

Citrix XenDesktop

Technical Reference

Interactive Intelligence Customer Interaction Center® (CIC)™

Version 2015 R4

Abstract

This document describes the various client application testing that was performed in a Citrix environment. This reference applies to Citrix XenDesktop 7.6 with a XenServer 6.5 hypervisor.

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# Introduction

Many Interactive Intelligence customers use our business software solutions in virtualized environments with tremendous success. Interactive Intelligence Inc. continues to support our product offerings being deployed in virtual environments from the three major virtualization vendors (VMware, Microsoft, and Citrix). We have technical partnerships with these three vendors and continue to strive to ensure their latest releases undergo our rigorous and extensive software testing. Interactive Intelligence’s product line has integrated well with Citrix and has been supported for several prior releases.

## Desktop Virtualization with Citrix

Using desktop virtualization enhances the diversity of implementation strategies available to our current and potential customers by allowing the entire desktop to be hosted centrally as opposed to just hosting the applications. Furthermore, virtualization platforms such as Citrix provides numerous benefits such as ease of scalability, reduced power consumption, increased density per host, and lower administrative costs. This makes for an attractive choice over deployment to traditional desktop computers. Citrix XenDesktop is a creative and compelling VDI solution that is well-suited for today’s dynamic and rapidly evolving contact center.

# Goals

Our primary goal is to implement our mainstream Interaction Center 2015 R4 client-side applications into a Citrix XenDesktop environment, test them to ensure proper functionality, and support this type of deployment going forward. This document provides an overview of tests that were performed on Interactive Intelligence client applications in a Citrix XenDesktop environment. It contains technical insights and a general idea of what one may encounter while evaluating XenDesktop as a method of centralizing and consolidating contact center agent desktops via a virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI). The information is presented herein as a courtesy and should not be taken as an exact representation of any customer environment. Our intent with this technical reference is to provide an additional resource for engineers as they consider migrating users of Interactive Intelligence desktop applications to a Citrix managed virtual desktop infrastructure.

# Test Environment Setup

**Overview**

This implementation of Citrix XenDesktop 7.6 is one of the most basic setups. There are more complex setups you can expect in a production environment, however for this initial test, a basic setup was appropriate. Adding unnecessary layers of complexity was to be avoided so that functional tests could be executed. In Figure 1 below you can see the network diagram for the Citrix XenDesktop:

 

**Figure 1**

Network Diagram of Citrix XenDesktop Setup

Citrix requires several of its packages to be installed on at least 1 server. From the network diagram above, we see that the Citrix server contains Director, Storefront, and Studio packages. The following breaks down the role of each package:

* **Director:** monitors the health of the XenDesktop environment; used to diagnose performance issues and maintain record of performance
* **Storefront:** serves as a gateway for clients; user authentication occurs at this layer and delegates access to virtual desktops to the client
* **Studio:** maintains the entire set up of the environment; this is where you can find the Citrix XenDesktop setup

Citrix XenDesktop requires each of these packages to function without error. Ideally, each of these packages will be installed each on their own server.

Citrix XenDesktop supports virtual machine provisioning from VMware, Microsoft System Center Virtual Machine Manager, and XenServer. In this setup, XenServer 6.5 was the hypervisor used to provision the virtual desktops. XenServer itself manages the creation and tear down of virtual desktops. XenDesktop on the other hand manages the authentication, permissions, groups, etc. through Storefront and Director.

**Test Environment Configuration:**

For the test cycle the configuration was as follows:

* Citrix Director, Storefront and Studio were installed on a virtual machine on a Hyper-V host.
* This server was part of a custom domain managed by a virtual domain controller
* The operating system on the virtual desktops is Windows 7
	+ ICBM, .NET Client, and IC Administrator were installed (2015 R4) on the virtual desktops
* A server with the SIP Bulk Caller testing tool from Interactive Intelligence Inc., a Media Server and Microsoft SQL Server Database were created to execute an extensive suite of test cases with XenDesktop 7.6
* To test functionality that requires email, a Microsoft Exchange 2013 server virtual machine was created. The Exchange server was residing on the same domain as the Citrix environment for optimal performance.

**XenServer**

In order to access XenServer, you must download the XenCenter Management Console. Once downloaded and installed, click the ‘Add New Server Button’ to create the default install of XenServer. This will allow for the initial setup of necessary configuration items including the entering of the server IP, the appropriate log in credentials (see figure below), etc.

The XenCenter Management Console provides access to the XenServer hypervisor that provisions the virtual desktops for the XenDesktop environment. Within this console there are extensive configuration options available as would be expected with a management console for a virtualized environment. These include but are not limited to memory management, storage allocation, security & permissions, licensing, network configuration, etc.



## Citrix XenDesktop Configuration

**XenDesktop**

To log into a XenDesktop virtual desktop, visit the site address that was configured on the StoreFront server. The login screen should appear as follows:



**Citrix Receiver**

After, the necessary packages are installed and a hypervisor is successfully joined with the setup, the client can then connect to a virtual desktop using Citrix Receiver. Citrix Receiver controls its own protocol to provide an optimal virtual desktop experience. The client will access the website created by Citrix Storefront, enter their credentials and Storefront will probe the Studio package for any available virtual desktops. The virtual desktop will then be setup on the client’s machine.

## Basic Functionality

The scope of testing centered on reproducing the actions of end users on the client side as they would perform their daily business tasks using Interactive Intelligence Inc. suite of client-side applications

Basic tests were performed on our mainstream client-side applications to ensure functionality in a Citrix XenDesktop environment. The tested applications all came from the ICUserApps.msi, ICServerManagerApps.msi, and ICBusinessManagerApps.msi packages. Test Cases were selected either to test a specific feature or to ensure that mechanics and presentation of the software performed in the same way as a comparable installation on a standard desktop computer.

Due to the extensive list of product offerings available from Interactive Intelligence Inc. some applications were not tested. These include but are not limited to such applications as Interaction Designer, Interaction Host Recorder Client, SOAP Tracer, and Interactive Update Client.

# Appendix A: Support Matrix

The following is a list of Interaction Center 2015 R4 applications and features that were tested on Windows 7 in the Citrix XenDesktop test environment and our corresponding support stance.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Application/Feature** | **Supported**  | **Notes** |
| Interaction Client | Yes |  |
| Interaction Voicemail Player | Yes |  |
| Interaction Fax | Yes |  |
| IC Server Manager | Yes |  |
| Interaction Process Automation | Yes |  |
| Interaction Administrator | Yes |  |
| Interaction Attendant | Yes |  |
| IC System Manager | Yes |  |
| IC Business Manager: Supervisor | Yes |  |
| IC Business Manager: Feedback | Yes |  |
| IC Business Manager: Recorder | Yes |  |

# Change Log

The following changes have been made to this document since release.

| Change | Date |
| --- | --- |
| Initial Release | September 30, 2015 |