

## WHAT IS A THIN CLIENT?

A Thin Client is a mini Personal Desktop Computer with the following Exceptions:

- **Thin Clients have no moving parts** (Fewer failure Points) No Hard Drives, Processor Fans, Power Supply Fans, etc.
- **Thin Clients use 'Solid-State' Flash Storage** instead of a Hard Drives. (The type of Flash Storage you would see on an iPod or USB Thumb Drive.)
- **Thin Clients consume a fraction of the power** than a regular PC.
- **Thin Clients put out a fraction of the Heat** compared to a regular PC.
- **Thin Clients are typically immune to Virus or Malware Threats.** If infected, a simple re-boot eliminates the threat and restores it to a clean state.
- **Thin Clients use 'Embedded Operating Systems'.** Rather than desktop versions of Microsoft XP Professional, Vista, or Linux, a Thin Client uses Embedded Microsoft XP (XPe), Embedded Linux, or Microsoft CE.
- Thin Clients can replace Desktop Computers in some environments, but **Thin Clients are not Desktop Computer replacements.** Thin Clients are used when the application processing is performed by Networked Servers (i.e. Web-Servers, Terminal Servers, Virtualization Servers, Host/Mainframe Systems, etc..)
- To fully realize the benefits from a Thin Client computing environment, centralized 'Server-Centric' hardware and data-center applications and databases are needed.

## HOW CAN A BUSINESS BENEFIT FROM THIN CLIENT COMPUTING?

- **A Simplified IT Infrastructure.** By using Thin Clients to connect to Citrix Terminal Services, Microsoft Terminal Services, Virtualized 'VDI' Desktops, Browser-Based Applications, or Host or Mainframe connectivity, the IT infrastructure is centralized and simplified.
- **Centralized Secure Data.** Secured in server rooms and data centers, data cannot be copied or stolen and is easier to back-up.
- **Reduced IT Maintenance Costs** and **Centralized Application Maintenance.** IT Staff manages applications, patches, and Help Desk Support from central locations using IT Management Tools like Symantec's Altiris Deployment Solution.
- Longer **Return on Investment (ROI).** Because the moving part failure points are eliminated, Thin Clients will last longer than PCs. The main capacity and hardware/software upgrades are more focused on the servers, rather than the high number of PC clients.
- **Reduced Electricity Utility Bills.** Because of the lower power consumption and minimal heat output, large organizations realize significant reductions in power consumption needed to run the IT infrastructure and Air Conditioning Systems)

## WHAT KIND OF BUSINESSES ARE USING THIN CLIENTS?

- Call-Centers with Browser-Based applications
- Bank Tellers accessing centralized bank systems
- Retail Showroom terminals accessing centralized inventory information
- Point-of-Sale Terminals
- Hospitals using Citrix Terminal Services or Windows Terminal Services
- Terminals for Cruise Ships accessing Centralized Systems
- Internet Terminals for Trade Shows and Conventions
- County Library System Terminals and Library Internet Terminals
- School Computer Labs
- Insurance companies with centralized systems and spread-out geographic offices
- Manufacturing and Distribution Center Data Capture Terminals
- Customer Support Representatives using Browser-based applications
- IBM AS400, iSeries, and Mainframe Terminal emulations
- VMWare VDI Desktop Connectivity

