FLEXERA SOFTWARE®

AdminStudio®
Virtual Desktop Assessment

Flexera Software
AdminStudio Virtual Desktop Assessment

Assessment, Analysis and Reporting for Successful Desktop Transformation

**Benefits to
Your Organization:**

- Reduce costs associated VDI by not overspending on hardware or software

- Accurately assess capacity requirements to reduce costs associated with VDI

- Enhance the user experience by not forcing VDI on users who are not optimally suited for it

- Minimize risk by designing a new infrastructure guided by a full understanding of VDI impacts

- Enhance the effectiveness of migration projects with in-depth data that guides project planning and decision making

With successful server virtualization projects under their belts, IT professionals are now turning their attention to user-centric computing and desktop virtualization. Desktop virtualization promises to yield substantial cost savings and dramatically improve IT resource utilization.

Desktop virtualization can also optimize desktop management, facilitating tasks associated with adding, deleting, updating and patching applications; strengthening security; and centralizing user data to protect it through consistent, reliable backup.

Migrating to virtual desktops, however, has proven to be a time-consuming, costly and risky undertaking in many enterprises. Assessing thousands of computers and their users to create profiles that help identify good virtualization candidates can be an overwhelming task. Developing a rational migration plan is difficult because IT lacks visibility into how users and desktop applications consume such resources as network bandwidth, storage, CPU and memory.

Desktop virtualization complicates Application Readiness processes. In addition to supporting legacy and MSI formats, IT must now prepare and convert desktop applications for the virtual world. In many cases, this means supporting multiple virtual formats to accommodate diverse environments and enterprise needs.

IT organizations need powerful solutions that enable them to embrace user-centric computing and get virtual desktop projects on track while keeping migration costs in check. A viable solution helps IT assess the virtualization readiness of computers, users and applications, and develop a data-driven plan for a successful transition to virtual desktops.

AdminStudio Virtual Desktop Assessment

AdminStudio Virtual Desktop Assessment monitors key system behaviors of computers, users and applications, capturing detailed data that helps reveal virtualization suitability. This vendor-agnostic solution helps you make informed decisions and enhances your virtualization strategy, whether that strategy includes Microsoft®, VMware™ or Citrix®.

Virtual Desktop Assessment provides visibility into your desktop environment, enabling you to accelerate your transition to user-centric computing and virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) while reducing the cost of achieving your desktop virtualization objectives.

Virtual Desktop Assessment uses an agent on desktop and laptop computers to monitor behavior and gather such information as CPU performance, online/offline access, input/output and memory utilization as well as applications data including applications installed, details and usage. Data is stored on a central server where it is available for reporting and analysis.

The solution ranks computers with respect to their virtualization suitability. As a result, enterprise architects have the information they need to plan and implement successful VDI projects.

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Virtual Desktop Assessment Features

Monitoring/Data Capture — Virtual Desktop Assessment monitors user computers and captures comprehensive data and usage metrics for your current desktop environment. At the end of the monitoring period, you have the data required to create an accurate and comprehensive picture of behavior with respect to virtualization readiness. The data also provides insight into the complexity of virtualizing any given desktop. Armed with this information, you can apply VDI to the right users and applications to avoid the problems that have resulted in failed VDI projects in some organizations.

Customizable Assessment Parameters — You can tailor the assessment for your environment, specifying not only the "what" — that is, which computers, users and applications to assess — but also the "when." You can specify a sample that accurately represents your environment or you can monitor all computers, users and applications. You can also specify the timeframe, which typically runs from two weeks to 30 days. You can even configure the agent to uninstall after the monitoring period, eliminating the manual effort of removing agents.

Comprehensive Metrics — Virtual Desktop Assessment gathers a complete application inventory of the specified computers. It also collects in-depth information on each computer, user and application. This information helps determine desktop virtualization readiness and the complexity of virtualizing the application. Metrics include:

- Hardware configuration data for each computer
- Resource utilization, including CPU, RAM, storage and disk IO, and graphics
- Usage of each application, including user count, load time and total use time
- Services and device drivers required by each application
- External devices such as printers, scanners and smartcards
- Aggregates of each of the above so you can plan your virtual infrastructure

Comprehensive metrics help you plan a new virtual infrastructure that has the capacity required to support your user base. More precise capacity planning increases the success rate of desktop virtualization projects.

Suitability Assessment — An overall suitability assessment ranks computers and users into low-, medium- and high-complexity groups based on usage patterns and environmental conditions. The ranking is calculated by taking an average of key metrics. You can adjust weightings to align the results more closely with your environment.

The assessment helps you determine which users or user groups to migrate first — for example, choosing to migrate the best candidates first to gain experience with virtualization while minimizing costs and user disruption. Through careful user segmentation you can create an effective implementation plan that guides your migration and enhances your success.

Robust Reporting — Virtual Desktop Assessment offers both out-of-the-box and custom reporting. You can select the reports that are most relevant and run them on an ad hoc or scheduled basis. You can create custom reports from scratch or tailor one of the many built-in reports. You can filter reports based on a variety of attributes to gain richer insight into the data. Reporting also helps you discover desktops, applications and users that have high resource requirements. This information assists with capacity planning for virtual desktops.

Cross-platform Support — Support for the leading hypervisor and desktop platforms means you can use a single solution to assess virtualization suitability of physical desktops, VMware and Citrix virtual desktops and terminal server sessions. Specifically, Virtual Desktop Assessment supports:

- VMware® ESX, VMware ESXi and Citrix® XenServer
- Microsoft Hyper-V on Windows 2008 R2
- Windows operating systems for physical and virtual desktops
- Virtual desktops running on VMwareView, Citrix XenDesktop™ and Citrix XenApp™
- Thin application solutions including VMware ThinApp™ and Microsoft App-V™

This cross-platform support helps you contain costs, reduce training requirements and simplify management. Additionally, if you need to modify your virtualization platform, you can do so without replacing your assessment solution.
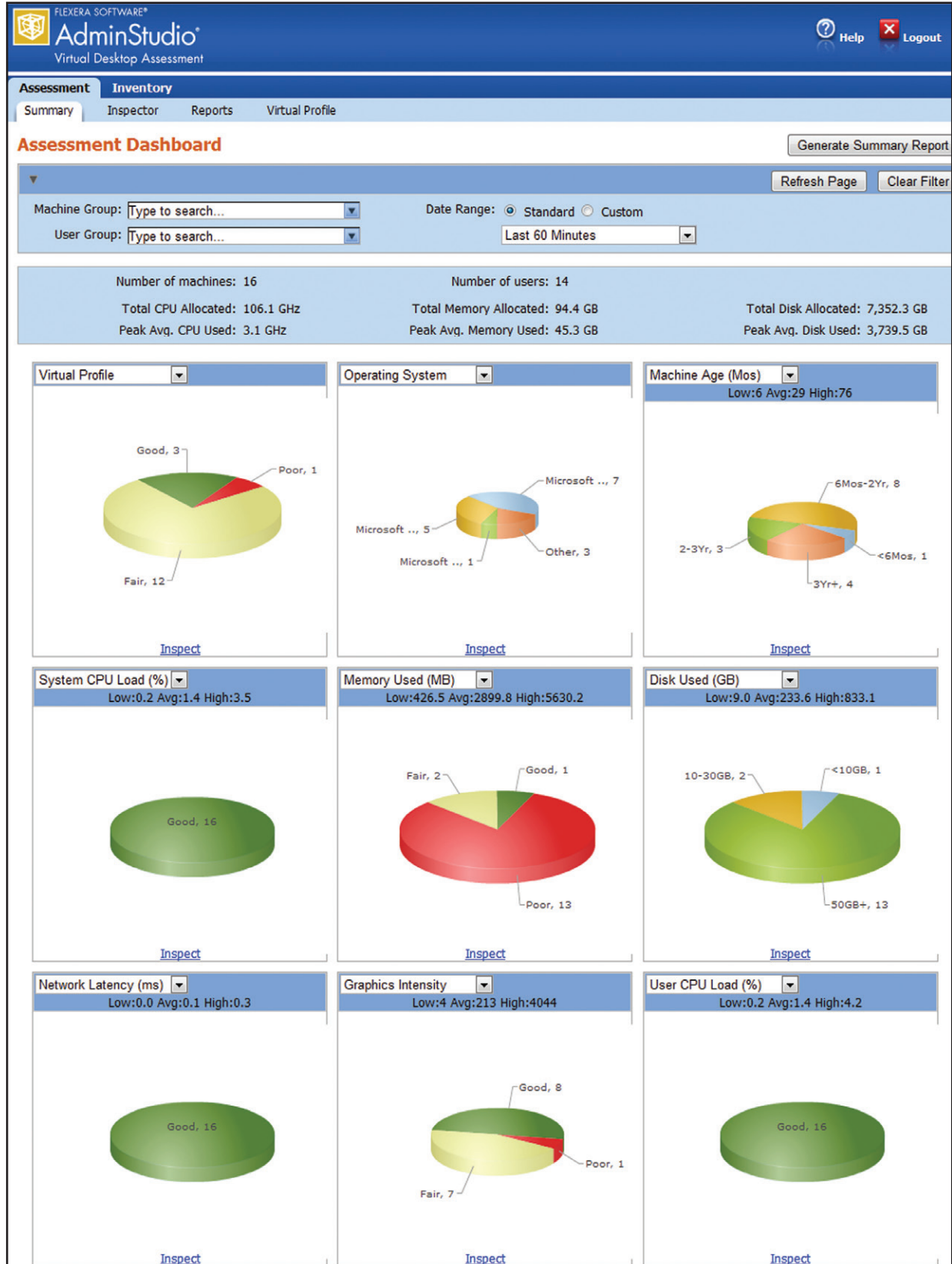
Figure 1: Flexera Software AdminStudio Virtual Desktop Assessment Dashboard

Leveraging the Power of Virtualization for Desktops and Applications

AdminStudio Virtual Desktop Assessment can work in conjunction with AdminStudio Virtualization Pack as part of a comprehensive Application Readiness solution that helps you leverage the power of virtualization for applications as well as desktops. Virtual Desktop Assessment adds a new dimension to compatibility assessment for desktop transformation initiatives: It assesses the virtualization readiness of your computers, users and applications so you can identify the best candidates for your VDI implementations.

AdminStudio Virtualization Pack addresses application virtualization, which is a key component of any successful VDI implementation. When you virtualize applications, you break down desktop components into manageable sections so that application delivery in desktop virtualization scenarios is more consistent and reliable. The AdminStudio Virtualization Pack provides visibility into which applications can be converted to the leading application virtualization technologies. What's more, it automatically converts multiple MSIs and legacy installers to these industry leading virtual formats including Microsoft App-V, VMware® Thin App™ and Citrix® XenApp.

Together these solutions provide a picture of which users and applications can be virtualized. With this insight, you can develop a highly effective virtualization strategy for both users and applications and, ultimately, remove the risk and uncertainty associated with desktop transformation projects. As a result, you'll achieve better desktop resource utilization, easier management and lower cost as well as greater flexibility for users and higher application compatibility.

With this powerful combination, you can assess and analyze your environment and develop a plan that avoids the disruption that accompanies failed attempts at VDI:

- Virtual Desktop Assessment gives you the visibility to answer the question, "Should I migrate this user"?
- AdminStudio Virtualization Pack assesses application virtualization suitability so you can answer the question, "Can I migrate this user or application"? It also automatically converts your desktop applications into leading virtualization formats
- AdminStudio gives you the functionality you need to create and manage packages in multiple formats for ubiquitous deployment across all leading platforms.

About Flexera Software

Flexera Software is the leading provider of strategic solutions for Application Usage Management; solutions delivering continuous compliance, optimized usage and maximized value to application producers and their customers. Flexera Software is trusted by more than 80,000 customers that depend on our comprehensive solutions - from installation and licensing, entitlement and compliance management to application readiness and enterprise license optimization - to strategically manage application usage and achieve breakthrough results realized only through the systems-level approach we provide. For more information, please go to: **www.flexerasoftware.com**

Next Steps:
For more information, visit www.flexerasoftware.com/vda or contact a Flexera Software representative.

Free Trial:
An AdminStudio Virtual Desktop Assessment free trial is available at www.flexerasoftware.com/vda-trial or contact a Flexera Software representative.

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