



InstallFree Overview



Company

Founded in 2006 by a team of Windows experts, InstallFree is a leading provider of Desktop Application Virtualization and Management solutions that simplify application delivery, reduce IT costs and increase reliability and end-user productivity. Its executive team includes respected experts in Windows environments with more than 30 years of experience.

Application Virtualization. Designed for Users. Built for IT.

InstallFree addresses a constant struggle for IT: how do you implement a desktop software management solution that will satisfy both IT and end-users, and do it in a cost effective way? Historically, desktop software management required a significant level of compromise by one side or the other.

Now, InstallFree's Application Virtualization and Management solutions finally deliver the best of both worlds.

Eliminating the Constraints of Traditional Desktop Computing

For the first time, organizations can have both centralized IT management of desktop applications *and* completely transparent, decentralized use of these applications by individual PC end-users. It's been a long time in the making, but with InstallFree, businesses are finally able to deliver and manage software applications the same way they need to run their operations: *doing what makes strategic and economic sense — both centrally and locally.*

Benefits

With every business trying to do more with less, InstallFree delivers significant economic benefits in key areas of desktop software management.

Reducing Application Packaging Costs

Anyone who ever tried to implement desktop software management solutions knows that applications must be prepared or "packaged" before they can be deployed. Anyone who ever tried to maintain applications on an ongoing basis knows that packaging is rarely a one-time affair. Need to deploy application updates or add-ons, or modify an application dependency? Repackage. Need to migrate applications to a new OS such as Windows 7? Repackage. Need to deploy applications in multiple environments such as Citrix XenApp or Windows Terminal Services? Repackage.

The result? Application packaging and repackaging becomes a very expensive "business" for IT.

InstallFree's Application Virtualization technology gets you out of the "repackaging business". It enables you to create isolated, modular and portable applications that work anywhere and never need to be repackaged. Need to update applications, add-ons or dependencies? Just package the updates and let InstallFree automatically recompose the applications on the endpoint. Need to migrate applications to a new OS? Do nothing! InstallFree will ensure that the applications have all the resources they need to run, even if the underlying OS does not. Need to deploy applications in physical, virtual and Citrix/TS environments? Do nothing! InstallFree will make sure the applications run as they should. We call this: *package once and for all*.

Solving Application Compatibility Problems

Many applications have multiple dependencies on specific features of the OS or specific versions of other applications. One of the best examples of this is application dependencies on older versions of Internet Explorer. These kinds of dependencies create an enormous problem for IT when trying to migrate to a new operating system -- if you have a web application that requires Internet Explorer 6 or 7, it will simply not run on Windows 7, which includes a built-in version of Internet Explorer 8.

InstallFree helps solve these issues by creating Virtual Applications that are completely self-contained and isolated from their environment. Even applications that are not compatible with the new OS can still run as Virtual Applications as InstallFree ensures they get access to all the resources they need. InstallFree also provides the unique ability to fully virtualize Internet Explorer and run older versions of the browser on new operating systems such as Windows 7.

Streamlining Application Management and Delivery

Packaging and compatibility are only part of the issue. Applications also need to be released into the environment and work flawlessly on any end-user PC. For this reason, IT typically implements release management processes to ensure that new applications are properly tested and have higher deployment success rates. However, with PC environments rarely being uniform, many end-users having the flexibility to install their own applications, and increasing numbers of shared, partially-managed or non-managed endpoints (think contractors, personal computers, etc), can you really eliminate all possible conflicts and ensure successful deployments? Moreover, what do you do if certain application updates need to be rolled back? The typical solution is to completely reinstall the application, resulting in additional overhead for IT and loss of productivity for the end user.

InstallFree addresses these problems through application isolation and modular composition. All InstallFree Virtual Applications are completely isolated from the underlying OS and other applications, ensuring that they never modify the host PC's file system or registry, and will run irrespective of the host PC's configuration. Given that Virtual Applications are never physically installed into the OS, they can easily be deployed and managed on endpoints otherwise not within the control of IT, thereby greatly simplifying the overall management strategy and opening the door to more flexible computing scenarios. In addition, the modular nature of InstallFree Virtual Applications ensures that updates can be easily layered onto existing configurations and, if needed, rolled-back in an instant without leaving anything behind or having to reinstall applications from scratch.

Increasing Endpoint Security, Integrity and Reliability

Desktop security, integrity and reliability are of paramount importance to IT and end-users yet are compromised all too often. Users with admin-level privileges can easily change approved configurations, disable desktop security and management agents, install new applications and inadvertently introduce security risks into the environment. Desktop lockdown seems like an attractive option for IT, but it comes at a high price of affecting end-user productivity and their overall experience with the PC. For example, users with limited privileges cannot even install web-browser plug-ins required for participating in online meetings.

InstallFree addresses this conflict by providing even locked-down users with admin-like privileges from within their Virtual Applications, while at the same time ensuring that none of these modifications propagate to the base application configuration or to the underlying OS. All user changes are saved to a separate file that can then be backed up, transferred to a new environment or even completely reset by IT to restore the environment to its pristine state. Another benefit of this approach is the containment of risk -- even if a user inadvertently installs a malicious plug-in, the contamination will not be able to spread to the OS or other applications.

The result: IT can finally lock down the desktops, while users do not lose their ability to do their jobs.

Supporting End User Productivity and Mobility

Desktop applications are, first and foremost, productivity tools for end-users. As such, end-users expect to be able to use them whenever and wherever they need them. As end-users become more mobile, they expect the same level of application productivity and access inside the office, outside the office, online and offline. In addition, many organizations are now exploring alternative computing models that would allow end-users to bring their own laptop PCs to work, thereby making their computing environment even more "personal" and attractive. The reality of this newfound flexibility is that it makes it much more difficult for IT to properly manage and deliver applications to end-users -- the location is difficult to control, and even the endpoint itself may be difficult (or even impossible) to control.

InstallFree helps support end-user productivity and mobility by decoupling the applications from the host PC, making them available from any device in any location, whether online or offline. Unlike server-based computing or virtual desktop technologies, InstallFree Virtual Applications are executed on the endpoint itself, taking full advantage of local processing and increased performance and do not require always-on network connections. Perhaps more importantly, they appear just as "regular" applications to end-users, thereby eliminating any training or adjustment requirements. In many ways, InstallFree Virtual Applications actually improve the end-user experience compared with physically-installed applications -- they can be instantly updated without the need to reboot the PC, they can easily "roam" from PC to PC and they never create any conflicts with other applications.

Summary

As application virtualization moved from the prototype stage to early pilots to production implementations, cracks that appeared in early solutions have grown into crevices. InstallFree fills the gap.

Leveraging the talents of the best people and ideas in the application virtualization industry, InstallFree provides a unique solution that solves real IT problems better than the rest.

For more information about our products and solutions -- including demonstration videos, data sheets and customer success stories -- or to test-drive our software, visit us at www.installfree.com.