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Modernize your digital workspace with Citrix and Unicon

Support a consistent and secure hybrid work culture

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Ready™
Endpoint

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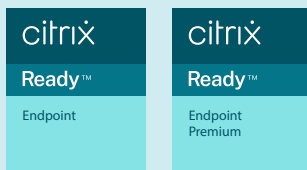
New challenges from hybrid work

The nature of work has changed fundamentally in the shadow of a global pandemic and worldwide supply chain disruptions. More employees are working remotely than ever before, and technology has had to adapt and evolve to meet workers wherever they are. These changes present challenges and opportunities for employees, the businesses that employ them, and the IT modernization efforts that support them.

Many knowledge workers enjoy the flexibility and quality-of-life improvements that remote work can bring. Employers, too, understand that offering remote work gives them access to a larger pool of high-quality knowledge workers and experts. Reduced numbers of permanent office workers can also drive lower associated real estate needs and energy consumption. At the same time, some firms are increasingly concerned with productivity and are treating remote workers differently, encouraging many workers to return to the office.

However these shifts resolve, flexible work scenarios will be critical in knowledge work for the foreseeable future. Though a complete switch to remote work is unlikely for most firms, a hybrid work model with a mix of office, working from home, and mobile work is here to stay. Employees must be just as productive from home as they are in the office. Only then can flexible work scenarios become permanently established, benefiting employees and employers.

IT plays a central role in transitioning to a smart digital workspace. To be productive, workers need full access to their critical applications and data, whether in the office or working remotely from home or another location. They need high performance. They must be able to exchange information with each other while strictly following security guidelines. Solutions must fit into increasingly popular zero-trust security strategies desired by many organizations.

Citrix and Unicon

Citrix and Unicon have partnered to unify on-campus and remote endpoints and deliver virtual apps and desktops across any x86 device through solutions designed to work together.

- Citrix DaaS (desktop as a service) is an easy-to-manage solution that allows companies to securely deliver DaaS and virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) apps and desktops to any device over any network. Deployed from the cloud for maximum flexibility, it supports hybrid environments with a mixture of public clouds, private clouds, or on-premises datacenters.
- Citrix Workspace is a digital workspace solution that delivers secure and unified access to apps, desktops, and content from anywhere, on any device. These resources can be Citrix DaaS, content apps, local and mobile apps, software as a service (SaaS) and web apps, and browser apps.
- The Citrix Workspace app gives users instant access to all their SaaS and web apps, their files and mobile apps, and their virtual apps and desktops from an easy-to-use, all-in-one interface. Citrix Workspace app is a single entry point to all workspace services, providing users with seamless and secure access to all the apps they need to stay productive.
- eLux from Unicon is an ultra light-weight, hardware agnostic, and highly secure x86 endpoint operating system. eLux is ideal for on-premises, VDI, and cloud environments, providing a consistent user experience for thin clients, laptops, and desktop PCs.
- Scout is an endpoint management solution ideal for managing eLux devices operating in complex VDI and DaaS environments. Scout is an easy-to-use, intuitive endpoint management solution that delivers a secure and consistent management experience across eLux and windows endpoints.
- Scout Cloud Gateway is an integrated solution that enables organizations to quickly and securely connect and manage endpoint devices operating in remote, distributed environments without needing a separate virtual private network (VPN).

Together Unicon and Citrix allow organizations to:

- **Create [modern workspaces](#) on existing hardware**. With eLux and Citrix Workspace, organizations can convert and repurpose their existing endpoint devices, delivering a highly interactive experience to users on any device.
- **Accelerate IT modernization and streamline management**. Coupled with the Citrix administrative console, Scout provides a lean and centralized management solution, even as the Scout Cloud Gateway integrates remote devices.
- **Increase the security of remote work**. Augmenting Citrix security solutions, Unicon protects data at all times, managing endpoint versioning and negating the need for separate costly VPNs.
- **Boost employee productivity**. Citrix and Unicon ensure that workers' applications and data are available no matter where they happen to be working, allowing them to do their jobs with less time spent managing their access and software environment.
- **Enhance the user experience**. Citrix and Unicon solutions provide the best possible user experience by fully integrating leading unified communications and collaboration (UC&C) solutions.

A consistent user experience with secure data

Companies must rethink how they deliver IT services, with employees working from multiple locations. Working remotely only makes sense if employees can be productive and remain engaged with coworkers and management. Citrix DaaS and VDI solutions support hybrid work (Figure 1), simplifying app and desktop delivery.

Citrix and Unicon help ensure employee productivity, giving employees full access to virtual desktops with all their data, utilities, and tools. The environment helps ensure corporate data integrity regardless of where work takes place. A consistent user experience lets employees work from anywhere without retraining.

Rapid provisioning of remote workspaces

Employees working remotely need a fully-equipped workspace that supports their monitor, keyboard, mouse, cameras, headphones, and printers. Unfortunately, provisioning disparate remote workspaces can be a significant support headache for IT staff, with potentially thousands of unique devices and users. The eLux operating system unifies this diverse collection of hardware, while the Scout management
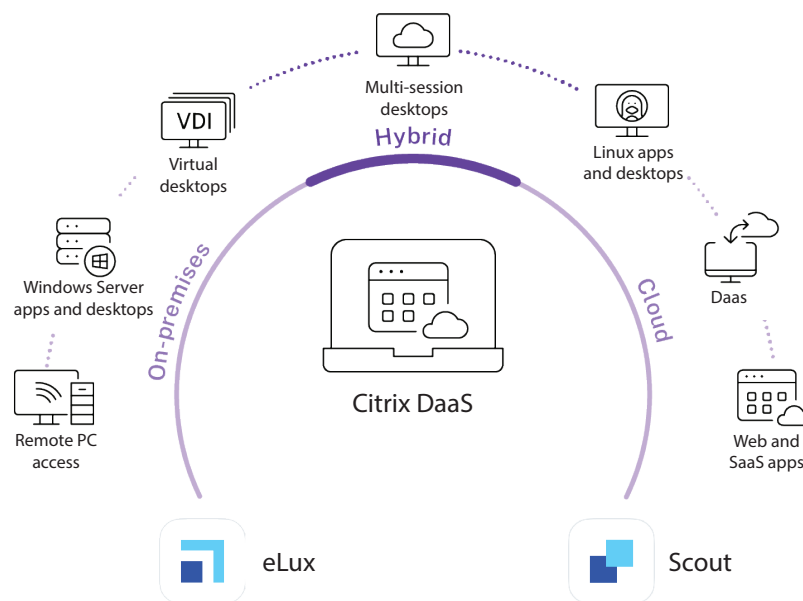

Figure 1. The eLux endpoint operating system and Scout endpoint management join with Citrix DaaS for uniform and fast access and a consistent user and management experience.

console allows the management of all eLux endpoint devices. Scout can even provision Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops on eLux endpoints.

Some organizations are turning to DaaS to enhance their physical desktop strategy. Others are updating on-premises VDI deployments and evaluating cloud options. By managing on-premises resources alongside cloud workloads, you can get the best of both worlds and quickly deliver apps and desktops without losing your existing datacenter investments. You can provision the workspaces your business demands in a few hours.

Modern workspaces on existing hardware

Citrix DaaS and VDI solutions empower companies to deploy secure, remote apps and desktops to users on any device while providing a great user experience with simplified management. Thanks to Citrix HDX technology, virtualized apps and desktops perform like their physical counterparts, regardless of device or connection. Comprehensive cloud-delivered security protects apps and data across users, devices, and networks. The result is better security and increased productivity on your existing hardware.

The highly secure Linux-based eLux operating system supports all x86 devices. eLux is hardware agnostic, lean, flexible, and conservative of resources. Older legacy devices or terminals no longer in use can be put back into operation and quickly and easily converted into modern home workstations. The modular structure of the operating system ensures that only the necessary functions are activated, preserving performance and bandwidth.

eLux always provides a consistent user experience for every employee, regardless of work location. The installation is simple. Onboarding is seamless and can be performed directly by the employee. The eLux image can be created and customized in line with the organization's IT security policies and guidelines. Logos, fonts, and other designs can be embedded to make eLux consistent with corporate branding standards.

Centralized and unified device management

Tools and options are often lacking for managing distributed devices outside the corporate campus. Regular updates and upgrades are necessary to guarantee the continuity of all business processes, keep downtime to a minimum, and comply with security standards. Scout provides administrators with an efficient and centralized solution to manage all eLux endpoint devices, independent of their location.

IT administrators need an efficient management solution for all endpoints, regardless of device location. Scout offers a robust, lean, and intuitive management solution to manage and monitor complex and growing VDI and DaaS environments. The modular architecture ensures that all tasks are simplified and expedited, saving IT teams both time and money. Only required components are updated, so complete firmware updates are unnecessary, reducing network load in distributed environments.

Scout works best for eLux endpoint devices but can also manage other endpoints using the Scout Agent for Windows. The Scout solution and its components are highly scalable and support the use of multiserver environments and multiple options for firmware updates. Scout offers a wide range of customization options for load distribution and availability.

Provisioning remote devices

Remote devices present a challenge, requiring provisioning along with client software updates for security and functionality. Unicon's Scout Cloud Gateway is a secure and efficient solution developed explicitly for this complex task. Devices outside the corporate network connect to the Scout infrastructure via the Scout Cloud Gateway and are managed like all other devices. Once remote devices pass the authentication validation process, they are dynamically connected and managed. The Scout Cloud Gateway is highly scalable via seamless clustering of multiple gateway instances.

Conclusion

Citrix and Unicon hybrid work digital workspace solutions provide security, a consistent user experience, and scalable manageability—independent of work location. View a joint Citrix and Unicon webinar, read the Unicon whitepaper, and learn more about the Citrix-verified Unicon technologies at the Citrix Ready Marketplace.

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