

Windows 7 Deployment Solutions

Determining what works best for your
organization

Victor Utz MCT, MCTS, MCITP

Key Concepts

- WIM files
- Answer Files
- Win PE

Images / WIMs

- Contain the image of the machine
- Can include applications and files
- Not hardware dependent
- 32 or 64 bit dependent
- Can be updated/managed offline

Answer Files

- XML format
- Can be created/modified with Windows SIM
- Can automate install functions including domain join

Windows PE

- Booting OS for Windows
- Installs to RAM
- Manages installation of image WIM
- Bootable via PXE, CD-ROM, USB

Know your options

- WDS
- MDT -LTI
- SCCM-ZTI

WDS –Answer Files

Windows Deployment Service

What it does:

- Allows network based installations of images
- Can work with answer files for automation
- Allows image selection based on architecture
- Can store and organize multiple images
- No built-in accommodation for USMT
- Driver management requires work-around

Intended for:

- Works well for smaller businesses or for storing lesser used images for infrequent deployments
- Free and included in Server 03 sp2 or higher
- Install can be fully automated
- Good for thick image deployment
- Good for new machine deployment
- Minimal configuration required

Requirements:

- Active Directory
- DHCP
- DNS
- An NTFS partition for image store
- Local Admin credentials on the WDS server to configure
- Domain User credentials to deploy an install

MDT – LTI

Microsoft Deployment Toolkit & Light Touch
Installation

What is MDT

- Free
- Formerly Business Desktop Deployment (BDD)
- Manages a more complex deployment
- Uses deployment packages
- Uses task sequences
- Can manage USMT process
- Can manage non-PNP drivers
- Allows “Light Touch Installation”
- Works with WDS for PXE booting

What is LTI?

- Microsoft definition
- Utilizes MDT task sequences to automate installation and configuration steps
- The “light touch” involves PXE booting and choosing image

Intended for:

- Diverse configuration deployments
- Thin-Image deployments
- Automating USMT process
- Complex driver requirements
- “Medium sized” organizations
- Best suited for 500 units or less per deployment

MDT Requirements:

- Windows Server 2003 R2 or newer
- MMC 3.0
- MSXML 6.0

SCCM –ZTI

System Center Configuration Manager & Zero
Touch Installation

What is SCCM?

- Formerly SMS
- System Management Software
- Vast number of features including software and OS deployment
- Includes Asset inventory tools also useful for deployment
- Required for ZTI

What is ZTI

- Uses SCCM OS deployment features
- Process can be fully automated including follow-up configuration
- Includes refresh, replace, or new computer deployment scenarios
- Does not require any human interaction with computer*

Intended for:

- Large or very large businesses
- Thick or thin image strategy
- Complex USMT processes
- Frequently changing image configurations
- Images affected by user role
- “Scheduled” deployment times

Requirements:

- SCCM 2007 SP2 or newer implementation*
- MDT

Universal Concerns

Issues you need to deal with regardless of solution choice

Image Design Choice

- Thick or Thin?
- Expected change frequency and method?
- Configuration management

Application Compatibility

- Defining supported applications
- ACT 5.0 tool
- Live testing
- Pilot Groups

Solution Maintenance

Right tools for the job

Maintenance Strategies

- What events will have an impact?
- How will changes be implemented
- How will post-deployment install process be handled?

What types of events require an image modification?

- Hotfixes/Patches?
- Version Changes?
- New Applications?
- Application Removal?
- Configuration Change?

Maintenance Tools

- DISM
- WSUS
- Group Policy Objects

Q&A and Best Practices Discussion

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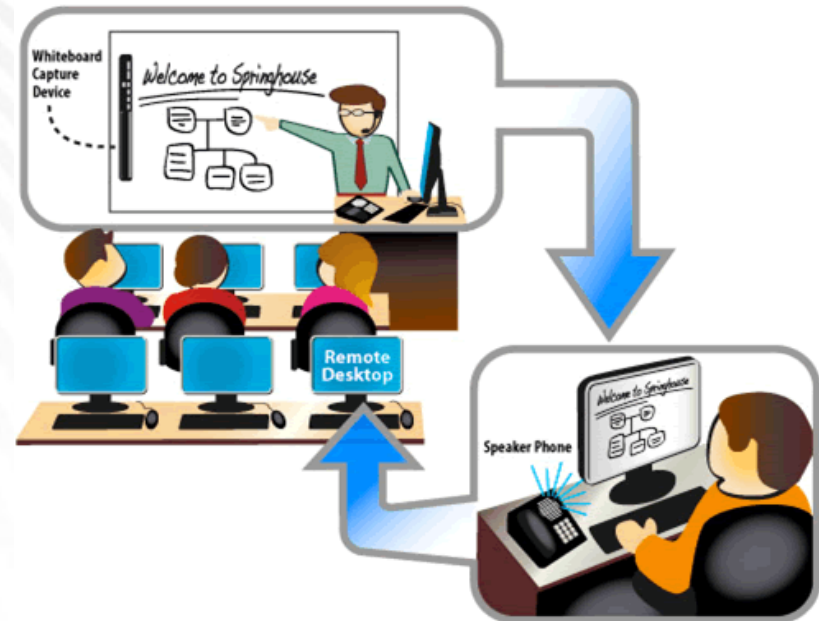
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The Windows 7 logo, featuring the four-pane window icon in blue, green, yellow, and red, followed by the text "Windows 7" in white.

Upcoming Windows 7 Migration Clinics

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Malvern, PA – June 29th

Reston, VA - May 14th

Richmond, VA – June 2nd & 11th

Washington, DC – June 30th

For full event details and registration
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Event Overview

This one-day **Windows 7 Migration Clinic** dives deep into the migration and deployment planning strategies for Windows 7. Through a series of in-depth presentations and exercise demonstrations, we will highlight the new tools and technologies designed to enable successful Windows 7 migrations and deployments.