Standardizing Your Terminal Emulation: Proven Strategies from Consulting Services

If your enterprise uses more than one terminal emulator, you have too many emulation assets on your hands. Over time, it’s easy to accumulate a large, unwieldy, potentially risky infrastructure of configuration files, macros, HLLAPI applications, and other collateral from multiple emulators. The solution is to standardize on one emulator. But migrations can be risky, complex, and time-consuming. That’s why Micro Focus Consulting Services uses specialized tools and a proven methodology to help you standardize on one emulator.

Best Practices for Deploying a New Terminal Emulator
Consulting Services recommends using a project-driven approach to emulation deployment that includes a high level of communication throughout the process. Doing so will help you ensure that you’ve satisfied all steps within your standardization project, and will help keep your project on track.

Best practices for deployment include:

- Developing plans to communicate with user groups and key personnel throughout the process.
- Identifying technical and user requirements, subject matter resources, and risk mitigation.
- Analyzing and conducting inventory of user requirements, macros and configuration files, and legacy applications.
- Assessing which macros and configuration files are required.
- Packaging, testing, and deploying to selective user groups. Conducting pilots to minimize user disruption.
- Testing for both technical issues and user acceptance.

Preparing
Large-scale terminal emulation deployments have significant risks in terms of delays, cost, and user acceptance. Performing a high-level assessment allows you to identify risks at an early stage and plan mitigation strategies to address them.

Best practices for preparing include:

- Identifying key personnel such as project managers, IT staff, and user group representatives.
- Developing a project communication plan.
- Developing a plan for satisfying technical and user requirements for your Windows 7 environment.
- Assessing which files and other resources will be required for the deployment.
- Developing a high-level snapshot of your environment including hosts and usage, operating systems, terminal emulators, connection types, macros, legacy applications, custom configurations, file transfer protocols, and security requirements.
- Identifying risks and developing mitigation strategies.
- Helping to build consensus among various groups about which features to use for information privacy and other security mandates, central file management, and productivity.

Tip
Consulting offers a unique methodology and specialized tools that help you consolidate custom user files from multiple emulators into our formats. Our approach greatly reduces the burden and complexity of moving to a single emulator by ensuring that unwanted and risky files are automatically consolidated and eliminated during your conversion.
Conducting Inventory
Conduct a detailed inventory for each user group to determine which user applications and configurations are critical, used or not used, meet security requirements or not, and whether your terminal emulator requires integration with custom applications.

Performing an inventory of your current emulation collateral provides the data you need to make sound technical and business decisions about what to carry forward. It also helps identify needs for customization of Micro Focus® Reflection® and for integration with other applications.

We apply proven methods, onsite interviews, and specialized tools to develop a detailed snapshot of each user group’s configuration.

Best practices for conducting inventory include:
- Working with people knowledgeable about user groups to determine critical needs for each group, including file transfers, batch transfers, and security and access requirements.
- Gathering and documenting all the configuration files, macros, and UI customizations that are actually used by this group.

Assessing and Planning
The success of your deployment depends on careful assessment and planning. You’ll need to analyze your inventory data to make key technical and business decisions about what to carry forward and deploy. And it's critical to be sure that your macros, configurations, and other files will work in the new Windows 7 environment. You’ll need to convert and test macros and configuration files, and test any relevant custom applications to ensure that they will be compatible with the new operating environment.

Best practices for assessing and planning include:
- Performing an initial analysis to determine which configurations to carry forward and how to do it.
- Consolidating your macros, identifying security problems, and eliminating sensitive data from macros.
- Determining strategies for controlled user access and centralized file and session management to reduce support costs.

Packaging, Building, Testing, and Deploying
Deployment is a complex process that requires careful design and testing to make sure user requirements are satisfied.

Best practices for packaging, building, testing, and deploying include:
- Determining how many packages to create for multiple business units, and how to package files so that they can be easily updated and maintained.
- Designing and conducting pilots to ensure issues are addressed before larger scale deployments.
- Designing your deployment to reduce maintenance for your new platform and beyond.
About Consulting Services
The Consulting Services team has been helping organizations design, deploy, and standardize on terminal emulation solutions for over 30 years. Our consultants are the most experienced in the industry, combining years of proven hands-on experience with specialized tools, processes, and methodologies.

We know that following a proven methodology is critical to ensuring the success of your project. If you partner with us to employ the best practices described above, we can help you reduce the workload for your teams, see a measurable business impact, and receive a better return on your software investment.

About Micro Focus
Since 1976, Micro Focus has helped more than 20,000 customers unlock the value of their business logic by creating enabling solutions that bridge the gap from well-established technologies to modern functionality. The two portfolios work to a single, clear vision—to deliver innovative products supported by exceptional customer service. www.microfocus.com