

Virtual Desktop

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The Virtual Desktop Showcase (VDS) exists to promote awareness in the Business World of the advantages of a Virtual Desktop and Server computing environment.

This computing model has tremendous savings in the use of electrical power as the Sun Ray 2 device for example, only uses 4 Watts. Compared to the usual desktop computer that can use anywhere from 200 to 400 Watts, the savings in '\$' costs and greenhouse emissions are obvious, especially, when a company replaces say 100 pc's with Sun Rays.

The VDS will also demonstrate datacenter server consolidation by the use of Virtual Server Software (Sun xVM). The savings in electrical power, support costs, cooling requirements etc., are very relevant to the aims of the VDS in showcasing leading-edge technology to reduce carbon emissions and support costs in the workplace.

Environmental impact of Business is becoming a feature of shareholder concern and any methods that can be implemented to enhance social responsibly would be well judged. There seems to be a global standard of responsibility emerging, in that customers may be willing to support Businesses that can demonstrate a 'green' ethical approach to environmental concerns.

Remote access to applications by a work force can also enable Business to realize gains in efficiency, mobility and further reduce their 'carbon footprint', as staff may not need to be physically present at their office desk to perform their duties. The VDS will be able to demonstrate how this works by implementing the Sun Secure Global Desktop solution.

The many other advantages include considerable savings in 'Total Cost of Ownership' (TCO) over time, as desktop support is considerably reduced. With the IT industry suffering a demonstrated skills shortage, any system that reduces reliance in this area is a welcome development.

The VDS will provide Business with an opportunity to 'test drive' the Sun Ray technology before implementing any solution in a production environment.

The VDS could also be used by software developers (students?) to further enhance the technology, as the Sun Ray Server software may become available in the public domain (Open Source). Sun Microsystems have done this with both the Solaris Operating System & Java. Areas of development could include optimization of multimedia streaming, more efficient data compression in Sun Ray network traffic and transaction based algorithms to allow performance benchmarks to take place. The Open Source communities have been very active in further development, benefiting all concerned.

(www.opensolaris.org)

(www.sun.com/software/opensource/java/)

The Sun Ray technology 'runs' on industry standard platforms such as Intel / AMD Servers, Solaris / Linux / Microsoft Operating Systems and existing network infrastructure. All these areas of IT will be available in the VDS for demonstration.

The VDS could also be an informal place where Business can install and test their proprietary software if necessary. This provides Business with a high level of assurance that the installation of a new computing platform will be suitable for their needs. The Sun Ray technology can be installed in parallel to any existing systems, further enhancing their acceptance in the workplace.

The VDS will enable Business to see how efficient the Sun Ray technology is in operation. This can provide Business with productivity gains that can be put to good use in their day to day operations and will go to increase the profitability of any business, which is always a positive incentive for them to survive in this flat, global workplace.

The VDS will also demonstrate the mobility and security of the Smart Card technology, embedded in all Sun Ray computers. Smart Card operation has the 'wow' factor that Business can use to their advantage in efficiency and productivity gains.

**Current Generation of Sun Ray Technology advances
compared with Year 2000 release**

- o lower electrical power consumption
- o works on existing LAN infrastructure
- o easy MS Windows applications access (SRCW)
- o Sun Ray Server Software on Intel/AMD Servers
- o USB Memory stick access
- o Low bandwidth requirements
- o Non Smart Card session mobility (NSCM)
- o Smaller footprint on desk
- o Lightweight
- o Digital camera capability
- o Longer desktop refresh cycle
- o Desktop 'lockdown' with Desktop Manager (SDTM)
- o Application Management with SDTM
- o 'Kiosk' operation
- o Greater MTBF rate
- o Lower purchase price
- o High Resolution Displays with LCD technology
- o Dual side Smart Card reader
- o Dual-Head Display capability
- o Faster screen updates with latest firmware