

Sizing and scaling the new VDI environment



Gemeente Utrecht

Organization: Gemeente Utrecht

Industry: Government

Country: The Netherlands

Website: utrecht.nl

Challenge:

- Second-opinion for the VDI setup
- Independent party to conduct performance measurements
- Performance guarantee for the new VDI environment

Solution: Login VSI

- Baseline measurement to capture the status quo
- Real-life simulation of 3,725 end users
- Workload generation and comparison to assess the effect of changes

Results:

- Well planned and successful VDI rollout
- Virtual desktops with predictable performance
- IT is prepared for the movement to the new Town Hall

The Municipality of Utrecht has over 325,000 inhabitants and is - by population - the fourth largest city in the Netherlands. Utrecht is among others known for its historical center, the yards and the cathedral. The city is a hub of roads, railways and waterways, and thereby a leading city for exhibitions and conferences. End of 2014, the municipality will move to the new town hall with flexible workplaces.

The challenge

A few years ago, the Municipality of Utrecht started with the renewal of the ICT infrastructure. VDI proved to be the most flexible solution to achieve the needed time and location independent way of work and bring all of this under one roof in the future town hall.

"Because the performance and user experience needed to be improved, we used Login VSI to carry out a baseline measurement of the infrastructure, with measurements of start-up and login times and speed of applications," says Eddy Zeehuisen, Program Manager U-Cloud 'Innovation ICT Infrastructure Services Town Hall' at the Municipality of Utrecht. "These data and the expected VDI performance for 3,725 simultaneous sessions were included in the tender, as well as the fact that we will have a performance scan by an independent party prior to the rollout of VDI desktops."

The solution

The municipality uses FlexPod for VMware Horizon View, a concept consisting of NetApp storage, Cisco networking components, Cisco UCS server component and VMware Horizon View. *"Although this is a validated design, there are unknown variables such as the relationship with other infrastructure components and the behavior of our own applications," continues Zeehuisen. "Because we didn't want any surprises in our operating IT environment, Login VSI has carried out multiple performance simulations. In the most extensive stress test a few weeks before the rollout, 3,725 concurrent end users were simulated on our environment. Login VSI has brought up several performance improvements. These were addressed together with the implementer and the various vendors."*

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-Eddy Zeehuisen,
Program Manager
U-Cloud, Gemeente
Utrecht

The result

Zeehuisen: *"This extensive 'sizing and scaling' survey is very important and valuable for us, because it enables us to detect and resolve problems as early as possible and before the environment is taken into production. Sizing for VDI is complex, but thanks to Login VSI the end-user workload can be generated and compared to assess the effect of changes. We now secured the tight deployment schedule."*

In the period October 2013 to June 1, 2014, more than 5,000 users are migrated to the VDI environment. There are now approximately 2.000 thin clients in use on more than 60 external locations, such as district offices and pools.

About Login VSI

End user experience begins with performance. Great performance begins with Login VSI. We provide performance insights for virtualized desktop and server environments. IT departments, service and technology providers use Login VSI, Login PI and Login AM in all phases of their virtual desktop deployment to deliver a more consistent end user experience. Login VSI products work with VMware Horizon View, Citrix XenDesktop and XenApp, Microsoft RDS and any other Windows-based virtual desktop solution.

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