How To:
Enable VMWare View on G/On
Support for Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI)

Introduction

"Virtual Desktop Infrastructure", or VDI is gaining substantial traction with businesses and Enterprises because VDI promises to extend the optimization and operational advantages of server side virtualization to the desktop. VDI is a technology that offers individual, virtual desktops to users, controlled and managed by and in a centralized backend server infrastructure. Compared to traditional Terminal Services based solutions, endusers are provided individual virtual PC's as opposed to individual user accounts on *shared* PC's.

This document describes the steps required to enable VMWare's VDI implementation (View 3) via G/On 3.5. The document covers the basic configuration of the View client and the special steps required in G/On. Standard configuration of G/On or the setup required to implement VDI in general are not covered herein.

Benefits

- *Improved enduser experience*, just "Plug and Work"
- *Increased security* by addressing all the security challenges associated with network access in an integrated way
- *Mobility*, carrying all required executables on the secure G/On USB device allows access from almost any internet connected PC
- *Lower network complexity*. G/On provides an end-to-end complete network solution connecting users to their virtual desktop.
- *Full tracking of all user access*

The advanced virtualization technologies, such as VDI, are computer centric and do not address the challenges associated with the network between client and server. Administrators looking to deploy VDI are left with old-fashioned classical SSL or IPsec based VPN solutions and continues to rely heavily on a wide range of third party solutions (tokens, certificates, proxies etc.) to provide the necessary security levels required to fulfill the promise of ubiquitous mobility that is the pre-requisite for giving Admins the full advantages of desktop virtualization.

G/On from Giritech addresses all aspects of the networking challenge by securely connecting users to the VDI and provide an optimized and seamless, end-to-end, secure connection between users and the backend virtualization infrastructure. G/On's USB option furthermore provide the mobility support that enables extended use of VDI beyond the internal networks to almost any location on the Internet.

G/On with VMWare View enables IT administrators to make the most of VDI – simple and secure.

How To guide

A few simple steps are needed to enable G/On with a VDI installation (note that this description assumes an understanding of G/On and a previously installed VMWare VDI infrastructure).

Preparing the View 3 client and configuring the G/On server:

1. Prepare the G/On server and associated users and G/On key's. Please refer to standard G/On documentation for details on this process.

2. Package the VMWare View 3 client in a separate directory using ThinApp4 to enable running the client from the G/On USB device without any installations on the client side PC.
   The standard VMWare View client (wswc.exe) requires installation on the host because it uses specific registry settings to function correctly. By "ThinApp'ing" the client all of these settings are automatically contained in the final executable that will run off an external device (the G/On USB device) without local dependencies.

3. Place the ThinApp'ed View 3 client in the Read/Write directory on the G/On server.

4. Prepare the VDI menu items in the G/On administration software to direct the View 3 client to use the G/On connection and to, optionally, allow single-sign-on. The menu items should launch the ThinApp'ed View 3 client (typically called "View_Client.exe" during the ThinApp process) from the USB key.

5. Update all G/On keys

Preparing the VMWare View backend for access via G/On:

To enable access via G/On it is important to configure the View Connection Server to forward 127.0.0.2:port as the unique address *all* G/On enabled View 3 clients *must* use for *all* connections.

Please note that VMWare view uses 2 separate connections: one for establishing a connection and one for the desktop (RDP) traffic. The first connection is managed client side (serverURL commandline setting) by directing the View 3 client to use 127.0.0.2 while the second connection is managed server side by configuring the VMWare Connection Broker to direct all client connections to 127.0.0.2. Please refer to the VMWare View administration guide for more details.

A few simple actions ensures this setup:

6. Set the `serverURL` commandline option on the View 3 client to 127.0.0.2 by forwarding as parameter from G/On – refer to the G/On strings below)

7. Set "locked.properties" `client Host = 127.0.0.2` in the "locked.properties" file on the View server (please refer to the VMWare View manual – please note that this is vital to make the connection work externally)

8. Setup VMWare View server to use port 443, SSL for all communication as this forces the View client to use only one port, 443.

Setting up the correct G/On Strings:

Setup one or both of the following G/On strings on the G/On server. The first (the recommended best practice) does not support singlesignon to the View server, the second example includes simple singlesignon by forwarding the username and password as unencrypted commandline options (*note: only to be used on trusted endpoints!*).

9. **VDI:** 8;%CONNECTION_BROKER,mustedit,noblank%;443;443;tcp;%TRAY_NAME%;%APPLICATIO
N_NAME,mustedit,noblank%;;%VENDORPATH,noedit%\VMware
VDM\Client\view_client.exe;-serverURL
127.0.0.2:443;%LockToProcess,forceselect[True|False]%;%ShowProgress,forceselect
[True|False]%

10. **VDISSO:** 8;%CONNECTION_BROKER,mustedit,noblank%;443;443;tcp;%TRAY_NAME%;%APPLICA
TION_NAME,mustedit,noblank%;;%VENDORPATH,noedit%\VMware
VDM\Client\view_client.exe;-serverurl 127.0.0.2:443 –domainname "SOLUTIONS" –
username %USERNAME% -password %PASSWORD% –desktopname "Solutions
View";%LockToProcess,forceselect[True|False]%;%ShowProgress,forceselect[True|Fa
lse]%

Following this installation will enable users with G/On USB tokens to logon to their virtual desktops from almost any internet connected PC without worrying about security or downloads and installations.

More information

For more information on how to configure Giritech G/On please contact Giritech Support:
support@giritech.com.