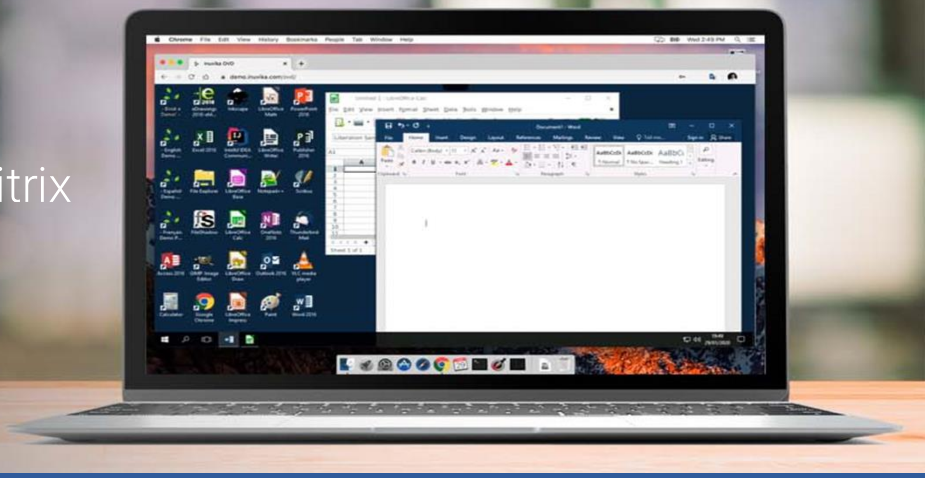
Inuvika

A Top Alternative to Citrix



Redefining Application Delivery

How Inuvika’s application virtualization reduces the cost of delivering apps

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Introduction

The way in which we work today has changed. That change was always coming. Slowly but surely, we were headed in the direction of working from wherever we chose to work from and using a multitude of different devices. Then the unthinkable happened. We found ourselves in the middle of a global pandemic. Covid had hit!

With almost the entire world’s population being sent home to work overnight, organizations, from corporate enterprises, schools, colleges or even healthcare all had one thing in common. They had to accelerate their remote working capabilities in order to survive and to continue delivering services to their customers or their students.

Organizations had to provide remote services to satisfy their two most important assets: people and data. Data is king in any organization. So, how do you now deliver that data to the people that need it? And how do you provide them the applications that they need to work with that data?

We have, for years, often jokingly, talked about it being the year of the virtual desktop, or the year of VDI. Instead, we now talk about the digital workplace or digital workspace, end user computing, or digital experience.

Put simply. these all equate to one thing: People enablement. Enabling employees, students, and customers alike (the people) to have access to data and apps. That’s it! No more, no less. However, the reality is that the old way of delivering this through VDI or VPNs was complex. But it doesn’t have to be.

Throughout the pandemic, I observed what I can only describe as the panic buying, whether that was adding more Citrix users to existing environments or adding more users of Citrix alternatives like VMware Horizon Apps. Solutions were bought at the drop of a hat. 3-to-5-year plans were accelerated and condensied into weeks in order to deliver remote working capabilities. Effectively, this acted as a band-aid/sticking plaster to get people working remotely as quickly as possible.

But, as I said right at the start, the world has changed and remote working and hybrid work environments, like it or not, are here for the long term. ***For those organizations that went with the quick-fix, the time has come to review and put in place a “proper” strategy to deliver these services and “do it properly”!***

Going back to the year of the virtual desktop comment, why do we even need to consider a full-blown desktop? All that people require is access to apps and data. But for some reason, whenever we talk about delivering remote services, we automatically seem to think VDI or virtual desktop software. This is my point about it not needing to be complex. Complexity equals additional cost and extra time when it comes to deploying and managing desktops. That’s true regardless of them being physical or virtual. There are alternatives to VPNs and VDI. So let’s look at Inuvika.

The question you really need to ask is whether the people using the apps and data really need an 'actual' desktop. In almost all cases, they just need to be able to run their apps and access their data.

That being the case, then remove the desktop operating system overhead, cut the complexity, cut the costs, and definitely cut the management overhead. Just provide people with the apps and data they actually need and, of course, that all important end user experience.

Taking a trip down memory lane, and a little history lesson, think about mainframe technology, the place where server-based computing began. And virtualization for that matter.

A room full of processing power and users accessing apps from a terminal or green screen. If you step forward a few years you had the likes of Microsoft Terminal Services and Microsoft Windows NT 3.51. Applications running on servers and users connect remotely. It was, and still is, known as app publishing. There was o mention of building OS images, delivering full-blown desktops and the management and the infrastructure required to do that.

There are some limited cases for a full-blown desktop environment. A developer may need access to an operating system to build and integrate code into file systems or registries. But for the large majority of people, just having access to applications is more than good enough.

I would even go on to define that majority as 80% to 90% of people. Anecdotally, I have heard people say they need the OS as they use some of the OS tools such as calculator or Windows Notepad. Well guess what? They are apps too and can be delivered without the need of the rest of the OS baggage in tow, delivered alongside all your other apps. Or just use your smartphone as a very expensive calculator.

I said that apps can be delivered without the rest of the OS. The first question will be how that works. The second question is how to deliver apps and data while addressing the cost, complexity, and management overheads we spoke of earlier.

The answer is Inuvika.

Introducing Inuvika

Founded in 2014, Inuvika and its OVD Enterprise solution, simplifies the delivery of applications to people (your end users).

This simplified approach to app virtualization enables people to have access to all of their Windows and Linux apps on pretty much any device you can think of. You can deliver Windows on Chromebook , an iPhone, Android device, or Mac. Or deliver Linux apps to a Windows device. And, of course, Windows and Linux apps or desktops to any thin client devices. You can also just use a browser if you so wish.

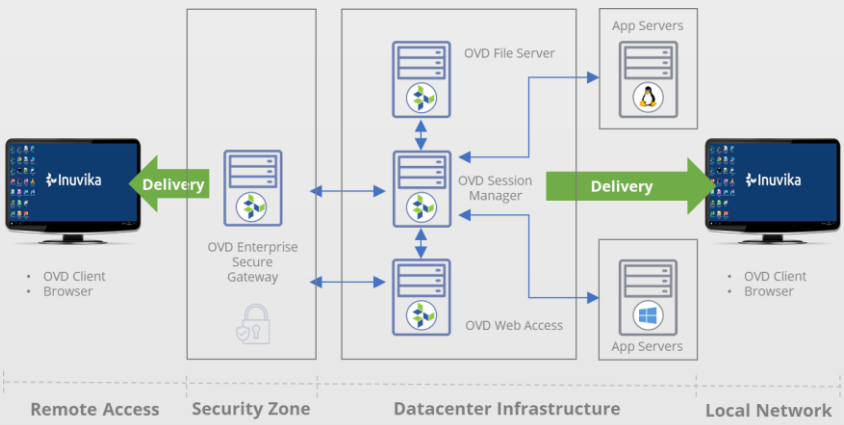
Not only does Inuvika deliver an enhanced user experience, it lowers costs by reducing infrastructure requirements and licensing costs by up to 50%. There is no OS to manage, but Inuvika still provides a scalable and highly-available solution.

Intelligent Application Brokering and Delivery

Inuvika employs a Linux-based appliance that takes on the role of a broker. This simply authenticates user logins and delivers the applications that have been allocated to a user. The apps to be delivered are installed on Windows (RDSH) servers or Linux app servers and are automatically recognized by the Inuvika OVD broker. It is then simply a case of allocating those apps to users or user groups, enabling them to launch their own unique and secure session of the app.

Installed apps, user data and profile information get stored on a dedicated file server. Secure, two-factor authentication is standard out of the box using the OVD Secure Gateway appliance.

If you want to scale up the number of users you want to deliver applications to, then simply add additional OVD Session Managers and application servers as required. The same is true if you want to enable high availability to mitigate against downtime. Just add additional OVD Session Managers and add a load balancer into the mix.



Seamless Experience

Above all else, any solution that relies on the interaction of people needs to make that interaction or experience both simple and intuitive. This is where one of Inuvika's unique features on application delivery can be seen. Users are presented with, not only a familiar look and feel, but the ability to just launch an application in exactly the same way that they would have on their device before.

Once you are logged in using the Inuvika client, ***application icons seamlessly appear on the device, as if they are natively run on that device.*** For example, the Windows version of Microsoft Office Suite will have their icons placed on the desktop of a macOS device. When the user launches the app, it not only opens and runs as normal, it looks exactly the same as the Windows version the user is accustomed to using. That's because it is the same Windows version, now running remotely and delivered by Inuvika OVD. Need a new image of Windows instead of Mac or show the new drop down on Mac

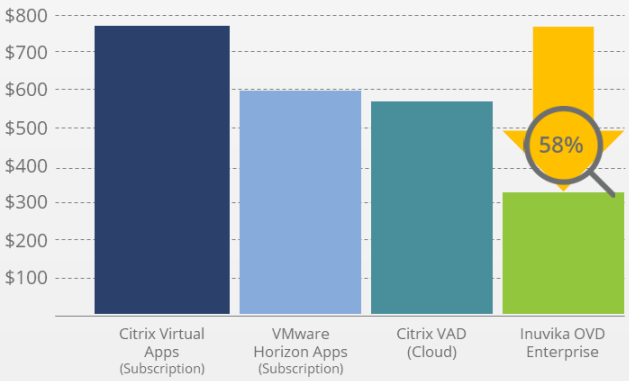
You can even use the "open with" function to select an application delivered by OVD.

Cutting the Cost of Infrastructure

IT budgets have always been squeezed, and then suddenly having to deliver remote work software solutions made the situation worse. Organizations spent huge sums accelerating the enablement of their workforces to work remotely. Often this was done by adding additional infrastructure or migrating to cloud-based solutions which now are not as cost-effective as their clever marketing had you believe.

With the opportunity to revisit remote working strategies and to get a tighter grip on budgets, ***Inuvika delivers on all fronts, driving down both cost and complexity*** when compared to other virtual desktop alternatives.

Firstly, Inuvika doesn't require a huge amount of infrastructure to get up and running. Compared to other desktop virtualization software like Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops or VMware Horizon Apps, Inuvika can pack in almost twice the users per server. All you need is the application servers and the Inuvika Session Manager(s), all of which can be virtual machines. In fact, the Inuvika Session Managers are virtual Linux appliances meaning less hardware and fewer expensive Microsoft Windows Server licenses.



The IT admin team are also users. It just so happens that their use case is to look after the workforce, so why shouldn't they have the same simplified experience?

Inuvika delivers an intuitive management console that cuts the management overhead in terms of cost and complexity.

Sustainable Application Delivery

Inuvika plays a key role in building a sustainable solution by lowering the infrastructure requirements. ***This means less hardware is needed, there is lower associated power consumption and a lower carbon footprint as a result.***

But it goes beyond just the infrastructure. Inuvika is a key part to a bigger eco-system partnering and certifying the OVD client with several innovative edge device vendors.

These vendors provide low-powered devices such as a Raspberry Pi's to connect to applications. Other partners offer the ability to repurpose or re-cycle existing hardware, whether old or new, into edge devices.

These repurposed edge devices prolong the useful life of a device, by replacing the OS with a purpose-built OS designed for application delivery, rather than sending them to landfill.

This ecosystem approach ensures that sustainability is achieved in every element of the app delivery solution.

One-Click MSP to deliver Applications-as-a-Service

Delivering applications-as-a-service is a growing technology. Inuvika makes it easy for managed service partners to deliver apps using a subscription-based delivery and licensing model. MSPs will be able to offer a competitive alternative to Citrix DaaS or VMware Horizon DaaS.

For MSP partners, enabling multi-tenancy, with support for multi-domain environments and tenant isolation, is achieved with just a click of the mouse. Partners can then add as many tenants as they want and quickly allow people to be onboarded.

Each individual tenant can be custom branded with their own logos. Administrators can manage their own tenant environment securely and with role-based access.

Enabling Hardware Accelerated Graphics and GPU Support

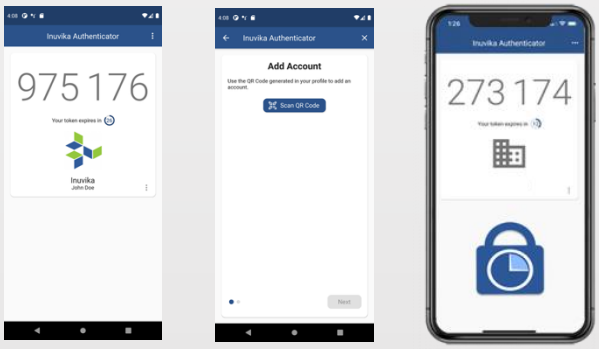
One of the myths of why people say they need a full-blown virtual desktop is to deliver high-end graphics capabilities for applications, such as AutoCAD, where 3D modelling is a requirement. They think that the only way to deliver this capability is to have a VDI desktop.

However, in reality, this is not the case and a full desktop is not a mandatory requirement.

Applications running on an application server can also be configured to take advantage of hardware-based graphic cards and, therefore, be able to deliver that hardware accelerated graphics that the applications require to run.

Having a hardware-based graphics card for the application servers can also be used for video compression to deliver high-definition video over the network.

Secure by Design



With remote working comes security concerns. Ensuring that incoming user connections are only from those that are authorized to connect to your organization is paramount.

Inuvika, out of the box, allows you to enable two factor authentication (2FA). You can use security keys or Inuvika provides its own authenticator mobile app available for Android or iOS devices.

Inuvika allows you to enable 2FA for just those connecting remotely from outside the corporate network. If the admin chooses to allow it, when the user is in the office and connected to the LAN, they can bypass 2FA..

Take the Next Steps ...

See how Inuvika can deliver applications without the high cost and complexity of virtual desktop alternatives. It makes an excellent Citrix alternative or VMware Horizon alternative,. Contact the Inuvika team today for a demonstration and guided tour:

Email: sales@inuvika.com

Alternatively, sign up for a free trial and see how you can deliver Windows and Linux apps and shared desktops to any device. The trial will come pre-loaded with Windows and Linux applications that you can access on any device through a browser or client app. You can also try the Web-based Admin console to see how easy OVD is to manage.

Request a free 14-day trial