



Efficient, scalable and secure desktop virtualization



McAfee and Citrix collaborate to spur wider adoption of desktop virtualization

Until today, the absence of scalable, easily managed security software for virtual endpoints has been a concern for many enterprises adopting desktop virtualization. To address that challenge, McAfee and Citrix, market leaders in security and virtualization, are collaborating to deliver a suite of products, tools and technologies to secure desktop virtualization endpoints for all enterprises.

Virtualization of desktops, applications and servers promises tremendous advantages for enterprise IT organizations including efficiency, consolidation, manageability, security and reduced power consumption. Yet desktop virtualization, including virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI), has been adopted more slowly than expected.

The security challenge for virtual desktops

As the desktop transforms, security needs to be specifically designed for these new systems, rather than added only as an afterthought. In standard VDI deployments, traditional endpoint security software is installed within each guest. Unfortunately, this leads to endpoint security activities, such as scheduled scans, on-access scans of email attachments, and signature and product updates that happen simultaneously. These concurrent operations accumulate and can max out the CPU and memory, bog down the network and create I/O bottlenecks.

The McAfee and Citrix partnership

The McAfee and Citrix strategic partnership makes virtual desktop security simpler and more scalable for large enterprise deployments. The partnership is the direct result of growing customer demand for integrated security in large enterprise deployments of desktop virtualization. The combination enables granular endpoint security policies for each virtual desktop, while overcoming scalability, performance and complexity challenges that arise from virtualization.

This strategic relationship will enable:

- Citrix® XenDesktop® customers to extend security into their virtual environments
- Hypervisor-native detection capabilities into Citrix® XenClient™ and Citrix® XenServer®. These industry-first capabilities for hypervisor-native detection will also be contributed to Xen.org, together with an open security API.
- The broad Xen® ecosystem, including Xen-based clouds, to offer endpoint security services as a native property of virtual infrastructure

Key points

McAfee and Citrix make security simpler and more scalable for large enterprise desktop virtualization deployments through:

- Supporting three times the number of virtual machines over traditionally deployed anti-virus
- An industry-first hypervisor-native detection that can identify and contain compromised virtual machines
- Operational efficiencies from a unified security and compliance management platform for physical and virtualized endpoints
- Open source contributions that will accelerate development of secure virtualized applications

Optimizing security for virtual environments

The McAfee® Management for Optimized Virtual Environments (MOVE) platform, supporting XenDesktop, provides security tailored to virtualized environments. Rather than running an endpoint security agent in each virtual machine (VM), MOVE Anti-virus (AV) delivers a virtual appliance that consolidates scanning processes and signature updates outside of the VMs, efficiently protecting all virtualized desktops.

The results are groundbreaking. In McAfee and Citrix tests, implementing MOVE AV allows servers to run three times the number of virtual machines, compared to traditional endpoint security implemented inside individual virtual machines. This higher VM density lowers the per-desktop cost of desktop virtualization and allows VDI implementations to achieve the operational payoff enterprises expect. With McAfee and Citrix, security scales.

One security management experience across physical and virtualized environments

We have synthesized the industry's most open and broadly supported security and compliance management platform, McAfee ePolicy Orchestrator® (McAfee ePO™), with the Citrix management environment, Citrix® XenCenter®. You can now centrally manage security policies and activities for each virtual machine, regardless of the hypervisor it uses. The intelligent scanning scheduler allows you to run scans when they are most convenient, based on hypervisor load or when desktops are not in use. Within McAfee ePO, you can view customized security dashboards and reports on each hypervisor, and roll them up as a seamless part of your overall management workflow. McAfee is also working on extending the MOVE compatibility to XenClient to ensure that multiple virtual desktops can run securely and maintain high performance on a single device.

Fostering security in the virtualization ecosystem

With McAfee and Citrix, the market leader in security joins forces with the market leader in desktop virtualization. Together, McAfee and Citrix are contributing technology to the Xen.org open source community to nurture a new wave of security offerings for the virtualized enterprise. Any endpoint security vendor will be able to integrate its security solutions into XenDesktop lifecycle management workflows, while simultaneously simplifying and optimizing security management.

Learn more at www.citrix.com/mcafee, www.mcafee.com/citrix and www.mcafee.com/virtualization.



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About Citrix

Citrix Systems, Inc. (NASDAQ:CTXS) is a leading provider of virtual computing solutions that help companies deliver IT as an on-demand service. Founded in 1989, Citrix combines virtualization, networking, and cloud computing technologies into a full portfolio of products that enable virtual workstyles for users and virtual datacenters for IT. More than 230,000 organizations worldwide rely on Citrix to help them build simpler and more cost-effective IT environments. Citrix partners with over 10,000 companies in more than 100 countries. Annual revenue in 2009 was \$1.61 billion.

About McAfee

McAfee, Inc., headquartered in Santa Clara, California, is the world's largest dedicated security technology company. McAfee is relentlessly committed to tackling the world's toughest security challenges. The company delivers proactive and proven solutions and services that help secure systems and networks around the world, allowing users to safely connect to the Internet, browse and shop the web more securely. Backed by an award-winning research team, McAfee creates innovative products that empower home users, businesses, the public sector and service providers by enabling them to prove compliance with regulations, protect data, prevent disruptions, identify vulnerabilities, and continuously monitor and improve their security. <http://www.mcafee.com>.

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