While considering storage solutions for VDI, enterprise buyers should ask their vendors the following questions to ensure success of their VDI deployment.

1. **DOES IT OFFER THE BEST USER EXPERIENCE?**
   Virtual desktops (and their applications) running in aggregate will generate massive I/O traffic to the storage system. Today’s end-users, conditioned to using flash-based devices such as smart phones, tablets, and ultrabooks, expect rapid application response times. To deliver this, the storage solution must be able to consistently deliver sub-millisecond response times. XtremIO provides an unparalleled user experience where every aspect of the virtual desktop runs faster – booting, login, file searching, application launches, email and more. XtremIO does not recommend any changes to the desktop image in order to reduce I/O load. For a state of the art VDI deployment, the storage solution must deliver 100/IOPS per desktop or more.

2. **HOW FLEXIBLE IS THE DEPLOYMENT MODEL?**
   Many storage solutions only effectively support small-scale VDI deployments and only with a non-persistent, linked clone model. XtremIO delivers unmatched scalability to any number of desktops, as well as any desired combination of linked clone and full clone virtual desktops.

3. **DOES IT OFFER A COMPELLING $/DESKTOP?**
   Storage is one of the most expensive components of a VDI deployment. Inline deduplication is critical to reducing the storage footprint of the virtual desktop images. When VDI is deployed on XtremIO flash storage, inline deduplication drives down the cost per desktop dramatically. Deduplication also makes persistent desktop full clones, which are highly desired by knowledge workers and executives, economically feasible even at large scale. With XtremIO, the all-flash user experience doesn’t cost more – it’s surprisingly attractive even when compared to traditional disk-based solutions.

4. **DOES IT OFFER ADMINISTRATIVE FLEXIBILITY?**
   Data Center administrators need to manage thousands of desktops. Hence it is critical that day to day tasks such as provisioning desktops, applying patches, upgrading applications and OS versions, and reverting desktops back to their native state be as fast and as simple as possible. XtremIO is fully integrated with VMware’s VAAI storage APIs and in conjunction with XtremIO’s inline deduplication, standard administrative operations are reduced from days to minutes. And administrative tasks can be performed while desktops are in service, without the need for maintenance windows or downtime.
DOES IT SCALE FROM PILOT TO PRODUCTION?
When VDI pilots fail to scale to production, it is often due to storage system limitations. Many storage systems that appear to suffice during a pilot result in unacceptable desktop performance when hundreds or thousands of production desktops are rolled out. XtremIO is delivers consistent and linear performance whether it’s a single X-Brick or a scale-out cluster supporting tens of thousands of desktops, ensuring that any desired number of desktops and any desired level of desktop performance is reached and maintained.

IS IT A PLATFORM OR A POINT SOLUTION?
VDI servers should be dedicated to VDI workloads for the best user experience. Inserting storage optimization solutions in servers steals CPU resources away from desktops and lowers the number of desktops that can be hosted per server. Host-based solutions have recurring license costs and are inefficient since they can only cache or deduplicate data within each server, and not across all servers. XtremIO is SAN attached, requires zero touch to the hypervisor and server, and can very efficiently deduplicate desktop images provisioned across the entire VDI environment. As a storage platform, XtremIO need not be dedicated for VDI. The storage system can be leveraged across many different applications in the data center.

WILL IT SUPPORT FUTURE REQUIREMENTS?
Applications and operating systems are becoming more I/O intensive over time. Storage systems must have adequate performance for today, and performance headroom for the future. XtremIO’s scale-out design ensures that desktop performance will always meet end-user demands since additional performance for new as well as existing desktops can be added by scaling out the storage cluster.

DOES IT REDUCE OTHER COSTS?
XtremIO storage helps reduce server and networking costs too. By allowing idle desktops to suspend and resume on demand, server and networking resources need only be sized for the number of active desktops, rather than having idle desktops remain running. And XtremIO’s massive performance headroom and low-latency response allows administrators to assign less RAM per desktop without worrying about degraded performance from disk paging operations. This allows more desktops to be consolidated per server.

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