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## The Top 5 Considerations to Address *Before* Deploying a Large-Scale VDI

Your virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) needs to be robust, highly resistant to failure, and flexible enough to meet individual user needs, but there are a host of other questions that need to be addressed in order to ensure a successful VDI rollout. Below, we've outlined five items for consideration before transitioning to a large-scale VDI deployment.

Key Considerations	Questions to Help Determine Your VDI Requirements
1. Ability to handle multiple technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do you want to support a mixed virtual and physical environment created from fat desktops, thin clients, and blades?</li><li>• Do you want to enable Terminal Server sessions alongside virtual and physical desktops?</li><li>• Do you want to assign users to applications hosted in Citrix XenApp farm, simultaneously delivering desktops and applications with different remote viewer protocols for each?</li><li>• Do users need to access remote desktops running 32-bit Windows, 64-bit Windows, and Linux operating systems?</li><li>• Do you want to repurpose existing fat desktops to act as clients for both Windows and Linux?</li><li>• Do you want to assign machines from a variety of hypervisors?</li><li>• Do you want to leverage VMware vCenter server features such as resource pools, distributed resource schedulers, and provisioning to enhance the availability of virtual desktops?</li></ul>
2. Remote viewer protocol support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do you need to use more than one viewer protocol?</li><li>• Do you need support for multiple remote viewer protocols (Microsoft RDP, Citrix ICA, HP RGS, etc.) during one desktop session?</li><li>• Do users need to access desktops from Microsoft Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox Web browsers?</li><li>• Do you want to utilize a third-party remote viewer protocol launched from a URL without the need to install the remote viewer software?</li></ul>
3. Directory services and authentication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do you need to integrate more than one type of directory service?</li><li>• Do you have untrusted domains?</li><li>• Do you need to support multiple domains and multiple authentication servers within one domain?</li><li>• Do you need to integrate existing hardware-based SSL VPN devices?</li><li>• Do you need to integrate smart cards, fingerprint readers, or other multi-factor authentication solutions?</li></ul>

<p>4. Desktop control</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you want to control the power state of virtual machines (i.e., starting, stopping, suspending, etc.)?</li> <li>• Do you want to specify remote viewer protocol parameters and configuration files on a per-policy basis (i.e., a single policy would assign desktops running Linux and Windows and use a different remote viewer protocol based on the desktop's own operating system)?</li> <li>• Do you want to be able to split or span virtual desktop displays over multiple monitors?</li> <li>• Do you need granular control over the use of USB devices?</li> </ul>
<p>5. Policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you want to create policies based on users' authentication server properties and their client locations?</li> <li>• Do want to govern both desktop and application assignment?</li> <li>• Do you want to automatically and transparently redirect traveling users to their desktop resources based on policy settings?</li> <li>• Do you want to leverage existing fault tolerance and resiliency mechanisms?</li> <li>• Do you want to define the length of time that a desktop is assigned to a particular user?</li> <li>• Do you want to allow one user identity to simultaneously log in from several clients (e.g., in a classroom environment)?</li> <li>• Do you want to control USB usage by device, by user and by location?</li> </ul>

The promise of virtual desktop infrastructure is tremendous but the transition to VDI can be a complex and daunting initiative. Large-scale VDI deployments are still new enough that it can be difficult to know the right questions to ask or where to find the answers that you need to make smart decisions for your organization. Not all VDI deployments were created equal: this guide is meant to jumpstart your VDI planning and help you create a roadmap to address your current and future business needs.

Since desktop virtualization emerged, organizations across a range of industries have relied on Leostream to make VDI a reality. For more information, visit [www.leostream.com](http://www.leostream.com).