end users with a personalized desktop experience, they also come at a higher cost. Conversely, while non-persistent desktops help drive down costs for IT, they do nothing to support end users with a customized experience.

This has led many to look for a middle ground—a truly “stateless” desktop that addresses both the needs of IT to drive down costs as well as the requirements of end users for a better desktop experience. This “stateless” desktop is the way forward—and VMware is uniquely positioned to deliver this solution to customers across virtual and cloud-hosted environments.

A Better Way Forward
To achieve a truly stateless desktop, IT needs the tools to deliver a personalized experience to a non-persistent desktop. VMware Dynamic Environment Manager enables IT to do just that.

VMware Dynamic Environment Manager allows IT to deliver a consistent and personalized workspace experience to end users across devices and locations. It simplifies profile and policy management to help organizations drive down operational expenses in the process.

FIGURE 1: Deliver a consistent and dynamic application and desktop experience across any device, location, or Windows operating system.
How It Works

Dynamic Environment Manager agents are installed on RDS or VDI hosts, and devices such as desktops and laptops. Agents are enabled and configured through central GPOs in Active Directory that IT sets up with Dynamic Environment Manager or using NoAD mode. IT can then set up policies and settings using the management console.

When a user logs into their laptop or virtual desktop, for example, policy settings such as drive and printer mappings and shortcuts are automatically configured according to the set policy. IT can even create dynamic contextual policies based on conditional statements from the management console.

Application settings can also be predefined such that when a user opens up an application, the application configuration settings are automatically configured for quick application access. Settings can be applied to published applications and virtual desktops, such as VMware Horizon®, VMware Horizon® Cloud, Horizon Apps, RDSH desktops and apps, and Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops.

Administrators can selectively grant elevated privileges to users to execute tasks as well as allow or block execution of applications. With ADMX-based settings, IT can use standard ADMX templates to configure user and computer policies. And with Dynamic Environment Manager, Horizon Smart Policies can be configured to control the behavior of remote desktop features in Horizon sessions.

The Benefits: A Closer Look

Centralized and simplified user environment management
VMware Dynamic Environment Manager provides IT with a robust solution for profile and persona management. Simple by design, this solution can easily be managed without scripting or complex user interfaces. And customers can get started with very little investment in infrastructure. The solution simply requires one central configuration share and one network folder per user on a profile archive share.

Consistent and personalized end-user experience
With Dynamic Environment Manager, IT can deliver a consistent and personalized user experience for end users to maximize productivity. End users are productive because of a consistent feel to their workspace. Contextual policies for user persona management ensure that IT can map policy settings that tie directly to the end user’s device and location. This allows IT to respond to rapidly changing business dynamics.
Enterprise-grade scalability
With VMware Dynamic Environment Manager, IT can quickly and cost-effectively scale to support more than 100,000 end users across virtual, physical and cloud-hosted environments. IT can add or remove profile and personalization services across the organization as required, to better respond to changes in the workforce and the overall business.

Building block for JMP
JMP is the next-generation desktop and application delivery platform included in VMware Horizon Enterprise. JMP (pronounced jump) leverages Instant Clones, App Volumes, and Dynamic Environment Management technologies to untangle the operating system, applications, and user personalization. By doing so, all the component pieces together can be reconstituted on-demand to deliver Just-in-Time desktops and apps across any infrastructure topologies—delivered to any device.

Use Cases
Customers can use Dynamic Environment Manager to manage virtual, physical, and cloud-hosted environments. A typical use case could be a user accessing their applications on their physical laptop while traveling. That user also has access to use a virtual desktop in the office. As soon as the user logs into the virtual desktop, the application settings are applied as if the user were still working on their physical laptop. IT can also set up dynamic policy to adjust based on triggers, such as network location. If that user has to have different predefined, non-default settings because they are accessing applications from a physical laptop in an unsecured location, IT can set up a dynamic policy. Other implementations of Dynamic Environment Manager can also be applied, such as policies that follow the user from published application to virtual desktop.

Availability
VMware Dynamic Environment Manager is available standalone or as part of VMware Workspace ONE®, Horizon perpetual, Horizon term, Horizon subscription, and App Volumes.
Dynamic Environment Manager licenses are available on a named user/device or per concurrent connection basis.