Simplify Moving Digital Workspaces to the Cloud with Citrix Cloud Service and AWS FSx

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Cloud-based Digital Workspaces Deliver an Optimal User Experience

Digital workspaces have become the primary platform for the applications and services that end users require to support the processes of a digital business. But while having a single solution for managing user access and delivering the necessary business tools has been embraced as the optimal approach, it puts increasing pressure on the underlying infrastructure. Supporting such digital workspaces requires higher service levels, frictionless access, automated security, and full data protection.

For many organizations, the answer is to migrate some or all of their digital workspace to the cloud, which promises seamless delivery of new apps or services without delay and eliminates several low-value tasks that can strain scarce IT resources. They also gain the ability to deliver new solutions much faster, along with enhanced security and data protection. It's a "win-win" strategy that benefits both IT and the user population. In addition to these use cases, another common use case for running the digital workspace on a cloud service such as AWS is to provide disaster recovery (DR) capability. A small net new footprint, often referred to as a "pilot light" is set up. This pilot can then be scaled up during a DR event.

Corporate management wins, too. Cloud migration provides greater flexibility, enabling IT teams to support changing business processes with alacrity. And with the ability to dynamically size storage, compute, and other resources, the cloud offers greater cost efficiency and nearly eliminates the need to make capital investments in on-premises infrastructure.

Citrix and AWS Deliver a Verified, Comprehensive Cloud Solution for Digital Workspaces

While there is no single approach to moving the digital workspace to the cloud, the cloud migration must be seamless and ensure that all expected benefits are delivered when the project is complete. An important decision point for delivering a successful project is choosing a comprehensive

cloud platform that supports the entire workload or platform. An excellent choice is offered by the partnership between Citrix and Amazon Web Services (AWS), which are working together to deliver an optimized cloud digital experience. The partnership leverages the strengths of both vendors and gives the customer a complete, turnkey solution.

Citrix provides the cloud digital workspace. Citrix Cloud Service is a proven and easy migration from on-premises deployments that has minimal to zero operational impact on the user community. With Citrix Cloud Service, existing apps and services are delivered to users in much the same way as with the on-premises solution. However, adding new apps or services is often simpler with a cloud solution, and provides both speed and flexibility that allows IT to be even more responsive to user needs. In addition, the availability of Citrix Cloud Service is at least 99.5% or higher. Cloud also improves the employee experience, an important factor for many organizations. For IT teams, the cloud deployment enables full control over the digital workspace, with a single management and administrative tool set that works across all users. Management tools cover all aspects of the digital workspace, including identity management, access management, provisioning, service level monitoring, and more.

AWS's FSx service provides a fully-managed native Windows file system, and SMB-compatible, SSD-based storage with consistent sub-millisecond performance. There is also a complete suite of file and data protection services. FSx is built on Windows Server and delivers a full native Windows file system that provides storage and protection for the Citrix Cloud Service digital workspace. For IT teams, this is an excellent option that removes many of the more mundane or low-value tasks around deploying and managing storage. FSx gives IT access to all the critical tools it already uses, such as Active Directory (AD) integration, Namespaces, Windows DFS, and others. Most importantly, using FSx offloads security, data protection/backup, compliance, software updating/patching tasks and the monitoring of storage infrastructure to make sure it meets required service levels. FSx provides all of the benefits of cloud-based storage infrastructure with tight Citrix Cloud Service integrations. IT teams can treat the entire environment as a single operational platform.

This partnership allows IT teams to retain the ability to support the unique needs or aspects of their organization by providing a number of management and operational options. IT can still support specific images, unique user requirements, or company-specific demands on IT that may result from compliance or legal requirements. Cloud migration that can support an organization's individualized needs is now simplified.

This is a broadly applicable solution, but there are two specific use cases that may be primary drivers for some customer deployments. These two use cases are:

- **User profiles**—User profiles are critical to using the digital workspace. The need to ensure that there are no availability issues for accessing the profiles is an important justification for cloud migration. Further, the cloud may make it easier to secure and protect the user profiles.

- **User files**—The benefits of moving user files from on-premises infrastructure to the cloud— availability/resiliency and security/backup gains—are somewhat similar to those from moving user profiles. However, with user files, the scalability of the cloud and the ability to use storage much more efficiently also become key factors that drive this use case.
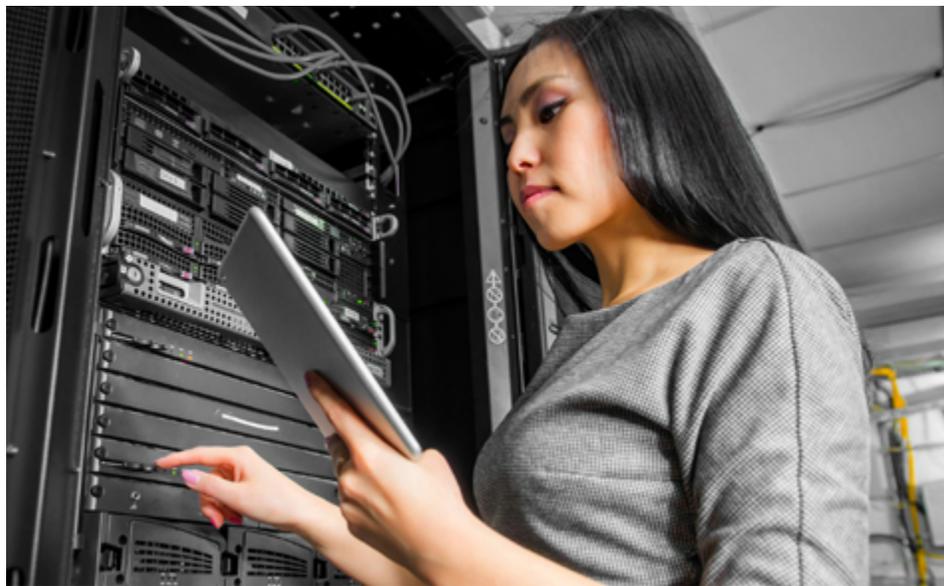
Working with AWS and Citrix Makes It Simpler to Move to the Cloud

For over-stretched IT teams, cloud migrations can become tremendously resource-intensive. Ensuring that this doesn't happen, and that the migration is both simplified and seamless, is one of the most important benefits of the joint Citrix/AWS solution. This partnership is based on substantial technical integration that reduces the demands on internal IT staff to support cloud migration. This is a verified joint offering providing a seamless and comprehensive option for migrating Citrix digital workspaces to the cloud. Both AWS and Citrix are committed to offering this type of combined solution. In addition to FSx, AWS provides a managed service, AWS Directory Service for Microsoft Active Directory, that is validated for Citrix Cloud Services. In the future, Citrix will be offering more verified solutions built with key technology partners such as AWS.

Another important benefit of using the Citrix/AWS solutions is that there are numerous automated processes that support frictionless migration and provide a better end result. Citrix provides automated security provisioning and updating to ensure that the cloud-based workspace will be more secure going forward. FSx automatically integrates the existing AD with the new cloud-based data store, ensuring compatibility with the legacy system. FSx is also natively integrated with other AWS services like AWS IAM for access control, CloudTrail and CloudWatch for logging and monitoring.

Key Takeaways

Moving digital workspace infrastructure to the cloud is an important initiative that reduces demand for IT resources, simplifies meeting security and compliance demands, improves agility, and delivers cost efficiencies. As organizations make the move to the cloud, leveraging verified platforms that provide a comprehensive solution is the fastest and most efficient path. Citrix and AWS have teamed up to offer this holistic cloud platform that can support both lift-and-shift migration and migrations that include upgrading software to cloud-native tools. In addition, both Citrix and AWS have invested in automated tools that speed migration and reduce the demand on scarce IT resources. For more information, please go to:

https://aws.amazon.com/fsx/

https://www.citrix.com/products/citrix-cloud/

https://www.citrix.com/aws

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