Thin Client &
Virtual Desktop Recommendations

V12.0

The Netpresenter client software (Desktop Player and Screensaver) is compatible with most thin client or virtual desktop-based environments. In a traditional desktop deployment, the Netpresenter client is installed onto each end-user's computer. But it is also possible to deploy the Netpresenter software in a thin client or virtual desktop environment, using one of the compatible products that are listed below.

COMPATIBLE THIN CLIENT & VDI PRODUCTS

The Netpresenter client software is compatible with the following virtual desktop solutions:

Product	Notes
Windows Terminal Services Remote Desktop Services	Screensaver requires the Netpresenter GSS service. Some configuration is required.
Citrix XenApp Citrix Virtual Apps	Desktop Player features available. Screensaver
Citrix XenDesktop Citrix Virtual Desktops	All features are available.
VMWare Horizon	All features are available.

The Netpresenter software will be compatible with other products or product versions. Please contact Netpresenter support for an actual overview if your environment is not listed.

THIN CLIENT & VDI IMPLEMENTATION BASICS
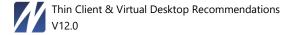
Content Creation and Targeting

The creation and targeting of content within a thin client & VDI environment is not very different from standard workstation implementation. Channels are targeted to specific users, groups or OUs. A single installation of the Netpresenter client software is able to support all users on that server. Individual users receive only content intended for them; they all have their own cache. Our solution also supports roaming user profiles as well as machine-based targeting. In some environments, even targeting on the IP of the physical client device is possible.

Content Display

The display of content delivered within a thin client or virtual desktop environment is no different from how content is displayed when the Netpresenter client is installed on a workstation. However, to optimize the Netpresenter applications' CPU and memory performance, and to limit the amount of screen changes, a few recommendations are listed below.

Increase Slide Times

The default slide time for a presentation is 20 seconds. Since each slide change causes transmission of a new screen image to the client PC you may want to increase the slide time to for example 30 seconds.

Reduce number of templates

Thin client-based solutions optimize the size of screen updates by only sending the difference between 2 subsequent screens. By reducing the number of used templates, the differences are kept to a minimum, thus allowing the server to optimize its network usage.

Optimize image sizes

Match the size of the template background images you use to the screen resolution of your thin clients. Background images that are larger needlessly decrease the server's performance. Also consider reducing the size of used images in the Netpresenter Message Server (under 'Manage Sites').

Avoid CPU intensive effects

Effects (transitions), like any animation, consume precious bandwidth, and are thus best avoided in Terminal Server environments.

It is also possible to configure the Player to ignore effects (transitions) used in presentations. Add the decimal value 16 to the PlayOptions key in the [Player] section.

[Player]

PlayOptions = 16

THIN CLIENT IMPLEMENTATION FOR SPECIFIC THIN CLIENT & VDI PRODUCTS

The following information is provided regarding configuring the Netpresenter client for operation with specific thin client products:

Windows Terminal Services / Remote Desktop Services

The Netpresenter Player can be made accessible in Microsoft Remote Desktop Services environment by installing the client directly onto the server. Given that the user accesses the desktop of the server, the Netpresenter Player is available via the Netpresenter icon in the system tray within the Remote Desktop session. Netpresenter Player instances are launched automatically by the whenever a new remote user connects to the server.

On Microsoft Remote Desktop Services, all functionality is available by default, except for screensavers. To enable the Netpresenter screensaver in Remote Desktop sessions, an extra service needs to be installed: the Netpresenter GSS service.

Citrix XenApp / Virtual Apps

The Netpresenter client is compatible with Citrix XenApp / Virtual Apps. There are various methods of publishing applications in XenApp / Virtual Apps. Netpresenter support will deliver a default Netpresenter Player MSI package for these environments. If additional configuration is required, this can be discussed.

Screensavers require some extra configuration and the Netpresenter GSS service on Windows Server due to limitations within these operating systems.

Screensavers are not supported in some modes as Citrix XenApp / Virtual Apps only publishes the specific application windows created by the application. If the local client has a screensaver configured, that screensaver will display after the screensaver timeout. If you are running a version of Windows Embedded or IoT Enterprise, you might consider running the screensaver on the client device itself.

Installation on the (thin) client: it is also possible to install both the Netpresenter Player and Screensaver on the (thin) client itself, if it is a computer running a supported version of the Windows operating system. Installing the Netpresenter client software on the (thin) client itself is a simple matter of executing the Netpresenter installation MSI file. When the Netpresenter client is installed on the thin client, then the Netpresenter screensaver (if enabled) will display locally on the thin client. This is a possible workaround to situations whereby screensavers cannot be supported in published application mode or when running XenApp on Windows Server.

Citrix XenDesktop / Virtual Desktops
VMWare Horizon

The Netpresenter client is fully compatible with Citrix XenDesktop / Virtual Desktops and VMWare Horizon. There are two main options for installing the Netpresenter client on these environments.

Installation within the virtual desktop: provided that the virtual desktop has one of the supported versions of the Windows operating systems installed, simply install the Netpresenter client by executing the Netpresenter client installation MSI file within the virtual desktop master image. The operation of the Netpresenter client within the virtual desktop is much the same to installation on a physical machine. All features are available including screensavers, which will be launched within the virtual desktop.

Installation on the (thin) client: if the (thin) client itself is a device running a supported version of the Windows operating system, then installing the Netpresenter client on the thin client itself is a simple matter of executing the Netpresenter Player installation MSI file. When the Netpresenter client is installed on the (thin) client, then the screensaver (if enabled) will display locally on the (thin) client.

Please note: for the Netpresenter software to work correctly, every client is assigned a random unique Player ID upon installation. This unique Player ID is stored in the registry at HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\WOW6432Node\Netpresenter\Player\UniquePlayerId

Every (virtual) desktop should have a unique Player ID, to be able to target content to individual Players, users, and (virtual) devices.