

Replacing VMware's ThinApp with Application Virtualization

Micro Focus® Application Virtualization is an agentless tool for building and deploying virtualized copies of applications. Application Virtualization not only does everything VMware's ThinApp does, it does it better. Making the switch is easy, and with our simple standalone pricing there's no reason not to.

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Say No to the Supersize

Like VMware's ThinApp, Application Virtualization is an agentless tool that lets you build and deploy virtualized copies of applications. Unlike ThinApp, Application Virtualization is not becoming part of a larger, more expensive suite.

If you're considering how to keep your ThinApp functionality without paying for the upgrade to Horizon, take a look at Application Virtualization and see how easy the switch can be.

What is Application Virtualization?

Simple—it's ThinApp, but better. Application Virtualization is an agentless tool for quickly building and deploying virtual applications that run as executable files. While it is remarkably similar to ThinApp, it offers a few distinct advantages, including tested and ready-to-deploy application templates, application harvesting, faster predictive streaming and a new app store experience—the web application portal.

What Does It Do?

Agentless Application Virtualization

Like ThinApp, Application Virtualization does not require a local agent or any back-end infrastructure to function. Applications run as executables and are completely independent. This allows you to isolate applications from each other and reduce .dll conflicts, registry issues and other problems.

Application Access without Admin Rights

You don't need to have administrative rights to run virtual applications built from Application Virtualization. Users can seamlessly move from open PCs to locked-down PCs and run their applications without interruption and without bothering IT for help.

"After evaluating multiple solutions, including ThinApp, one customer said: "We found that Novell (now part of Micro Focus) Application Virtualization provided the functionality we needed and cost significantly less than the other products."

MICHAEL MOUREY

Manager of Infrastructure Engineering
Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne

Application Packaging

Application Virtualization lets you choose between three methods to create virtual applications:

- **Application templates**, which are very simple, but provide less control over configuration. You can build Internet Explorer 6 with a few button clicks, for example.
- **Application snapshot**, which takes a bit more time than using a template, but is also wizard-driven.
- **Manual configuration**, which offers advanced control for application configuration.

APPLICATION HARVESTING

Application Virtualization can also harvest the applications on an existing machine. It quickly scans through the machine's registry and virtualizes the entire application list using application templates.

Simplified Deployment

By virtualizing your applications with Application Virtualization, you can distribute and run them like any executable file, including via email, a central file store, from a USB drive and more. Users simply click on the application icon and it runs—no installation or configuration needed.

WEB PORTAL

Application Virtualization comes with a web application portal. Users no longer need to contact IT to request applications. Instead they visit the web application portal, authenticate, and then select the applications themselves. You can simply manage a central store of applications for users to choose from and define who has access to which applications.

LICENSE TRACKING

You can also use the web application portal to make software license tracking much easier, including reporting which licenses are being used, how often and by whom.

PREDICTIVE STREAMING

With Application Virtualization, applications can be executed via streaming five to 20 times faster than traditional downloading. Using this technology, users can run an application from a company file share or through the web application portal. Application Virtualization then pre-loads the necessary components to execute the file immediately and predicts which portions of the application it should stream next based on user behavior. Now you can stream even the largest applications quickly and easily without users getting impatient.

INDEPENDENT PATCH DEPLOYMENT

Application Virtualization deploys software patches to the virtual application independent of the application itself. This means you don't need to worry about repackaging new virtual applications every time a new patch is released.

No Complex Back-End Server

Application Virtualization does not require a local agent or any back-end infrastructure to function. You can drop it into your environment and put it to work immediately. If you choose to use the web application portal, Application Virtualization supports Active Directory and Micro Focus eDirectory™ so you can authenticate users through either system, and it uses a small browser plugin to run the published virtual applications.

Costs a Lot Less Than Upgrading to Horizon View

VMware is requiring ThinApp customers to upgrade to its Horizon View suite. This is fine, if you're looking for all the other functions that come with Horizon. If you just want solid application virtualization, however, this means you'll soon be forced to upgrade to Horizon or switch to a different product. Why fix something that isn't broken? For a limited time, for every ThinApp license you currently hold, you can get Application Virtualization licenses and one year of maintenance for the cost of maintenance alone.

How Hard Will It Be to Switch?

It will be extremely easy: For all your existing ThinApp snapshot-packaged virtual applications, Application Virtualization version 10.0.1* includes a ThinApp migration wizard. By using your existing virtual applications as a reference, Application Virtualization will rapidly repackaging your existing virtual application portfolio using a simple step-by-step wizard.

* Version 10.0.1 has not yet been released. It should be released a few weeks after publication of this paper. Please contact us to confirm availability.

But don't stop there. Application Virtualization can have your entire application portfolio virtualized and deployed to your workforce in just a few steps:

Step 1—Run a desktop scan on an existing machine to see which applications can be immediately turned into virtual applications using templates.

Step 2—For uncommon or custom applications, run the Application Virtualization studio application on a clean PC and run either snapshotting or manual mode to build the virtual applications.

Step 3—Use the GUI studio application to further customize snapshotted applications or harvested applications when you need to use the product's advanced features. No more editing INI files with your favorite text editor!

Step 4—Deliver and manage your applications. You can deliver apps over email, on USB drives, using a program like Micro Focus ZENworks® Configuration Management, or through the included web application portal.

Step 5—Don't pay to upgrade to a suite you don't need (unless of course you need it—then knock yourself out).

So, Why Spend Money If You Don't Have To?

Application virtualization is designed to make computing environments more flexible, less expensive and easier to operate. By bundling ThinApp into a larger product, VMware has made it increasingly difficult for most organizations to realize these benefits.

Luckily, there's Application Virtualization. You can continue to virtualize applications just as you are today without undergoing an expensive upgrade or trying to justify that large expense to your boss.

Keep your application virtualization solution slim by moving to Application Virtualization.

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



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