


**Easily deploy and manage VDI  
environments with Login AM  
Blueprints**



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## 1 Introduction

The increasing number of updates, changes and new technologies combined with an ever higher level of business-user expectation, creates a great deal of difficulty with regard to server and workspace management.

Large corporations manage hundreds of servers, which may facilitate 100.000+ workspaces. Those server environments often have a large number of commonalities or shared configurations and are differentiated by only a few distinct unique characteristics. Yet, while there are many options to manage single server instances in full, there are few options that leverage this fact to efficiently deploy and maintain diverse IT environments.

Most traditional IT automation and deployment tools do not have an inherent way of consistently managing a large volume of servers and workspaces - without having to resort to a great deal of customization - which is so desperately needed by so many IT organizations.

This white paper covers why we believe Login AM is uniquely suited to this type of solutions, and provides examples of how it works and details of how customers are using it to address their specific multi-server, multi-locale IT operational and technical change management.

## 2 Background

### 2.1 Don't all IT automation tools support multiple server and workspace deployments?

Yes, most enterprise IT automation solution support the deployment of servers and workspaces. If your enterprise deploys a small set of distinct servers – such as a test environment and you also have a limited number of changes – then an IT automation solution may be a suitable fit for your needs. However, if your organization manages different IT environments, technologies and you employ IT administrators in several functional groups to manage cross departmental images, servers, applications and their relationships, you need a solution that is designed for this type of complexity.

A high quality forward facing IT environment requires proper testing and predictability in a continuous technical change process. Deploying a test environment on-demand to support your change process may exceed the capability of standard IT automation solutions you are using or are considering.

### 2.2 Why does inheritance matter?

There are many buzzwords in IT automation, and it is often difficult to determine what they mean and why they matter to you. In this case, the definition is rather simple. When you are managing a large number of server and workspace environments, there are typically elements, ranging from configuration items to functionality that you want to leverage across different IT environments. Most IT automation solutions are focused on a single instance of an IT environment making any automation effort for that environment specific to that environment and therefore not easily transferrable or reusable.

The solutions that do offer some sort of reusability are generally limited to a very narrow scope (e.g. only deployment but no security configuration). Furthermore, most solutions still require some form of transformation because when propagating changes from one environment to the next increases the risk of lowered predictability.

## 3 Solution

Login AM enables enterprises to rapidly roll-out and manage IT environments. End-users require workspaces anywhere, anytime, anyplace, regardless of electronic device. Login AM recognizes that in order to engage you must connect IT to the end-user through an effective technical change process. To do so you require a holistic approach that includes cross-IT synergies, supporting quick and consistent roll outs and updates.

While other IT management platforms provide a static approach to IT management which is focused on specific parts within the entire life-cycle of an IT environment, Login AM blueprint technology enables a unique, multi-faceted level of engagement. Its out of the box capabilities provide a unique solution for multi-IT environment management, especially when compounded with multi-faceted deployment requirement that include workspace personalization.

Login AM blueprints maintain relationships across the IT environments, allowing for one-click updating and deployment, with IT owners being notified while the packages update is automatically propagated.

Login AM has focused their Login AM blueprint model around three main IT automation requirements:

1. Rapid multi-server environments deployments
2. Continuous and predictable change propagation
3. Reliable and stable end user experience

### 3.1 What is Login AM Blueprint?

Login AM Blueprint leverages the use of global and local IT building blocks, such as applications, server configuration, application configuration, standard routines, within an IT organization. It is an out of the box solution that allows organizations to manage their multi-functional, multi-dimensional IT environments with a standardized management approach.

The foundation of Login AM Blueprint is that each blueprint can be used to deploy an entire IT environment - including all packages, server configurations, standard routines, best-practices and any other automated building block - in one or more identical but uniquely localized configurations.

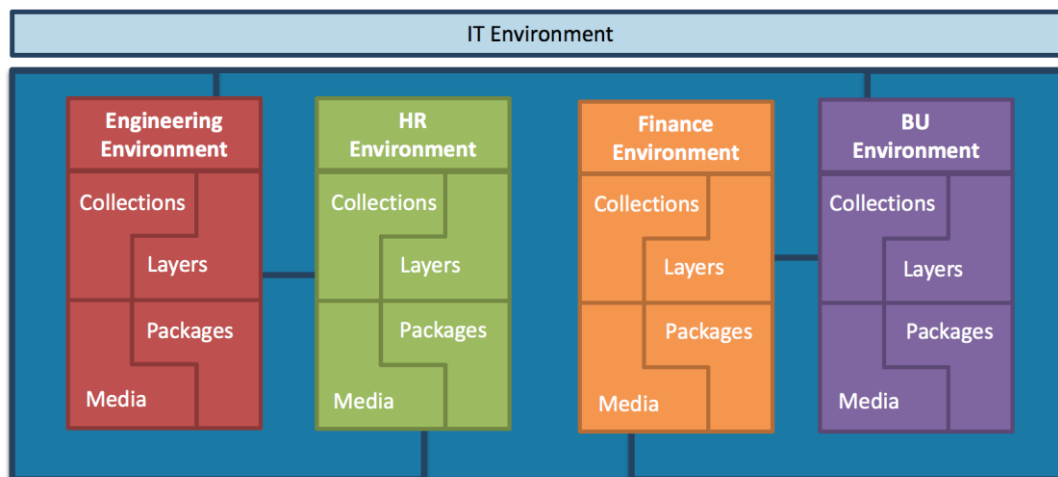
Each unique Login AM Blueprint environment instance inherits key configurations from the parent Login AM Blueprint installation while mandatory blueprint settings are maintained. This architecture enables your IT professionals to effortlessly share resources, such as applications and server configurations across multiple IT environments, while retaining control over the master elements. When designed and implemented properly, Login AM Blueprint can empower IT professionals to consistently build IT environments and handle changes in a predictable way. Login AM Blueprint technology addresses the growing need for today's IT organizations to deliver their services faster and more consistently across multiple needs of current organizations that use a variety of platforms to deploy and manage server environments and deploy and manage workspaces for different department in different geographies.

### 3.2 How does Login AM Blueprint work?

Login AM Blueprint is based on business and technical requirements. Every customer's Login AM Blueprint model is unique. Organizations can start out with one of our predefined blueprints but can also create their own. These models can be viewed as a hierarchal tree.

# Easily deploy and manage VDI environments with Login AM Blueprints

Each hierarchy consists of collections, layers, packages and the actual software needed to deploy an environment.



Packages are our most fundamental elements and can contain anything from end-user applications and server software like SQL server or VMware Horizon software. Also your own setup routines that are created by either a local or a global IT department can be shared amongst layers and collections. Everything created as packages can be inherited down to all child publications, layers and collections. Collections will receive all packages created in the structure with any duplicates or conflicts filtered out.

Layers group individual packages together into a logical set that can be assigned to one or more collections. Any changes to a layer will automatically be propagated to all collections that have that layer assigned to it. As a consequence all servers will be updated with this change.

Each collection defines a combination of layers and all its relevant configurations that needs to be deployed for a specific group of end-users. All computers that are assigned to a particular collection will all be configured in the exact same way and therefore behave in the exact same way.

## 3.3 How to leverage Login AM Blueprints?

Today, large organizations are facing an explosion of updates, changes, quickly ramping up server environments, new technologies and an exponential growth of changes they need to deploy to satisfy end-user business needs. All of this has resulted in the creation and management of tremendous quantities of new and varied applications and application configurations. As a result, IT organizations are now faced with the ever-expanding set of package management requirements. This section guides you through several of the most common areas that Login AM Blueprints can help address.

### 3.3.1 Business Agility

IT departments are THE facilitator for IT projects that support the business in achieving their goals. In today's increasingly agile world, businesses need to be able to experiment and therefore quickly setup and tear down projects in an effort to find their next advantage over the competition. Project 'inertia' and complex IT procedures force business users to look elsewhere in order to stay ahead.

With the Login AM Blueprints, IT departments can setup standardized 'playgrounds' for these projects almost instantly. Experimentation becomes achievable and affordable. Because of the nature of the Login AM Blueprints even allows IT departments to seamlessly migrate project systems with all their

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detailed configuration to the production environment and build identical test environment for future updates or changes to the system.

## 3.3.2 Operational Excellence

Standardization has been a major goal of any IT department in the last ten years. Operational excellence is only achievable through standardization of IT services. However, if applied without appropriate automation standardization leads to rigidity and tardiness of the IT services.

Login AM Blueprints help to standardize the way systems are deployed and configured but Login AM also allows organizations to easily capture and automate the deployment of required deviations for individual projects. This allows for greater agility without losing the benefits of standardization.

## 3.3.3 Continuity

Malfunctions of production services can have a major impact on any organization. Quite often however, a malfunction only affects a part of the functionality. In an effort to find the cause of even the smallest malfunctions, IT organizations may need to take entire systems offline for extended periods. Even small malfunctions may lead to a massive impact.

Using Login AM Blueprints, IT organizations are able to recreate the affected systems in a sandbox environment in order to reproduce malfunctions. This gives IT organizations the ability to reproduce the problems without hindering the business processes any more.

## 3.3.4 DevOps

DevOps in a Windows oriented environment starts with the ability to routinely and consistently deploy infrastructure development and test environments that closely resemble the actual production environment. Referring back to the previous scenario, having fewer malfunctions in the first place is obviously preferable over having to trace their causes and repairing the damage afterwards. However, increasing business demand and expectations as well as the rigidity and tardiness of the IT operations do not allow the IT department to properly prepare and test most changes before they are applied to production systems.

Deploying a test environment is a breeze with Login AM Blueprints. Production systems that have been built using Login AM can be turned into blueprints on-the-fly and rebuilt in a test environment to allow the IT organization to properly test changes before deploying them to production systems. Changes made to the systems immediately become part of the blueprint.

## 3.3.5 Portable

Unlike other automation systems, Login AM does not require a 'developer-level' understanding of workflow design and task automation. Instead, Login AM focuses on the IT professional and allows the IT professional to easily and quickly automate their day-to-day tasks like deploying servers, applications and configuration changes.

Another important differentiator is that Login AM is not a system that requires an enterprise-wide adoption from the start. As Login AM is highly portable and does not require complex infrastructures it is ideal to be deployed in exactly those places where it adds maximum value.



## 4 Customer Cases

### 4.1 UK based petrochemical company

*“We hit all of the targets and more - with a completely virtualized Citrix plant across the datacenters, 90% virtualized applications using AppV4.6, all operated and maintained by Login AM. Applications were rationalized dramatically, thanks to the project team working through with the application owners providing a quick and easy transition process onto the new plant.*

*We migrated all users onto the new platform. With the internal support model in-place this has been a complete success, 450+ physical servers have been decommissioned”.*

Hosting thousands of virtual workspaces from datacenters across the globe (30+), the company struggled with a mixed infrastructure based on several versions and architectures of Microsoft Windows Server and Citrix XenApp (and its numerous predecessors).

Using a single Login AM Blueprint, the company was able to deploy new virtual desktop environments with unprecedented speed while keeping all sites in sync. Instead of standardizing all building blocks, the company was able to standardize their operation processes. Supported by Login AM, the company could still allow from the much needed local site specific configuration while keeping their master building block intact.

### 4.2 LVR InfoKom: Login AM brings order to the Terminal Server Farm

Login AM in a computer center helps to reduce complexity together with a comprehensive terminal server farm so that more than 11,000 users can experience their usual working environment at the most current state-of-the-art level.

Apart from the standard Office programs, the computer center LVR-InfoKom, LVR's IT service provider, also makes specialized and niche applications for social service institutions (schools, hospitals etc.) available to users via a terminal server. The high grade working environments set up in the computer center are tailored to the clients' needs and have all the necessary components required by the employees to process specialized tasks.

Because of the heterogeneous applications arrangement and the short update cycles, the use of the otherwise common “Golden-Image” solution per provisioning was not appropriate to the client for economic reasons. The solution to be found needed to reduce the manual input without showing a lock-in-effect in the computer center. Possible integration into the Citrix environment and, ideally, collaboration with Active Directory Services was required.

Login AM Blueprint enables LVR InfoKom to rapidly deploy test environments to support their high change intensity.

“With Login AM we have consciously selected a versatile solution, which can be individualized to a large extent. In principle, anything is possible as far as software distribution and maintenance processes are concerned all captured in a set of blueprints for our environments. We are therefore well armed for future challenges and growing user numbers,” explains Markus Müller who, as Team Leader Desktop at LVR-InfoKom, provided support for the introduction of Login AM.

## 4.3 iSource: Faster and easier distribution

As an access provider and supplier of Managed Cloud and Outsourcing Solutions, Swiss based iSource A.G. already had years of experience with software packaging and user environment management.

The growing use of virtualization solutions within their own datacenters increased the complexity regarding preparation of solutions purchased by its clients. The main requirement iSource had was to find a single solution for preparing packages and user settings in a centralized way.

The high degree of automation and flexible management reduces the number of manual processes and steps significantly. This effectively prevents incidents during package updates and it also increases the appeal of the business model for consulting external clients. After all, the introduction of Login AM allows harmonization of the previously heterogenic software landscape.

The use of Login AM blueprint allows iSource to rapidly setup new, high quality customer environments.

“Our company has years of experience with Package and User Management environments. The introduction of virtualization stretched the abilities of the software solutions we had been using. We gave Login AM a chance, and found a product that has been developed continuously since its implementation and has contributed enormously to simplifying our processes. We are extremely pleased with the solution,” says Herby Schenker, CIO and CTO of iSource, speaking about the introduction of Login AM.

Do you want to know more about how Login AM Blueprints can help you? Contact us!

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