Terminal Services overview

Terminal Services provides remote access to a Microsoft® Windows® desktop through "thin client" software, allowing the client computer to serve as a terminal emulator. Terminal Services transmits only the user interface of the program to the client. The client then returns keyboard and mouse clicks to be processed by the server. Each user logs on and sees only their individual session, which is managed transparently by the server operating system and is independent of any other client session. Client software can run on a number of client hardware devices, including computers and Windows-based terminals. Other devices, such as Macintosh computers or UNIX-based workstations, can use additional third-party software to connect to a server running Terminal Server.

Terminal Services is the underlying technology for several features and components of Microsoft Windows Server™ 2003 family operating systems. Among these are Terminal Server and Remote Desktop for Administration.

Terminal Server provides an effective and reliable way to distribute Windows-based programs with a network server. With Terminal Server, a single point of installation allows multiple users to access the desktop on a server running one of the Windows Server 2003 family operating systems. Users can run programs, save files, and use network resources as if they were sitting at that computer.

Remote Desktop for Administration (formerly known as Terminal Services in Remote Administration mode) provides remote access to the desktop of any computer running one of the Windows Server 2003 family operating systems, allowing you to administer your server--even a Microsoft Windows 2000 server--from virtually any computer on your network.

Terminal Services benefits:

- **Brings** Windows Server 2003 **family operating systems to desktops faster.** Terminal Services helps bridge the gap while older desktops are migrated to Microsoft Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional, providing a virtual desktop experience of any Windows Server 2003 family operating system to computers that are running earlier versions of Windows. Terminal Services clients are available for many different desktop platforms including Microsoft MS-DOS®, Windows-based terminals, Macintosh, and UNIX. Additionally, a Web-based version of the Terminal Services client (Remote Desktop Web Connection) provides Terminal Services connectivity to computers with Web access and an Internet Explorer browser. (Connectivity for MS-DOS, Macintosh, and UNIX-based computers requires additional software.)

- **Takes full advantage of existing hardware.** Terminal Services extends the model of distributed computing by allowing computers to operate as both thin clients and full-featured personal computers simultaneously. Computers can continue to be used as they have been within existing networks while also functioning as thin clients capable of emulating the Windows XP Professional desktop.

Terminal Server benefits:

- **Centralized deployment of programs.** With Terminal Server, all program execution, data processing, and data storage occur on the server, centralizing the deployment of programs. Terminal Server ensures that all clients can access the same version of a program. Software is installed only once on the server, rather than on every desktop throughout the organization, reducing the costs associated with updating individual computers.

The Terminal Services Advantage

- From the operations side of running a business, there are really only two things that are important: time and money. The great thing about Terminal Services is that it can save you both.
- From a time-saving perspective, Terminal Services lets administrators install, configure, manage and maintain applications centrally on a few servers. This is usually much faster and easier to do than

deploying applications on hundreds or thousands of desktop machines at different sites across an enterprise. And by making the job of the administrator easier, companies also save money on IT support costs for their information systems infrastructure. Furthermore, centrally-deployed applications are usually easier to maintain (for example, patching and upgrading) and simpler to troubleshoot when things go wrong. As a result, downtime is reduced, users are more productive, and business booms along.

- Another cost-saving perspective is that since in a terminal server environment all application logic runs on the server, the processing and storage requirements for client machines are minimal. This means you can save money by keeping in service older desktop computers running legacy versions of Windows, and focus your limited IT budget on a few high-powered systems to run as your terminal servers. Or you can toss your old desktop PCs and buy thin clients like Windows-Based Terminals (WBTs) instead, such as those from Neoware, Wyse, and other vendors. The options are almost limitless since terminal servers let you run almost any DOS, Win32, or Web-based application from almost any client platform.