AppSense and Citrix XenDesktop™

What does XenDesktop do?
Citrix XenDesktop delivers Windows desktops from the datacenter as a secure on-demand service, dramatically simplifying desktop migration and saving organizations up to 40 percent on desktop management costs. By supporting virtual machine environments, blade PCs and Windows Terminal Services - Citrix XenDesktop gives IT administrators' maximum flexibility to deliver the right desktop to the right user at the lowest possible cost. Citrix XenDesktop delivers optimal desktops through a combination of virtual server, desktop delivery control and desktop provisioning.

What does AppSense software do?
AppSense Management Suite enables Citrix XenDesktop administrators to enforce policy and manage personalization for large numbers of virtual and provisioned desktops. By centrally storing and managing user profile data, AppSense software allows users to receive their working environment through a combination of different delivery mechanisms, while experiencing a personalized environment. This allows for ease of management for IT and a productive working environment for the user. AppSense technology has been specifically designed to work alongside all Citrix application and environment delivery mechanisms, including XenDesktop, Presentation Server™ Platinum Edition and Provisioning Server.

How can AppSense add value to my Citrix XenDesktop solution?
AppSense software provides a central point from which to manage user settings for each virtual or provisioned desktop. Policy information such as application and data access, and personalization settings such as Windows desktop look and feel can all be easily managed for thousands of virtual desktops from one place. AppSense Management Suite extends the value of Citrix XenDesktop in three ways, please see overleaf.
1. USER PROFILE MANAGEMENT

Key to desktop virtualization is the ability to effectively manage this environment without degradation of service to the user. AppSense software enables quick and intuitive implementation of policy and personalization settings for thousands of virtual and provisioned desktops. Using a simple GUI-based approach, user settings such as profile data, folder redirection and application access can be enforced, and personalization settings such as desktop look and feel and language, can also be affected within multiple virtual desktop environments and provisioned desktops simultaneously.

2. DYNAMIC PERSONALIZATION OF POOLED IMAGES

Although many early implementations of virtual desktops resulted in a 1:1 correlation between a physical and virtual desktop, the real benefit of virtualization comes with the pooling of desktop images; that is, creating a sub-set of ‘template’ desktops that can be shared across many users. However, this method lacks the personalized experience previously realized on the physical desktop. By providing dynamic personalization of pooled images on access, AppSense technology is able to give the user a personalized environment whilst utilizing a ‘common’ pooled image. Since personalization data is stored centrally using AppSense and not on the virtual desktop, all personalization settings are persisted on subsequent access. This enables IT to realize the costs savings in reduced image maintenance and storage without compromising the user experience.
3. MIGRATION OF USER SETTINGS TO VIRTUAL DESKTOP

User settings are centrally stored and administered by AppSense software, so all user configuration data stored on the PC can be first moved to a central location before migrating a user to a virtual or provisioned desktop. This negates the need to manage profile data on the virtual server, enables subsequent ease of user profile management when migration is complete and most importantly, provides a seamless migration experience for the user. This all leads to an easier virtual desktop migration and a more effective user management capability once virtualized.

Combining delivery mechanisms

AppSense technology ensures that combining delivery mechanisms occurs with minimal if any disruption to the end user. Policy and personalization settings are maintained across virtual desktop sessions and between delivery mechanisms. For example, users are able to utilize the same personalization settings for their Xen virtual desktop and for published applications within those desktops. The user needn’t know the delivery mechanism is being used to provide them their optimal working experience.
About AppSense

AppSense has been providing technology solutions that enable users to work more efficiently in virtual environments for many years. AppSense is a Global Citrix Solution Partner, a founding member of the Citrix Ready program and has a sizeable number of joint enterprise customers around the world. AppSense technology enables Citrix users to have an optimal and consistent working experience across multiple application delivery mechanisms.

About AppSense Management Suite

Policy and personalization management is delivered through the AppSense Management Suite. The suite consists of Environment Manager, Application Manager and Performance Manager. In combination with Citrix XenDesktop, these products provide intuitive and efficient management of user profile data, manage access to applications and create a seamless and consistent experience for the user.

User Profile Management through AppSense Environment Manager™

Provide consistent and predictable virtual desktops to users, along with the ability for users to personalize their working environment. Easily maintain personalization settings across virtual machine sessions. Combine company policy with user preferences reducing maintenance costs, securing the environment and increasing user productivity.

- Central management and storage of policy and personalization settings
- Desktop environment creation, folder redirection, application and feature lockdown
- Dynamic personalization of provisioned and virtual desktops
- Persisted user preferences in pooled desktop environments

Manage applications through AppSense Application Manager™

Unauthorized and unknown applications are managed within the virtual desktop, ensuring a protected desktop build and consistent user experience. More readily enforce corporate policy and respond to changes in policy instantly by activating or deactivating application access.

- Manage application access by user, group, device and using custom rules
- Enable pooled desktops through profiled application access
- Prevent unauthorized execution to ensure compliance
- Contextual application access based on delivery method, user location or accessing device

Quality of Service using AppSense Performance Manager™

Use business rules to determine optimal use of system resources within the virtual desktop. Provide predictable application response times to ensure quality of service and maximize the number of dynamic desktops per server.

- Optimize hardware resources such as CPU, memory and bandwidth
- Mitigate application response time spikes within each virtual desktop
- By optimizing the resource use with each virtual desktop, more efficient use is made of all server resources, enabling more desktop images to be supported

Web links

- For more details about AppSense technology in virtual environments visit our website: http://www.appsense.com
- You can also try the AppSense Management suite free of charge for 21 days by visiting: http://www.appsense.com/evaluation