

# Virtual Desktop Infrastructure increased security, reduction

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*Jennifer Ving, Defense Contract Management Agency Santa Ana contract price/cost analyst, gets ready to log into her system set up with the Virtual Desktop Infrastructure. The VDI will provide agency employees with additional computing capabilities while simultaneously reducing the support costs of maintaining and deploying desktop computer systems. (Photo courtesy of DCMA Santa Ana)*

**T**he Information Technology Directorate recently embarked on an initiative

to provide the agency with additional computing capabilities while reducing the support costs of maintaining and deploying desktop computer systems.

The Virtual Desktop Infrastructure initiative will deliver enterprise-class desktop control and manageability while providing a high level of user familiarity and increasing mobility within the agency's workforce.

VDI is the practice of hosting a desktop operating system within a virtual

environment, running on centralized servers and storage.

"Once VDI is fully deployed, we will totally change how we think about data: AAA — access, anytime, anyplace," said DCMAIT Executive Director Jacob Haynes.

The benefits of VDI include users having greater options for mobility, increased data security and the reduction in risk of data loss. All employee files and software applications will be located on agency servers at the Data Centers, allowing end users access from almost anywhere. Desktops will be readily accessible 24 hours a day, giving the end

user the "anywhere accessibility" of a laptop with the added benefit of their data being contained securely within the DCMA network.

The agency as a whole will benefit in reduced support costs, improved security and greater flexibility while allowing DCMAIT to more readily adjust to the business needs of the agency.

The transition to a virtual desktop is similar to receiving a new computer at the office; the components themselves are new to you but the underlying operating system and tools are the same, familiar and intuitive.

# offers greater mobility, of data loss

## VDI HARDWARE EXPECTATIONS

A new user will first notice the central processing unit, or CPU, has been replaced by a small box called a Zero Client. The Zero Client is a piece of hardware that acts as an interface to the user's virtual desktop, which actually resides on a server in a DCMA Data Center. The Zero Client is essentially a scaled down version of a PC but contains no hard drive, no moving parts, minimal memory and uses less energy. It connects directly into the DCMA network.


The Zero Client does not run any software or operating system. It simply

relays the inputs and movements from the keyboard and mouse to the virtual desktop on the server, which then sends back the screen images to the monitors. VDI users will be able to access their same virtual desktop from any Zero Client in the agency.

Users can also access their virtual desktop from any internet connected Windows-based PC. The PC requires a common access card reader and the applicable software, called the VMware View Client.

The agency's current and primary focus is to deploy Zero Client hardware to employees in the "basic office" category, as

defined in the Position-Based Deployment initiative. These employees work primarily in one location and are not required to travel extensively, so they are not issued laptops or mobile devices.

As of June, there were 120 Zero Clients deployed and in use by basic office and DCMAIT customers as a part of the initial pilot. The pilot will be expanded to include DCMA headquarters through September. By the end of Fiscal Year 2013, the agency will have deployed 4,300 Zero Client machines. When the initiative is completed at the end of Fiscal Year 2014, the agency will have 6,100 Zero Clients deployed and in use. 

## DOD Inspector General recognizes Contract Integrity Center director

Russell Geoffrey, Defense Contract Management Agency Contract Integrity Center director, was awarded the 2012 Joseph H. Sherick Award for his work at DCMA — and specifically as the chairman of the Department of Defense Procurement Fraud Working Group steering committee — during the 23rd Annual Inspector General Honorary Awards Ceremony in Alexandria, Va.

The Sherick Award is the highest honor bestowed on non-Department of Defense Inspector General employees. It is granted annually to an individual who distinguished him- or herself by exceptional service or contributions of the broadest scope to the DOD IG.

"Russ' work with the Procurement Fraud Working Group steering committee has truly been exceptional, netting a number of tangible benefits to DCMA and our customers," said Sharron Philo, DCMA general counsel. "His work has been crucial in resolving a myriad of issues from implementing the contractor disclosure program, coordinating effective remedies on fraud cases impacting our customers to wartime contracting and counterfeit parts issues."

In his nomination memorandum, Randolph R. Stone, deputy inspector general for Policy and Oversight, said Geoffrey's efforts helped ensure all stakeholder agencies and participants had an



*Russell Geoffrey is presented with the Joseph H. Sherick Award by Acting Inspector General, Department of Defense, Lynne M. Halbrooks during the 23rd Annual Inspector General Honorary Awards Ceremony in Alexandria, Va., May 8. (Photo by Eboni Everson-Myart)*

equal opportunity to bring forward fraud topics or issues for discussion and to obtain suggestions.

"Mr. Geoffrey demonstrates the significant impact one individual can have on improving the effectiveness of DOD procurement fraud related activities," Stone wrote. 