

# ENHANCING AGILITY, PRODUCTIVITY AND SECURITY FOR BUSINESS USERS

VMware Workstation, Fusion and Horizon FLEX

A White Paper for IT and Business Professionals

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## Overview

Anytime, anywhere access to work is a basic need in your business. Whether it's salespeople, field technicians, remote employees, contractors, or power users in the office, people are less and less physically connected to your network or data center. The new digital workspace features virtualized laptops, desktop and workstations; a variety of personal systems and smart devices that may be part of BYOD and BYOPC programs; and a diverse app ecosystem with desktop, remote, mobile, SaaS and Universal apps.

These shifts have created tremendous complexity for IT professionals responsible for deploying and managing the systems business users need to be productive while also protecting the enterprise.

This white paper discusses how VMware Workstation™, VMware Fusion® and VMware Horizon® FLEX™ can help enhance business performance and drive down costs by ensuring business users can work anytime, anywhere, on any Intel x86-based device. It also highlights how you can provide secure and easy access to mission-critical legacy applications on modern hardware, and reduce the downtime and shipping costs associated with deploying new user equipment.

## The Increasing Demands of Business Users

Today, there over 1.3 billion mobile workers worldwide\*, leveraging more devices and operating systems than ever before. Long gone are the days when most users did their work from one system and one location. Today's businesses work from anywhere, at any hour, on a variety of operating systems and devices. Users expect and require secure access to their applications and content from wherever they may be.

This is all part of an accelerating pace as businesses look to speed innovation and responsiveness to gain meaningful advantage over their competition. The business loves it, but it creates a variety of challenges for the IT professionals tasked with supporting the needs of these business users. For example:

- Keeping systems and applications up to date
- Managing many more applications - both on-premises and in the cloud
- Providing secure access to legacy applications
- Accommodating different business user preferences - whether it's hardware, OSs, applications, or devices

## Introducing VMware Horizon FLEX, Fusion and Workstation

Horizon FLEX, Fusion and Workstation offer organizations unparalleled agility, productivity and security while ensuring business users can work anytime, anywhere, across any Intel x86-base device. VMware delivers corporate desktops to laptops and PCs you don't necessarily own - either for mergers and acquisition, contractors, field technicians, or as an enabler in BYOPC and Mac initiatives, even when offline. By delivering Windows on a Mac, Linux on Windows, or any combination of over 200 supported operating systems, VMware can accelerate user acceptance and productivity, while driving down costs.

## Improving Business Agility

Business is dynamic. Needs change quickly. New opportunities open up, others close. Your business users might need more capacity or access to new applications – from wherever they are and on whatever new device they might be using. IT groups are expected to respond to meet these demands in an efficient and timely manner, while maintaining control.

With Horizon FLEX, Workstation and Fusion, IT teams can deliver on the business's operation and technical needs, while retaining complete functionality and control of nearly any x86-based operating system. With VMware virtual machines, the hardware resources are 'abstracted' from the physical system, making that complete operating system portable, hardware agnostic, scalable and secure. This gives business users and IT admins the flexibility needed to stay ahead of today's technology curve while responding to the fast changing needs of the business.

VMware increases business agility in multiple ways:

- **Running Windows on a Mac (without rebooting)**

Business users can continue running the Windows applications they can't live without on the laptop they love, side-by-side, sharing files and system resources with their Mac applications – quickly and reliably.

- **Running Linux on Windows or Mac (without rebooting)**

The ability to run a second operating system is perfect for business users that refuse to compromise. VMware gives them side-by-side access to Linux (and 200 other supported OSs) applications from either their Mac or Windows PC and tablet. They can even turn that upside down, and put Windows (et al.) on their Linux machine.

- **Reducing laptop and PC management costs**

With VMware, you can reduce both CapEx and OpEx costs associated with operating remote laptops with centrally controlled, cloud-deployed, local virtual desktops. It's also easy to reclaim software licenses when de-commissioning BYOPC workers.

- **Eliminating laptop provisioning costs**

With the ability to remotely enable and refresh virtual desktops for remote offices and mobile workers, you can get new resources up and running quickly, prevent downtime and save on time and costs shipping equipment back and forth.

With so many different users and systems to manage, Horizon FLEX, Fusion and Workstation enable IT teams to stay ahead of the needs of users and equip the business to respond to changing market dynamics.

**USE CASE - PROVISIONING CORPORATE DESKTOPS**

In today's workplace, IT teams deal with a diverse set of user preferences. Not everyone wants the same setup. Some want to run Windows, others Mac, others Linux. And different users need access to different applications from different devices. You have contractors, road warriors, field technicians, etc. with a variety of different needs. You also have to control the access different users have to different systems. While some of these preferences may be subjective, a lot of them have a significant impact on user (and business) productivity.

VMware enables IT teams to manage all of this complexity and diversity from a single point. So you can equip your business users with the tools they need to be productive while maintaining necessary standards and control for the company. Unlike VDI systems, which run from a centralized server and limit user functionality and performance, Workstation, Fusion and Horizon FLEX give IT teams the power to:

- Rapidly deploy secure, full-featured, containerized desktops for power users, contractors, road-warriors and field workers on PCs and Macs.
- Manage the desktops from a central point via highly-granular, role-based policies that automatically control who, what, when and how they interact with other systems.
- Automatically verify user info to ensure the right applications and permissions are enabled for each user.
- Allow business users to run multiple Windows and Linux desktops on the same laptop simultaneously for added flexibility and convenience.
- Reduce both CapEx and OpEx costs associated with operating remote laptops.

**Boosting Business User Productivity**

As technology becomes a primary driver for organizational productivity, IT teams' ability to respond quickly to evolving business and user needs is critical. Workstation, Fusion and Horizon FLEX provide fast, easy access to computing tools and resources that might normally require multiple physical systems, or a corporate desktop environment tailor-made for the employees' needs. As a result, new business opportunities can be capitalized on by easily transferring secure virtual machines to new hardware without reconfiguration or rebuilding. Business users are never without the systems and applications they need. And lost or damaged systems can be replaced without unnecessary downtime or prohibitive costs.

There are several key capabilities that enable IT to get business users up and running faster and make them more productive:

**• Embracing the BYOPC culture**

IT can quickly enable business users, contractors and any remote resources with standardized corporate desktops running on user-owned Macs and PC that are policy secured and Active Directory authorized.

- **Extending the life of legacy applications**

Your organization may depend on any number of older, legacy applications that remain mission-critical to the business. Workstation, Fusion and Horizon FLEX enable IT teams to deploy these applications on modern hardware while taking advantage of compliance and security technologies available for the latest host operating systems.

- **Focusing on the application that matters**

With VMware, business users can seamlessly access applications from multiple operating systems on separate monitors, desktops, or side-by-side – whatever they need to be more productive.

- **Accessing desktops from anywhere, even offline**

For road-warriors and offshore development, virtual machines are a better way of securely delivering a local desktop that doesn't rely on a fast network connection.

#### USE CASE - ACCESSING AND EXTENDING THE LIFE OF LEGACY APPLICATIONS

Many enterprises are still running a variety of legacy applications; e.g., accounting and manufacturing systems, that require old hardware and operating systems like Windows XP. A lot of these applications are mission-critical and business users need access to them on a frequent basis. While it's inefficient for the business to keep them running on these dedicated, older systems, it's cheaper and less disruptive than re-writing the applications.

With Workstation, Fusion and Horizon FLEX, IT teams don't need to make this trade-off. They can simplify management while reducing hardware requirements at the same time.

- You can run these applications in virtual containers on modern hardware and make access as easy as any modern app.
- Workstation and Fusion also fill any security holes that might exist in the legacy applications and operating systems. The older applications run without risk because they are encapsulated in a VM on a system with a different 'Host' operating system like Windows 10, Linux or macOS.
- And Horizon FLEX allows IT to manage the legacy applications from a single point in the cloud, execute them, unchanged within their trusted environments, and connect them so they can interact with other systems as needed.
- One government agency is running a series of 40-year old, MS-DOS applications using Workstation and Horizon FLEX. Prior to moving the application to a VM, the business users had to carry five different laptops with them, a different one to access each of the applications. Today, those same applications running on VMware, can be accessed by a single laptop.

## Enhancing the Security of Business User Systems

Cyber security ranks as one of the most important topics in any CIO survey in the last 12 months. That concern only increases when you ask them about the dramatic increase in the number of mobile and remote systems connected to their enterprise systems.

Workstation, Fusion and Horizon FLEX are built on over 15 years of virtualization excellence and provide the most stable and secure local desktop virtualization platform in the industry. Thanks to powerful security features such as policy restrictions and encryption, VMware enables IT teams to manage access, isolate enterprise data, and control all traffic to and from virtual machines. As a result, millions of IT administrators, developers and office workers rely on VMware today. Some of the ways VMware enhances enterprise system security include:

- **Enforced time-based restrictions**

With VMware, IT can create time-bound, encrypted, local virtual desktops for business users that auto-expire and can even remove themselves from remote machines.

- **Enforced desktop isolation**

VMware enables the separation of personal and work-related files by isolating the virtual hard disk from the physical, controlling copy and paste functionality, and restricting drag and drop.

- **Restricted external device access**

VMware protects enterprise data by incorporating policies that restrict the use of USB memory cards, flash drives, video cameras and any other 3rd party devices plugged into a laptop.

- **World class support and a global community**

VMware offers world-class 24x7 support in a variety of packages to suite your needs: ranging from free to full SLA-backed phone support, coupled with an extensive and active community ready to help.

## Learn More

With over 15 years of virtualization excellence, millions of satisfied customers, and a collaborative global community, Workstation and Fusion are the #1 choice for businesses and their IT teams. Whether they are dealing with the diverse user needs and preferences of the business, or trying to manage access to mission critical legacy systems running on old hardware and OSs, businesses of all shapes and sizes depend on these solutions to improve their organization's **agility**, boost **productivity** and enhance system security.

See what Workstation and Fusion can do for your business.

Mac users can try Fusion Pro for free at [www.vmware.com/products/fusion-pro](http://www.vmware.com/products/fusion-pro)

And Windows and Linux users can try Workstation for free at [www.vmware.com/products/workstation](http://www.vmware.com/products/workstation).

\*<http://fliplet.com/blog/enterprise-mobility-statistics-infographic/>



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