

# Microsoft® SoftGrid®:

## Extensive Virtualization Dramatically Streamlines Application Management

The SoftGrid Platform changes applications into centrally managed network services that never again need to be installed. With SoftGrid, users and their application environments are no longer machine-specific, and the machines themselves are no longer user-specific, enabling IT to be incredibly flexible and responsive to business needs, and radically reducing the cost of application management.

SoftGrid completely transforms desktop administration – including deploying, patching, updating and terminating applications. Instead of a complex series of unavoidable steps that consume resources, it becomes a simple, automated process that requires minimal resources and delivers superior results.

Using SoftGrid's patented technologies, SoftGrid enables you to make enterprise application management much faster and affordable, and make your desktop environment much more secure:



**Application virtualization:** Enables applications to run without the need to ever visit a desktop, laptop or server. The most extensive virtualization on the market, virtualizes per user, per application instance, all the key application components, as well as Windows Services. Its patented ability to virtualize applications – without changing source code – means applications can execute without installation, conflicts or changes to the host computer. Using SoftGrid's SystemGuard virtualization environment, SoftGrid decouples applications from the operating system and enables them to run as network services. Applications are no longer installed on the client—and there is absolutely no impact on, or degradation of, the host operating system or other applications. As a result, application conflicts, and the need for regression testing, are totally eliminated.



**On-demand streaming:** Applications are instantly delivered to the desktop resource that needs them, upon user demand. Rather than “pushing” down and installing entire applications, the first time an application is requested, the SoftGrid client rapidly “pulls” only the code necessary to start the program from a central Server – typically 20-40% of the total code. This happens without any degradation in functionality or response time. When the session terminates, application settings and profiles are saved in a non-volatile cache, providing instant access for subsequent use. The cached code enables applications to run locally with full functionality, even without a network connection.



**Centralized, policy-based management:** Application management tasks for all users—including mobile, branch office and disconnected users—are easily administered. You simply set policies for users, applications and delivery, and then turn virtually all daily management over to the system itself. Assigning and changing applications is reduced to a single click through SoftGrid's integration with Active Directory. If you want to terminate the application or the rights, just disable the application in the management console and it is gone, because it was never really “there” in the first place. Extensive IT management also features remote control of SoftGrid clients, active upgrade of virtualized applications, one-click SoftGrid server migration, application check-pointing, and real-time concurrent user session control



**Software asset tracking:** Real-time application usage tracking makes it easy to determine how applications are – or are not – being used so you can better manage license compliance. Because applications are turned into network services, users cannot access a SoftGrid-enabled application without the server being notified and providing authorization. When a session ends, the server records usage data, including application, end user, time and length of use. Detailed, customizable reports enable you to manage application assets much more effectively.



**Desktop security:** Not only are users guaranteed to only get the applications they have the right to, but the applications and licenses that run on laptops are protected from unauthorized use. Applications can even be locked down in read-only mode so that they can't be altered or used in unauthorized ways. In addition, by isolating applications from the OS, you keep the OS pristine, helping prevent and contain security breaches and infections.



**Built to scale:** SoftGrid can be deployed as a complete standalone platform or a modularized virtualization engine that plugs into existing systems management and virtual or hosted desktop solutions, after which on-demand streaming can be added. Simple, fast sequencing and centralized management make it easy to virtualize and manage thousands of applications for tens of thousands of users in widely dispersed locations.



**Business continuity:** Applications and updates can be automatically replicated – just like data – to back-up servers, cutting end-user downtime from hours or days to just minutes. Instead of having to install applications to each terminal server and desktop at the back-up site each time a change is made, with SoftGrid applications are kept up-to-date between live and back-up sites by automatically replicating virtualized applications files on the live sites' SoftGrid servers with the SoftGrid servers at the back-up site (using third-party tools). If you configure SoftGrid user profiles to persist on the network, all user-specific application preferences can also easily be replicated to a back-up site.

SoftGrid is the engine that makes applications as instantly available and easy to use as electricity. When combined with SoftGrid ZeroTouch™ – the front-end system that enables real-time, self-service access to applications and reports – the two products deliver the only complete end-to-end solution for secure application deployment and management.

To learn how Microsoft SoftGrid can help you, please email us at [softinfo@microsoft.com](mailto:softinfo@microsoft.com), or call 877.763.8737.

