

Make Citrix Faster, More Consistent With Silver Peak

Citrix XenDesktop is a popular way of virtualizing desktops. Across the wide area network (WAN), XenDesktop performance may become unpredictable. Screen refreshes may take too long and mouse movements may become erratic due to increased latency and jitter of the WAN – problems that are only exacerbated when other applications share the WAN connection. The WAN’s limited bandwidth is also a challenge when XenDesktop activities move large amounts of data, such as file transfers and print jobs.

Silver Peak Accelerates Citrix XenDesktop

Silver Peak enables Citrix XenDesktop to perform as well across the WAN as on the LAN). Organizations can secure XenDesktop with SSL or Accelerated IPSec. Network congestion, which disrupts the XenDesktop experience, is eliminated or reduced with Adaptive Forward Error Correction (FEC) and Packet Order Correction (POC). Silver Peak’s byte-level, deduplica-

tion and compression algorithms eliminate excess data from the WAN. Latency problems are overcome by optimizing TCP and selecting the shortest path. Quality of Service (QoS) ensures sufficient bandwidth. Dynamic Path Control identifies the best path improving Citrix’s availability and performance.

Performance Results

Testing shows that Silver Peak can shorten Citrix data transfers by 80 percent (see figure 1) while significantly improving the Citrix user experience. At one customer, a utility provider, users rated their Citrix experience a “nine” or near perfect after deploying Silver Peak. Initially, those users had rated Citrix a “three;” “seven” was considered a success.

All results were gathered with Silver Peak software out-of-the box without any protocol adjustments or special add-ons. Silver Peak strongly encourages organizations to test Citrix performance themselves, as numerous factors may impact individual results.

Summary

- Up to 80 percent improvement in data transfer rates
- Dramatically improved user experience

Testing Details

Testing results for Citrix were compiled within Silver Peak labs and from a utility provider. Within the lab, Citrix was run across a connection with 80ms of latency, .05 percent loss and 10 Mbps of bandwidth. Four common desktop operations were performed – a picture was opened, a PowerPoint presentation viewed, a file copied and a PDF document scrolled through. The results were measured in seconds with and without Silver Peak.

The utility provider used qualitative measurements to evaluate Citrix performance across an MPLS network with 20ms of latency, .05 percent packet loss, and a 1.544 Mbps tunnel. A panel of users were asked to rate their experience performing a range of operations on a ten point scale, with 10 being the best. The group opened, edited, and saved Word documents, Excel spreadsheets, PowerPoint slideshows and Outlook attachments with and without Silver Peak optimization. They also rated their experience viewing a video, a training video, and online training course with audio and video. Individual scores were averaged together to provide an overall score.

Architectural Benefits

- 50 percent lower TCO
- 20 minutes to download and deploy
- No forced upgrades



Figure 1: Citrix operations improve by 60 percent and more with Silver Peak