

# THINSCALE

## THINKIOSK

Accelerating and securing your DaaS  
deployment with ThinKiosk

WHITE PAPER





## Why ThinKiosk for DaaS?

### Why more organizations are looking to Desktop as a Service

Desktop as a service is VDI hosted by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. It is largely seen as more affordable than the archetypical VDI, which is seen as a costly solution to implement. When considering the costs of additional data center infrastructure that is required to host the VDI, on top of the vendor licensing and endpoint costs and the time it takes to move through the various project phases to get to a full-scale production deployment (which can typically take anything up to 18 months to go live), this can be enough for companies not to virtualize their desktop environments. It is in this context that we see how DaaS is taking off as an attractive alternative.

This presents a new set of challenges, however, for both the DaaS provider and the end customer - management, support, and the client devices end users will use to connect to can be problematic, not to mention the security concerns. As desktops are now hosted on an external platform, end customers need to know that there are tools in place to ensure the environment is secure and manageable.

What if you could have a true end to end solution that not only included the delivery of a virtual desktop but also provided a fully managed and secure end point device, all without purchasing any hardware? This is what ThinKiosk with DaaS can provide.

### Simplified and quicker user 'onboarding'

End users, typically, can access a new virtual desktop almost immediately. It's just a case of the IT admin team spinning up a new desktop using the service providers' online tools and granting access to the end users. Equally, it's just as easy to 'offboard' an end user should they leave. In this way DaaS is very flexible.

But what about the endpoint device itself? How do you make sure your end users can securely access these virtual desktops? By installing ThinKiosk on your endpoints, you can enable the deployment of a software-based thin client solution to your end point devices, already configured. No need to worry about deploying new devices and how end users will connect. They simply turn existing Windows devices into fully managed, secure thin clients. All the end user then needs to do is log on and start using their desktop service, with them all having the same look and feel regardless of where they connect from. For the customer it means a faster onboarding and deployment with the ability to scale much faster and to simplify the support of end points.

### Adding value and reducing your costs further

You will already be saving time and money in infrastructure deployment and management costs, but now there is no need to wait for devices to be purchased and deployed, saving you even more. Using existing devices, IT teams can simply deploy ThinKiosk using their standard deployment tools or allow remote users or those that use their own devices to simply download the ThinKiosk software and connect to their hosted desktop service. For you this means reducing costs for the endpoints and increasing the ROI for your existing infrastructure.

### Control over your endpoint experience even in a DaaS environment

One area disputed about DaaS environments is the reduced control of your infrastructure and experience. With ThinKiosk and the ThinScale Management Platform, you have absolute control over your endpoints. End users launch their desktops from the secure ThinKiosk interface, this workspace being easily customized. The platform is multi-tenanted and provides the same management interface across all devices to control the secure workspace delivered by ThinKiosk. This also results in being able to deliver centralized support to your users.

### Speed up your DaaS deployment with existing devices

ThinKiosk is a software-defined solution that repurposes existing Windows hardware into Windows-based thin clients. ThinKiosk delivers end users a familiar look and feel, but more importantly a secure workspace interface from where they can access corporate systems and data, all extremely quickly. No need to wait for hardware to arrive, write and apply policies and exceptions for specific users. All policies user profiles and extra software can be deployed centrally with the ThinScale Management Console. Speeding up deployment and user onboarding.

ThinKiosk also enables flexible working, allowing workers to have secure access from any corporate Windows device, in the office or from any remote location, ThinKiosk fully supports both on and off prem devices.



## Why ThinKiosk for DaaS?

### Deliver a simplified support model

Delivering a software-based client solution as a service to your customers allows you to easily support and control the entire environment, from cloud to client. ThinKiosk includes several enhanced management tools making support much simpler. As all end points would be running the same solution, training of support staff becomes quicker and easier, as does troubleshooting and fixing any potential issues. The ThinScale Management Platform allows IT teams to manage everything remotely. It's like delivering thin client computing as a service.

### Securing the end point

ThinKiosk integrates several advanced security features that not only offer protection to your entire client environment. You can prevent your end users from launching unauthorized applications and services, as well as blocking USB devices, preventing them introducing malware into the environment. As you manage the software-defined thin client elements of the solution you can ensure it's always up to date and meets compliance standards.

### Vendor Agnostic

ThinKiosk supports connection to all DaaS providers, with options integrated in the software settings and is also supported via application and browser connection. From Amazon Workspace to Microsoft's recent Windows Virtual Desktops, ThinKiosk will provide secure access to any virtual desktop.

## Why ThinKiosk? The features & benefits

#### SOFTWARE-DEFINED

ThinKiosk software-defined thin clients run on existing Windows devices as an application without overwriting them, without needing to dual-boot, or booting from an external USB device.



#### LOWER COSTS

ThinKiosk allows you to utilize the hardware that you already own, so with a ThinKiosk solution the cost is purely for the software license, which is one of the most affordable on the market for what it does.

#### SECURE WORKSPACE ENVIRONMENT

ThinKiosk locks down the underlying device OS, replacing it with a Windows-style, intuitive, secure workspace interface, allowing end users access to their remote resources.



#### FAMILIAR END USER EXPERIENCE

The key to any successful solution is giving end users something they comfortable using. ThinKiosk provides a seamless transition to remote/virtual resources, coupled with a familiar user interface.

#### FAST & SIMPLE DEPLOYMENT

ThinKiosk is Windows-based and is easily and quickly deployed to existing devices, turning them into managed, secure thin clients in minutes.



#### CENTRALIZED MANAGEMENT

The secure workspace environment is managed centrally using the ThinScale Management Platform, allowing the service provider to ensure that the environment is secure and up to date.



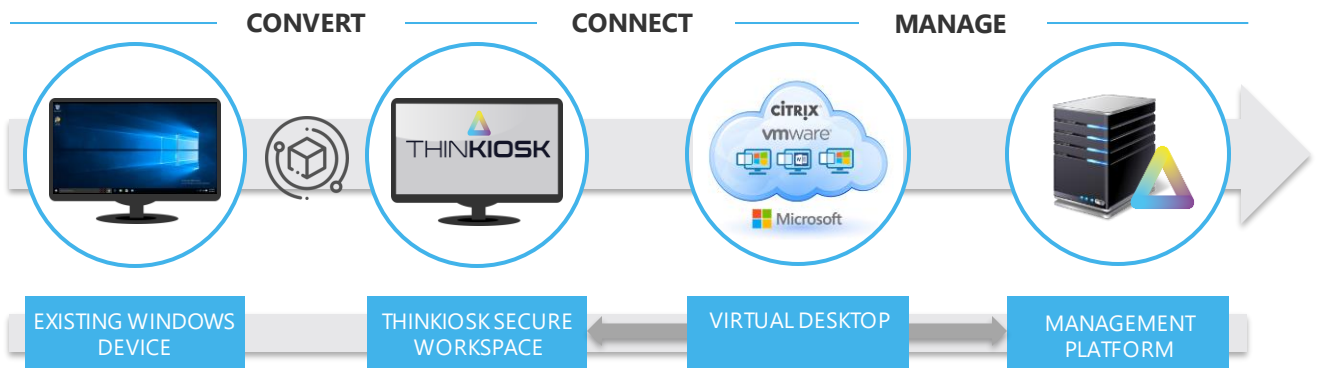
## Why ThinKiosk? The features & benefits



### CONVERT PCS & LAPTOPS INTO THIN CLIENTS

You can quickly onboard users by delivering them a fully managed and secure thin client computing environment. With ThinKiosk you can convert existing Windows-based devices, whether they are PCs, laptops, or even existing thin clients, into ThinKiosk software-defined thin clients, saving you money.

You can then manage the entire environment from a central management platform, without the need to rebuild devices, install a dual-boot environment, or boot from an external USB device. Or you can host the solution and allow the end user to manage their device estate. As ThinKiosk is a Windows-based solution admins can continue using current deployment methods such as Microsoft SCCM for example.



In addition to all the features, benefits, and costs savings. Your users will access an intuitive UI and secure environment from where they can launch their desktop sessions making onboarding seamless and non-disruptive.

### GREATER FLEXIBILITY ACROSS ALL YOUR DEVICES



ThinKiosk supports any Windows-Based X64/86 type device, meaning it can run on Desktops, laptops and thin clients. Both on and off prem. This on top of it running on any DaaS vendor means you have unrivaled flexibility in how you want your end users to access their resources.

Both local and remote resources can be accessed from your ThinKiosk devices, policies on these devices can be as stringent or as laissez-faire as you require based on the user/role on that machine. With ThinKiosk, you are in control of almost every aspect of your end user experience.

### CENTRALIZED REMOTE MANAGEMENT, UPDATING, AND SUPPORT



ThinScale's Management Platform provides centralized configuration and management of all ThinKiosk thin client devices, ensuring devices are all up to date and running the latest configurations, policies, profiles, and third-party software such as the remote connection client software. This allows you to deliver client management as an additional service, either providing the management as the service provider, or hosting it for the end user customer

The Management Platform also includes role-based admin access, allowing delegation of tasks to different admin users so they only manage the customer they are responsible for. Not only that, with enhanced levels of remote support, you can deliver support without the need to travel to the desk to diagnose and fix issues, saving both time and money. You could simply reconfigure their software-defined thin clients if required or let them do it.



## Why ThinKiosk? The features & benefits



### SECURING DEVICES WITH THIN CLIENT COMPUTING

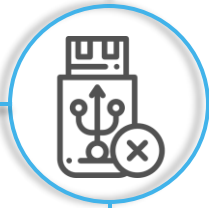
The weakest link in the security chain are the end users, and how they use their devices. You need to ensure that end users remain safe and secure, as well as not being able to introduce malicious files and malware into the environment. By being able to secure the device without overwriting allows end users to take advantage of using their own device or working from locations outside of the office environment.



### PREVENTING UNAUTHORIZED APPLICATIONS

The ThinKiosk Application Execution Prevention (AEP) feature adds an additional layer of security to ThinKiosk by preventing end users from launching unauthorized applications and services.

Employing a rules-based system, IT administrators can now configure exactly which applications end users can launch from their device. These rules allow IT admins to create white/blacklists which contain a comprehensive list of rule types delivering a granular level of control over exactly which applications can and can't run. IT admins can create generic rule sets that allow all Windows OS binaries to run, or they can create a more targeted rule set that allows only those applications signed by a specific digital certificate to launch and run.



### USB DEVICE BLOCKING

How do you prevent end users from plugging in external USB devices? Quite simply you cannot, and so you need a solution that prevents the device from being usable.

An enhanced security feature built-in to ThinKiosk, is its ability to block USB devices that end users could plug in to their device. USB devices are often seen as one of the main causes of security breaches and data leakage, and one that is often difficult to manage.

ThinKiosk is able to prevent these devices from being used, with its USB blocking feature. Enabling this feature means that end users are prevented from being able to access USB-based storage devices when accessing corporate systems and data from their ThinKiosk thin client. This prevents end users from being able to download sensitive company data and also from uploading potentially harmful files as well.



### FULL DEVICE LOCK DOWN

Running the ThinKiosk Client on an end users devices denies them access to the underlying Windows operating system, rendering it disabled.

Instead of the Windows Explorer desktop interface, or Windows Shell, users will access the ThinKiosk Secure Workspace user interface, a simple, easy to navigate user interface from where they can connect to their remote desktops securely. They also have the ability to access local applications if they have the relevant permission from IT to do so. When a user is 'offboarded' you can easily roll them back to their original Windows operating system as the device is never overwritten.



## Why Thinkiosk? The features & benefits



### ENHANCING THE END USER EXPERIENCE

The end user experience is key to productivity. ThinkKiosk enhances the end user experience by delivering a familiar Windows-like secure workspace user interface managed centrally by IT allowing end users to have simple, policy-based access to both remote environments as well as locally installed applications.

This speeds up the onboarding and deployment process as users don't need to be trained on how to use the environment.



### HOW TO DELIVER LEGACY & MODERN APPS SIMULTANEOUSLY

Legacy applications still play a huge part in customer environments today, although in reality there is nothing legacy about them and they are still very much relevant, and very much in use. However, not all of these apps have the ability to be delivered remotely or to be published and will prevent people moving to a DaaS environment. Depending on the age of the apps, they may not be supported using a virtual infrastructure, so how do we embrace the old and allow you to take advantage of DaaS solutions simultaneously?

With ThinkKiosk being a Windows-based solution, you have the ability to install and securely access apps locally on PC's and laptops, as well as being able to update them, and all while maintaining central management and control using ThinkKiosk policy templates to ensure security.

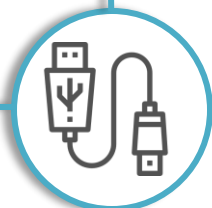
Being locally installed also means that applications can run regardless of whether an end user can connect to a network to access remote systems and can run independently of the remote desktop service. The device will also remain usable, even when offline, meaning it doesn't disrupt end users.



### FAMILIAR LOOK & FEEL

As part of the overall enhanced end user experience, ThinkKiosk employs a unique feature called Magic Filter. Magic Filter is a dynamic key press pass-through feature that traps local keystrokes such as Ctrl + Alt + Del and Windows + L, and passes them directly through to the remote environment, just as if the user was working locally on their device.

This unique feature delivers an enhanced end user experience as the end users have a native Windows feel when using their ThinkKiosk thin client.



### COMPATABILITY WITH EXISTING HARDWARE

Maintaining compatibility with existing Windows-based hardware is a core requirement. Particularly supporting multiple displays for example. Often Linux-based thin client alternatives cannot connect with existing peripherals and as such the customers would need to find compatible alternatives.

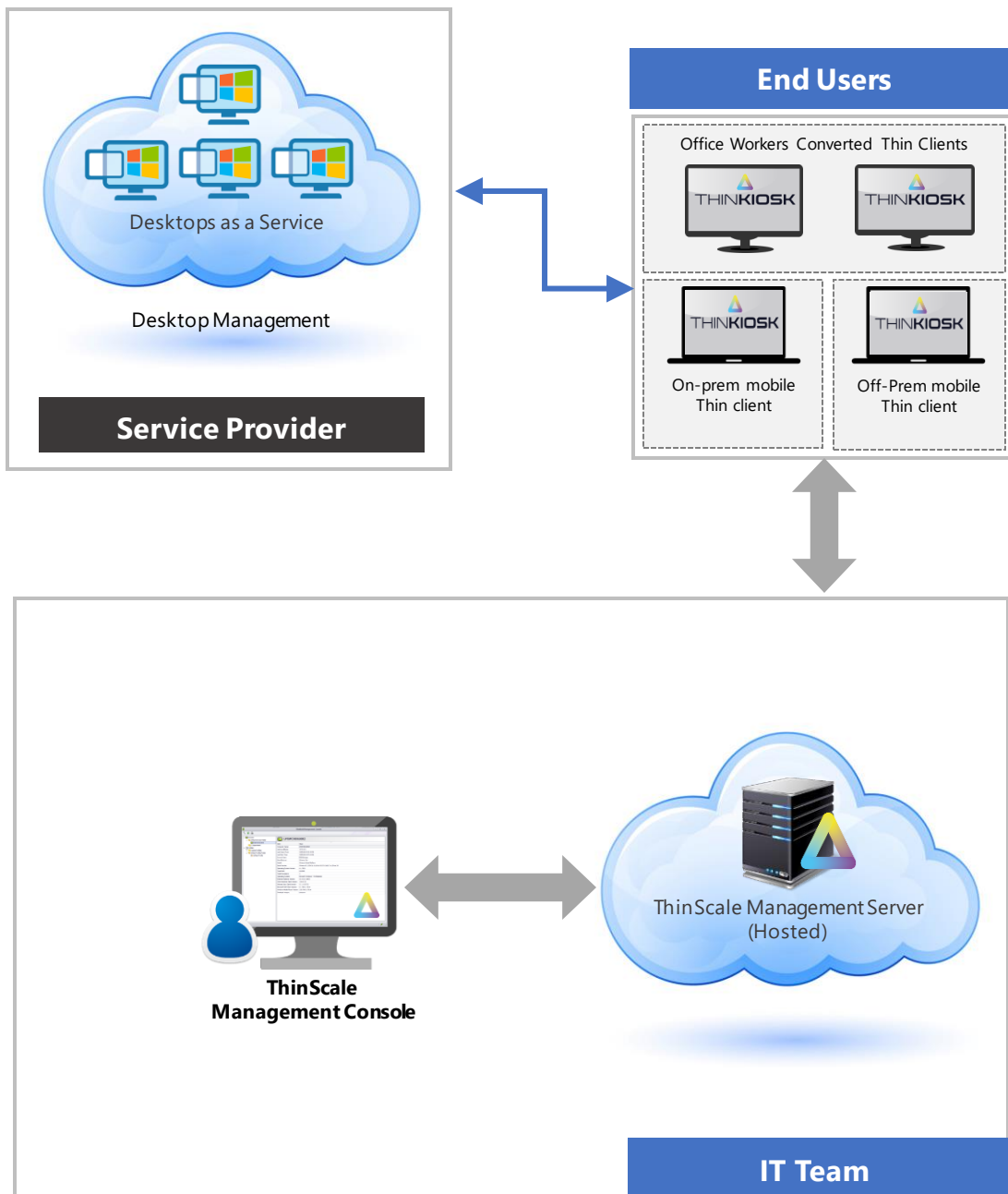
Using existing Windows-based devices and repurposing them as ThinkKiosk Windows-based, software-defined thin clients ensures that hardware compatibility is maintained, appropriate device drivers are still available, and therefore guaranteeing device operation and compatibility. This is also true of the devices themselves, and if they work with Windows then they will work with ThinkKiosk.



## ThinKiosk architecture for DaaS users

ThinKiosk allows DaaS customers to access virtual desktops from secure thin clients quickly and easily using existing infrastructure. These desktops can be deployed quickly from the DaaS service provider, edits to the endpoint policy can be just as quickly and easily deployed with the ThinScale Management Server.

The architecture deployment is simple and designed to manage single and multi-tenant environments. As IT you can manage the user's end points directly from any designated admin PC, from any location.



# THINSCALE

Software solutions that enable IT to deliver the modern digital workplace without compromising on end user experience, security or performance.

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