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Planning Application Virtualization

Application virtualization allows any application to run on any operating system in any location. Virtualizing applications drastically reduces compatibility issues and makes it easy to go mobile. The flexibility of application virtualization makes it an ideal IT tool for businesses when it used as part of a comprehensive IT plan.

This article focuses on application virtualization architecture, which will help you define your business's desktop virtualization needs and draft a plan to incorporate it into your IT plan.

Application Virtualization Architecture

As part of your application virtualization plan, you need to decide which type of end-user platform will best suit your business needs. Each platform has distinct advantages that should be considered. Key points to consider are as follows:

- **Smartphones-** Virtual applications can be configured to "offline" mode where the applications are stored on a smartphone's hard drive, or they can be set up to "stream" from the phone's internet connection when the application is needed.
- **Remote machines-** Virtualized applications are accessible through direct streaming from the internet, connection through a secure VPN or in offline mode. Using virtualized applications in offline mode is great for situations such as travel where you need access to an application but don't have internet access.
- **Local network systems-** Application virtualization works best for local systems and gives a superior multimedia experience that can't be rivaled by smartphones and offsite computers.

Possible Limitations

As you draft your application virtualization plan, consider the possible limitations that might affect your specific technology needs. Potential limitations include the following:

- **Poor multimedia experience-** Most virtualized applications are unable to deliver a rich multimedia experience to smartphones. Some virtualized multimedia programs will run better than others will—talk to your IT consultant about your specific software needs.
- **Poor peripheral device support-** While virtual applications do often work better with peripherals than virtualized serves and workstations there are still limitations that might impact your business. Applications that require a USB security key may not work. Virtual applications don't always work well with high-end video cards. If you run a virtualized application on a virtualized workstation, the peripheral devices will experience the limitations of the virtualized application.
- **Security compatibility issues-** Unlike most applications, security apps such as antivirus, antimalware or software firewalls can't be virtualized. Keep in mind that virtualized applications don't interact with an operating system; security applications need to interact with the operating system to do their job.

Talk to the Experts

To learn more about the specific ways that application virtualization can benefit your business and to get help drafting a customized plan that will best meet your business's needs, please contact the virtualization experts at All Covered at 866-446-1133.