

THINSCALE

THINKIOSK

Making the Case for PC Repurposing

WHITE PAPER





INTRODUCTION

For many companies, when it comes to both on-premises and remote deployment, the default option is to purchase new devices. This is a large expense for most organizations, however, it is one that can be avoided. Using a solution that can save an organization money, reduces downtime/impact, and will enable better productivity in the longer-term by ensuring that end-users are using something they are familiar with.

The best way to achieve the above goals is to repurpose existing PCs. In this document we will show you how easily this can be achieved using ThinkKiosk. ThinkKiosk converts your existing Windows PCs, laptops, and thin clients into secure, centrally managed, dedicated workspaces, delivering a familiar Windows-based end-user experience, driving down costs, and allowing organizations to unify their user experience, regardless of location.

THINKIOSK CONVERTED DEVICES

SOFTWARE-DEFINED

ThinKiosk runs as a software-based solution on Windows devices. It can be easily deployed to hundreds of machines centrally with no-need for desk-side visits

LOWER COSTS

With ThinKiosk the cost is purely for the software license, as there is no need to purchase new devices, as existing devices are repurposed. Support costs are also much lower.

ZERO DISPOSAL COSTS

Repurposing existing devices means no disposal costs are added to a project. Device lifespan is extended by an average of 5+ years according to ThinkKiosk customers.

FAST & SIMPLE DEPLOYMENT

ThinKiosk is Windows-based and is easily deployed to existing devices, turning them into managed, devices in a matter of minutes. No need for rebooting or dual-booting.

FAMILIAR END USER EXPERIENCE

The key to any successful solution is giving end users something they are used to already using. ThinkKiosk provides a seamless transition to remote solutions, coupled with a familiar UI.

NEW HARDWARE PURCHASE

HARDWARE & SOFTWARE

Purchased hardware is static and tied to desks, losing flexibility. They also need extra solutions in order to effectively manage.

HIGHER COSTS

With hardware you have to factor in the cost of a new device (c. \$750/€500). Management and support costs are also higher if the devices are running a non-windows OS.

COST OF OLD DEVICE DISPOSAL

Any new project will need to factor in the cost of existing devices being disposed of securely and in accordance to the directives governing the disposal of IT hardware. All unnecessary costs.

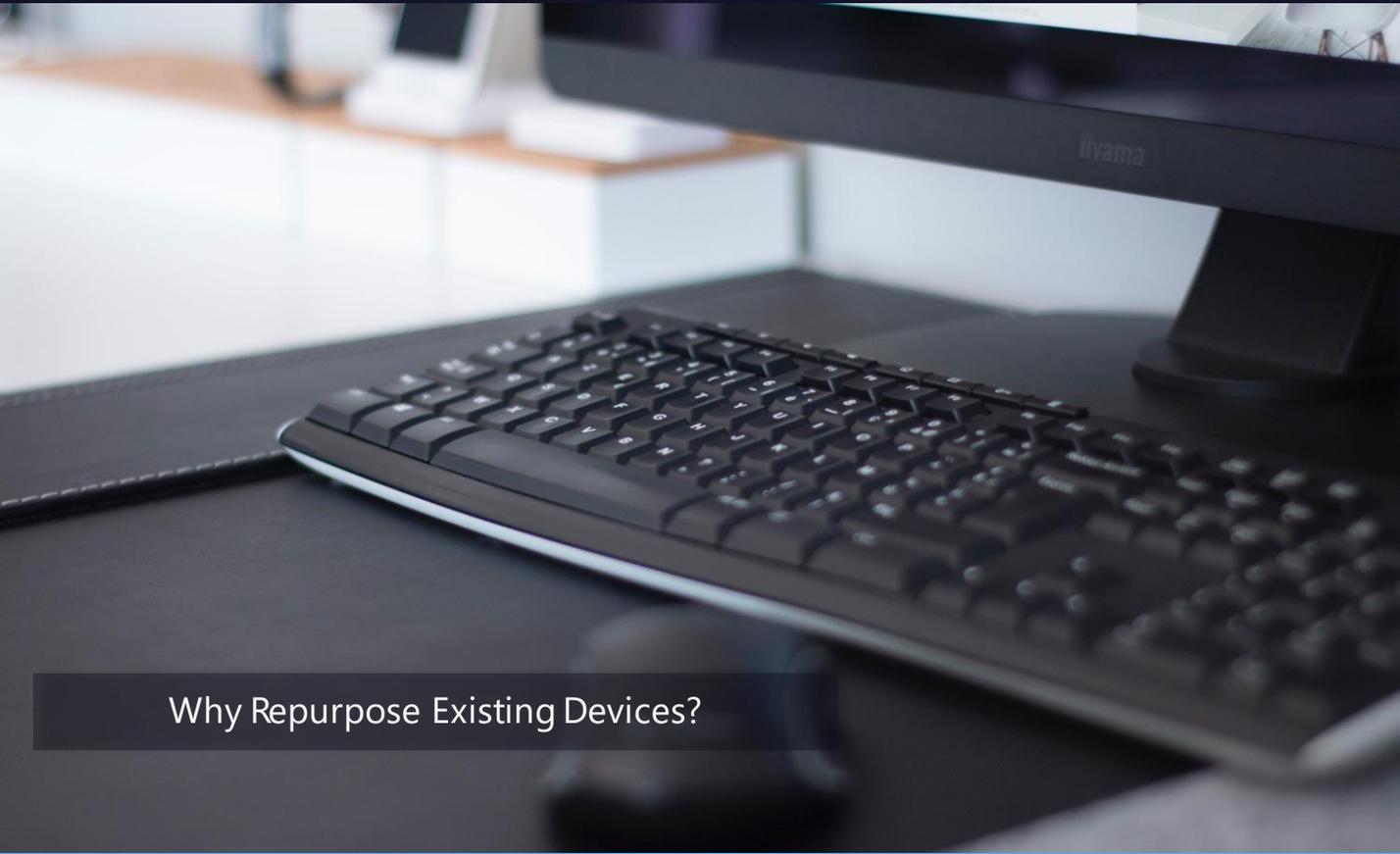
SLOWER DEPLOYMENT TIMES

Deploying thin client hardware will require desktop side visits to decommission the existing devices and to install the new hardware. It will still also need to be configured.

NEW END USER EXPERIENCE

Workspaces, IT will deploy their own bespoke OS or UI. For users this will mean they will need training as it will be unfamiliar. This adds time to the project and will affect productivity.





Why Repurpose Existing Devices?

Putting the end-user experience first

When an organization embarks on an end-user computing project, and after they have selected the most appropriate virtual desktop or remote application solution, often the next step of the project is to review how the end users are going to connect to this new remote environment.

This is where an organization will typically start to evaluate endpoint hardware options. Rarely in this conversation does the operating system or user experience become a discussion point. Mainly because of the perception that it doesn't matter. In actual fact, it is a very important factor that affects the overall performance of your workplace.

Managing the cost of endpoint computing

The other point that gets overlooked in the client discussion is the fact that the organization's end-users will already have some form of PC or laptop in place that they use today. So now IT is looking at replacing perfectly useable devices, and in some cases new and modern devices, which unnecessarily increases the overall cost of what will already be an expensive project.

What to do with the redundant devices?

There are additional, sometimes hidden or forgotten costs, in removing the currently deployed PCs and laptops, as disposal needs to be carried out by professional, certified companies.

You could just give these old devices away to charitable organizations, but that's not straightforward either. What about the confidential, corporate data that is sitting on the local hard drive? Again, that's another cost to ensure that the data is securely wiped.

So, the question is, why not continue using these devices and simply convert them to into secured endpoints? That's where ThinScale and ThinkKiosk can help by doing exactly that – by simply and cost-effectively turning existing devices into secure and compliant corporate machines.



PC to Thin Client Conversion

ThinKiosk is the first, Windows-based, software-defined corporate workspace conversion solution that delivers at scale, secure, centrally managed endpoints on any Windows device. It delivers a unified thin client user experience on all Windows endpoints, turning your existing Windows PCs, laptops, and thin clients into secure, centrally managed Windows-based thin clients, dramatically reducing hardware and management costs, while at the same time enhancing the end user experience.

At the core of what ThinKiosk delivers, is its ability to allow an organization to repurpose their existing devices into secure corporate client devices, but it delivers much more than that.

Using a lightweight, intuitive, Windows-style workspace user interface, ThinKiosk enables end-users to securely access their virtual desktop and application environments, from Citrix, Vmware, Microsoft, AWS, and more. It also allows access to IT-curated applications installed locally on the device as, ThinKiosk does not overwrite or delete the device OS. If necessary, you can very quickly and easily roll back to the original device state.



Taking this software-defined approach enables greater flexibility when it comes to on-premises and remote working. ThinKiosk is like a software-defined solution that delivers a secure workspace environment on an end users' corporate endpoint, without the need to rebuild it, or dual-boot it. The environment is secured centrally by IT using the advanced security features built into ThinKiosk, ensuring that no data can become compromised, and that no harmful actors can be introduced into the corporate environment.

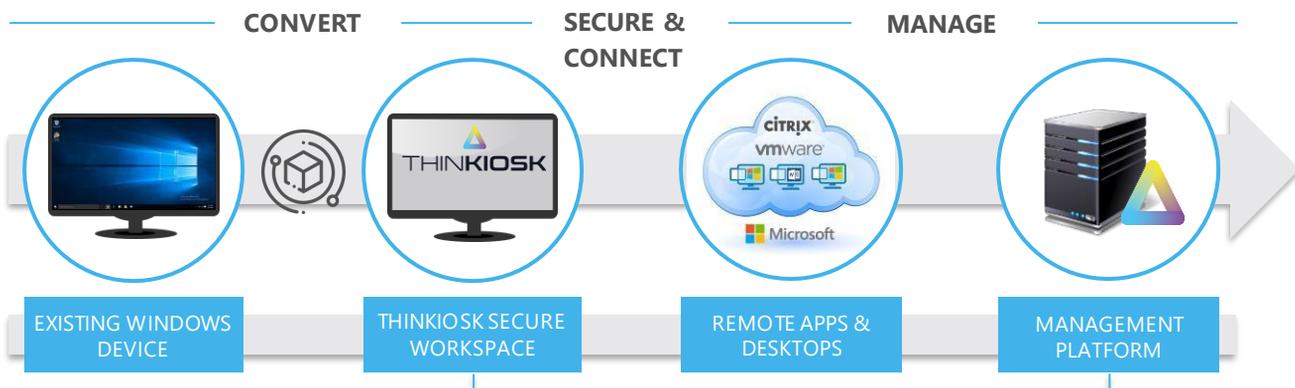
ThinKiosk is 100% vendor agnostic and is not tied to any specific hardware or vendor allowing you to avoid vendor lock in, and for deployment to different types of hardware, from mini PCs to existing thin clients. For the IT team deployment is just a simple case of dragging and dropping profiles to the relevant ThinKiosk-enabled devices and end users. ThinKiosk itself can easily be deployed using the same tools you use today.

WHY CONVERT PCS & LAPTOPS WITH THINKIOSK?



Turning your current Windows devices, whether PCs, laptops or even existing thin clients, into ThinKiosk machines, saves costs in hardware acquisition as well as ongoing management. It also ensures an organization can be more environmentally friendly by not disposing of perfectly usable devices and purchasing new hardware thin client devices.

IT can manage the entire environment from a central management platform, without the need to rebuild the device, install a dual-boot environment, or boot from an external USB device. Being a Windows-based solution admins can continue using current deployment methods.





Why ThinKiosk?



SIMPLIFIED MANAGEMENT & SUPPORT

Once deployed, ThinKiosk allows IT admins to not only control, manage, and update the converted thin client devices, but also the software running on them. They also have access to a range of advanced management features allowing them to manage and configure Windows Security, Firewall, and Windows patching and updating.

IT admins also have the ability to deliver remote support such as issuing power commands, remote log off, shut down and restart, as well as being able to update ThinKiosk policies on the fly. All are delivered remotely and without the need for a desktside visit, therefore reducing support costs.



WORKS WITH THE WINDOWS OPERATING SYSTEM

As ThinKiosk is a software-defined Windows-based application, then it naturally supports and works with your current versions of Windows PCs, from Windows 8 all the way up to Windows 11.

If it works on Windows, it will work with ThinKiosk! It makes the IT admins' work simpler and easier as well as provides a familiar look and feel for end users. ThinKiosk Windows-based endpoints also deliver: Reduced cost of VDI licensing as no VDA license required, hardware compatibility for external devices, support for unified communications solutions, reliable wireless network connectivity, and support for existing Windows tools & processes.



SMARTCARD SUPPORT

Security is nearly always at the top of the must have list of features when any organization considers deploying client devices, especially when they are deployed in public facing areas or sensitive environments such as healthcare where confidentiality and protection of data is paramount.

Thin clients are fast becoming the de facto standard in these type of environments, but they still need to be secured and protected. To aid to these additional levels of required security, ThinKiosk software-defined thin clients include integrated support for all the leading smart card solutions, enabling end users to simply tap to login.



FAST DEPLOYMENT

For IT administrators, ThinKiosk takes just minutes to install, by simply deploying the ThinScale Management Platform and logging on to the ThinScale Management Console to deliver centralized management and configuration to the entire thin client estate.

Deploying the ThinKiosk Client to convert your desktop PCs into thin clients, being a Windows app, can easily be deployed centrally integrating into existing desktop deployment tools with no need to change existing processes, and no need for USB sticks or dual-booting.

Equally, should you need to roll back to the original PC state as it was before ThinKiosk, then that is simple too, as ThinKiosk does not overwrite or delete the original operating system.



Why ThinkKiosk?



SCALABLE ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE

Converting PCs using ThinkKiosk enables you to scale and convert thousands of Windows-based PCs, laptops, and thin, all managed from the integrated ThinScale Management Platform.

As a software-defined solution, ThinkKiosk delivers flexible scalability and as such it supports any Windows-based device, from any vendor, therefore avoiding any potential lock-in with manufacturers. New devices can be simply deployed and configured in minutes by applying the IT configured policies and profiles.

The ThinScale Management Platform is designed to support a distributed client environment, allowing you to manage both HQ offices and remote branch office locations, as well as remote workers, all using a single management console.



CENTRALIZED MANAGEMENT

ThinScale's Management Platform provides centralized configuration and management for all ThinkKiosk endpoints, ensuring that all of your devices are up to date and running the latest configurations and patches.

As well as providing patch management for the Windows OS and 3rd party software, the ThinScale Management Platform allows IT to fully control all endpoints in their environment, applying permissions, configurations, and power settings both en-masse and granularly based on device or end-user.



HARDWARE COMPATIBILITY

Maintaining compatibility with existing Windows-based hardware is a core requirement within the business. Often Linux-based thin client alternatives are unable to connect with existing peripherals such as dictation solutions, specialized printers, and unified communications devices. Click [here](#) to see how Windows-based thin clients compare to their Linux-based counterparts.

Using existing Windows-based devices and repurposing them as ThinkKiosk Windows-based thin clients ensures that this hardware compatibility is maintained, the appropriate device drivers are certified and still available, and therefore the devices can continue to be used.



CENTRALIZED PROFILE & POLICY CONFIGURATION

ThinkKiosk allows IT administrators to configure a profile that defines how a ThinkKiosk endpoint behaves, from appearance settings to security settings.

These ThinkKiosk profiles are stored centrally on the ThinScale Management Server which in turn allows you to configure profiles centrally, and then deploy them out to individual ThinkKiosk thin clients, or groups of ThinkKiosk thin clients instantly, ensuring IT remains agile and able to meet the demands of end-user security.



Why ThinKiosk?

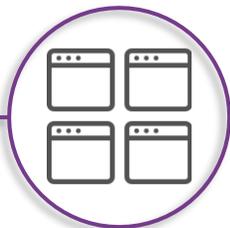


FAMILIAR END USER EXPERIENCE & MAGIC FILTER

The end user experience is key to the productivity and speed of accessing patient information and data. ThinKiosk enhances the user experience by delivering a familiar Windows look and feel coupled with an intuitive secure workspace user interface that enable fast and easy access to remote environments. It also allows end users to have access to locally installed applications (based on admin set policy) should they need to work offline.



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



THIRD-PARTY APPLICATION DEPLOYMENT

As well as the ability to centrally deploy updates to the ThinKiosk thin clients in your environment, the ThinScale Management Server also enables IT to update any third-party software components that are installed on the ThinKiosk thin clients.

For example, software components such as the Citrix Receiver and the VMware Horizon Client can all be updated centrally from the management server, ensuring end users are always up to date and able to take advantage of the latest features.



LOCATION AWARENESS

Once converted, a ThinKiosk thin client is fully location aware, meaning it's contextually aware of the locations from which end users are connecting from, delivering the right experience

By delivering a fully integrated location awareness feature, ThinKiosk is contextually aware of any location from where an end user may be connecting from, enabling true mobile working. End users can connect from different departments within the same office location, from remote locations such as coffee shops and branch offices, or even from home. All delivered securely and seamlessly, without the end user having to deal with the complexity of having to remember different URL's or connection details.



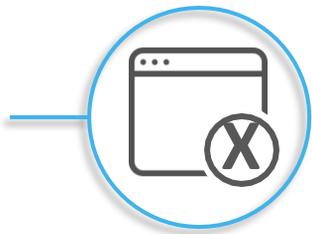
USB DEVICE BLOCKING

USB devices are often seen as one of the main causes of security breaches and data leakage within an organisation. Users plugging in their own USB memory sticks and other write-enabled media devices and copy potentially sensitive data onto them and remove from them from the corporate environment.

ThinKiosk is able to prevent these devices from being usable 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.



Why ThinKiosk?



MALWARE PREVENTION

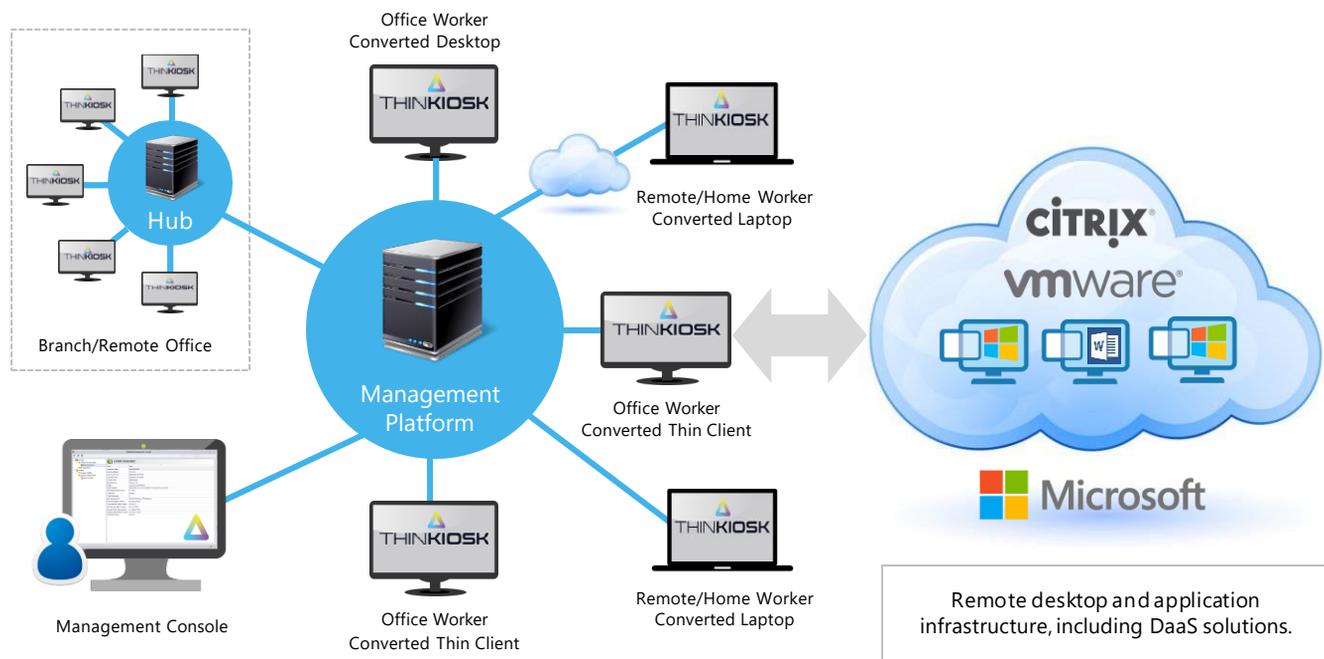
The ThinKiosk has inbuilt features that add an additional layer of security to ThinKiosk by preventing the execution of unauthorized applications or services.

Employing a rules-based system, IT administrators can now configure exactly which applications end-users are allowed launch on their endpoint device. These rules allow IT admins to create white/black lists 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.

High-Level Architecture Overview

Deploying the ThinScale Management Platform allows you, from the ThinScale Management Console, to centrally manage your ThinKiosk thin client devices, providing profile management, device grouping, device management (including remote control and remote power functions) and centralized software updates.

ThinKiosk is simple to deploy, requiring minimal infrastructure. It is highly scalable, and can also be deployed in a distributed model, making it ideal for a HQ environments as well as branch office/remote working deployments



A Hub Server can be deployed in remote and branch office locations to manage its own local ThinKiosk Client devices acting as software deployment points, reducing the amount of data sent between office locations when deploying software packages to clients.