Microsoft Server 2012 R2 RDS

vs

Citrix XenApp/XenDesktop

…a comparison

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Introduction

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Naming convention

Citrix

Metaframe

Presentation Server

XenApp

XenDesktop

We'll just call it XenApp (again) ☺

And our users just calls it Citrix

Microsoft

Terminal Services (TS)

Remote Desktop Services (RDS)

Session Based-Desktop Deployment

We'll just call it RDS ☺

Start

Wilco
&
Freek

AaaS
(Agenda as a Service) ☺

E2EVC, Brussels

30
Friday

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Share
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Devices
Settings

Start

Wilco & Freek

Remote Apps vs Published Applications

User Profile Disks vs personal vDisk

RDMS vs AppCenter/Studio

Non-Windows clients vs Citrix Receivers

NEW

Azure Remote Apps & Citrix Workspaces

Shadowing (Remote Control)

Easy print vs Universal print

Configuration locations

Load balancing

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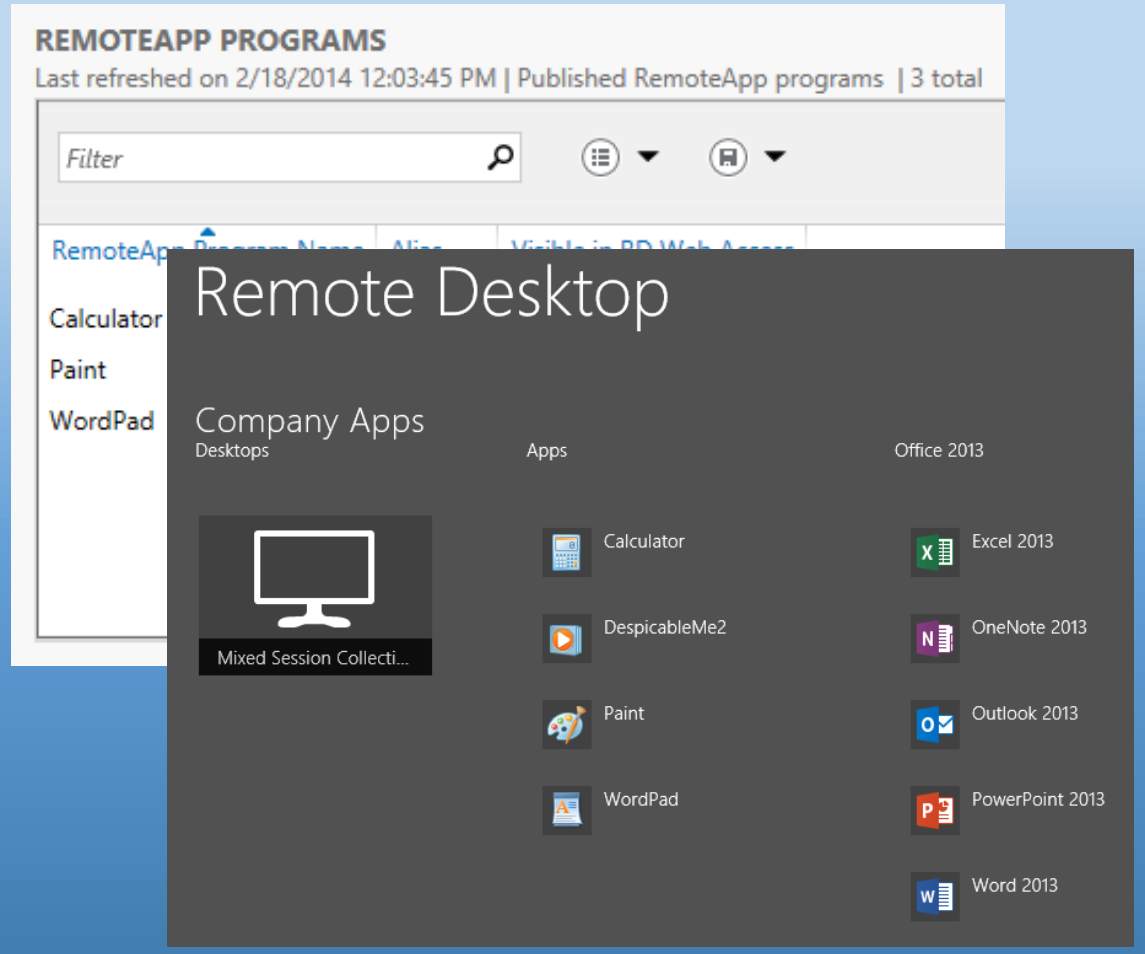
Microsoft: Remote Apps



Improvements in 2012 (R2):

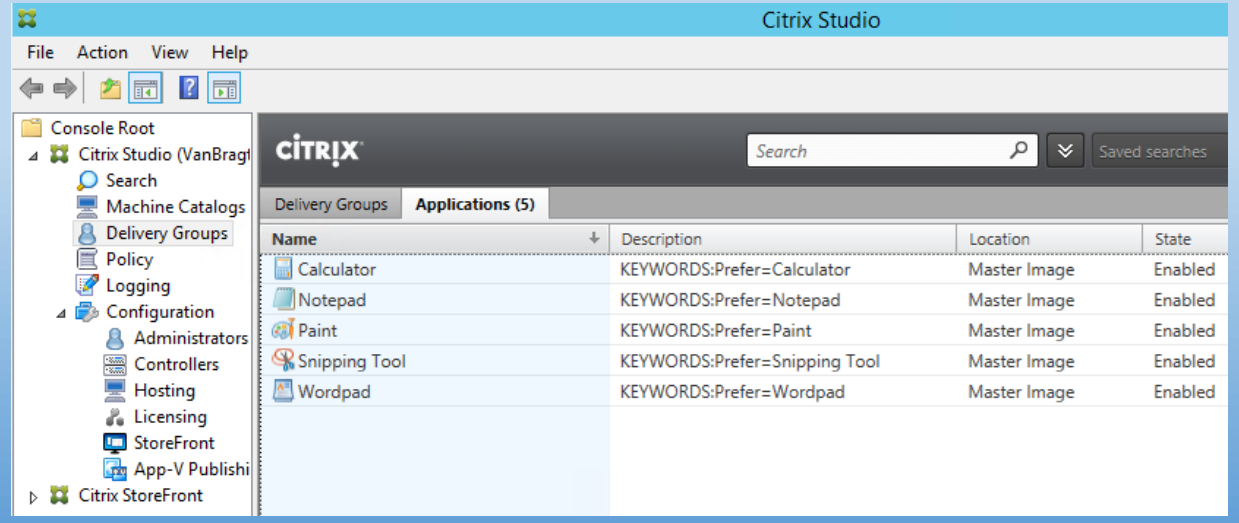
- Admin:

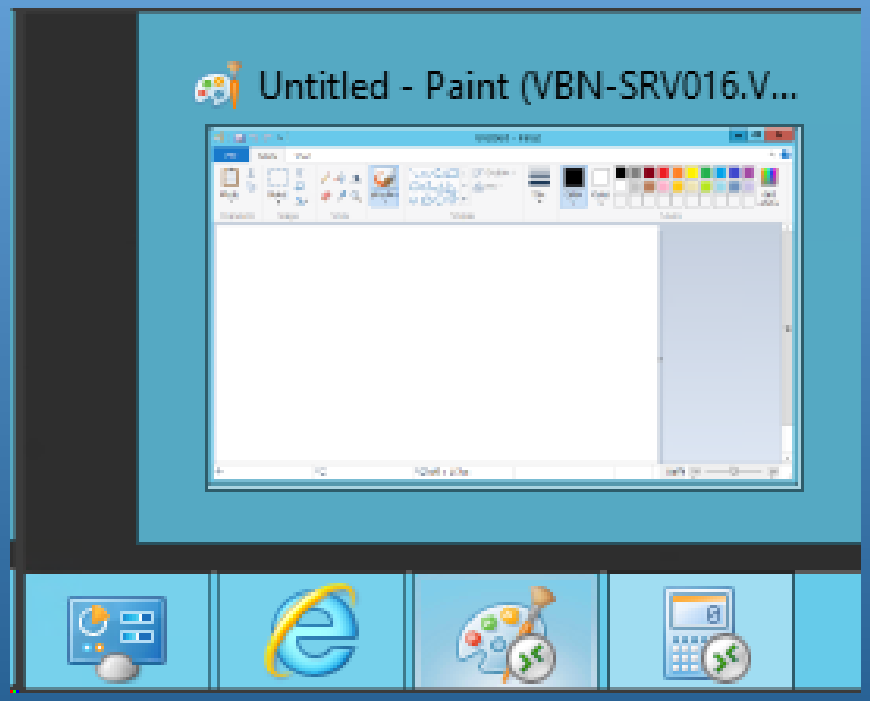
- Centrally managed in RDMS

- User:

- Subfolders
- Full transparent window Support
- Moving & resizing
- Live taskbar preview
- Switching landscape & portrait
- These Features can be disabled in GPO

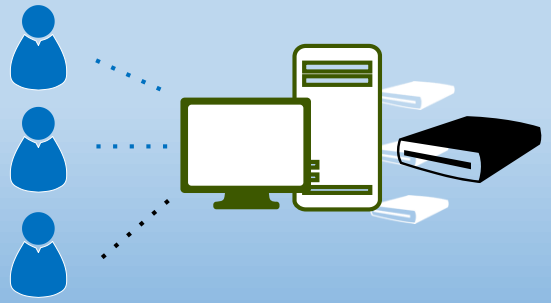
Citrix: PA/PD



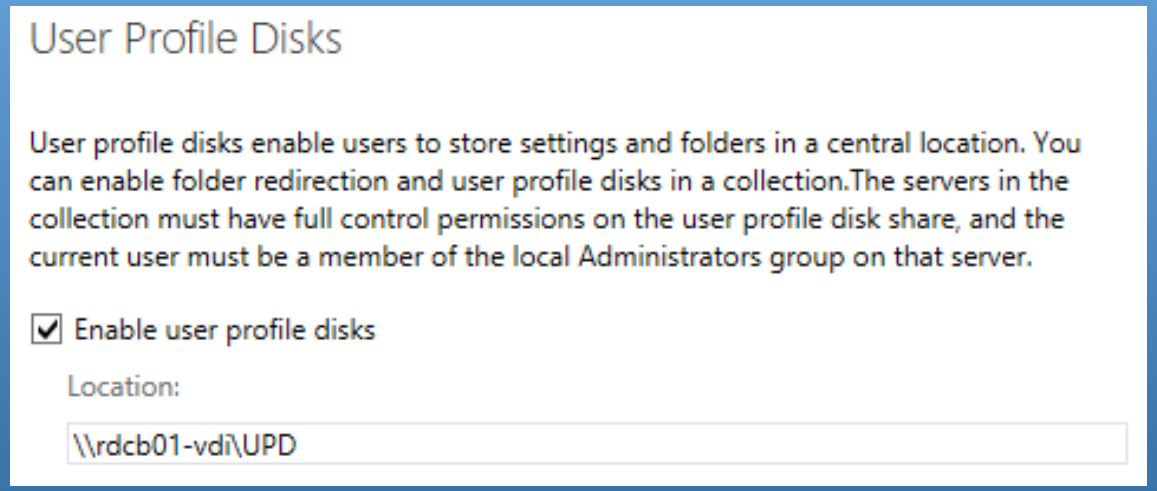


- Citrix depends on Microsoft implementation for the basics (but do not use all R2 improvements [yet])
- Enhancements further on in the HDX stack
- Reverse Seamless (local app in Citrix session) in XD7.x

Microsoft: User Profile Disks (UPD)

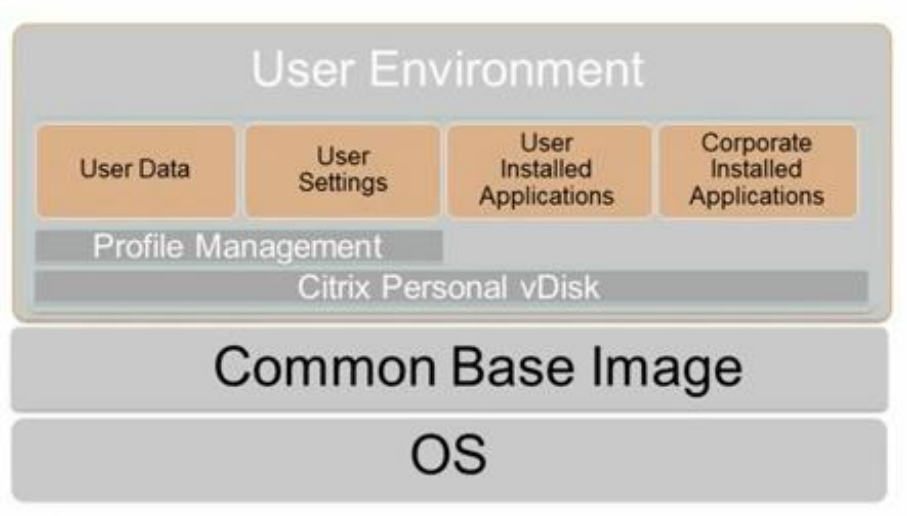


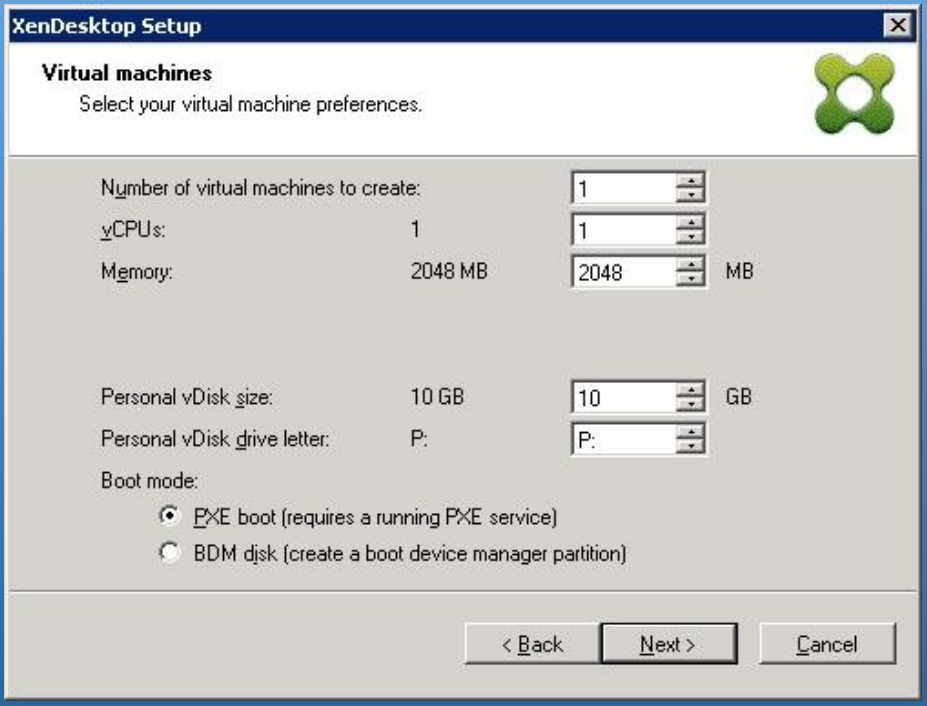
User Profile Disk with remote desktop session host collections



- Pooled VM collections and RDSH collections
- Stores all user settings and data in a single .vhdx file
- Contains roaming user profile, Folder Redirection cache, and user environment
- Roams with user within collection
- Appears as a local disk and improves application compatibility
- Support for deduplication

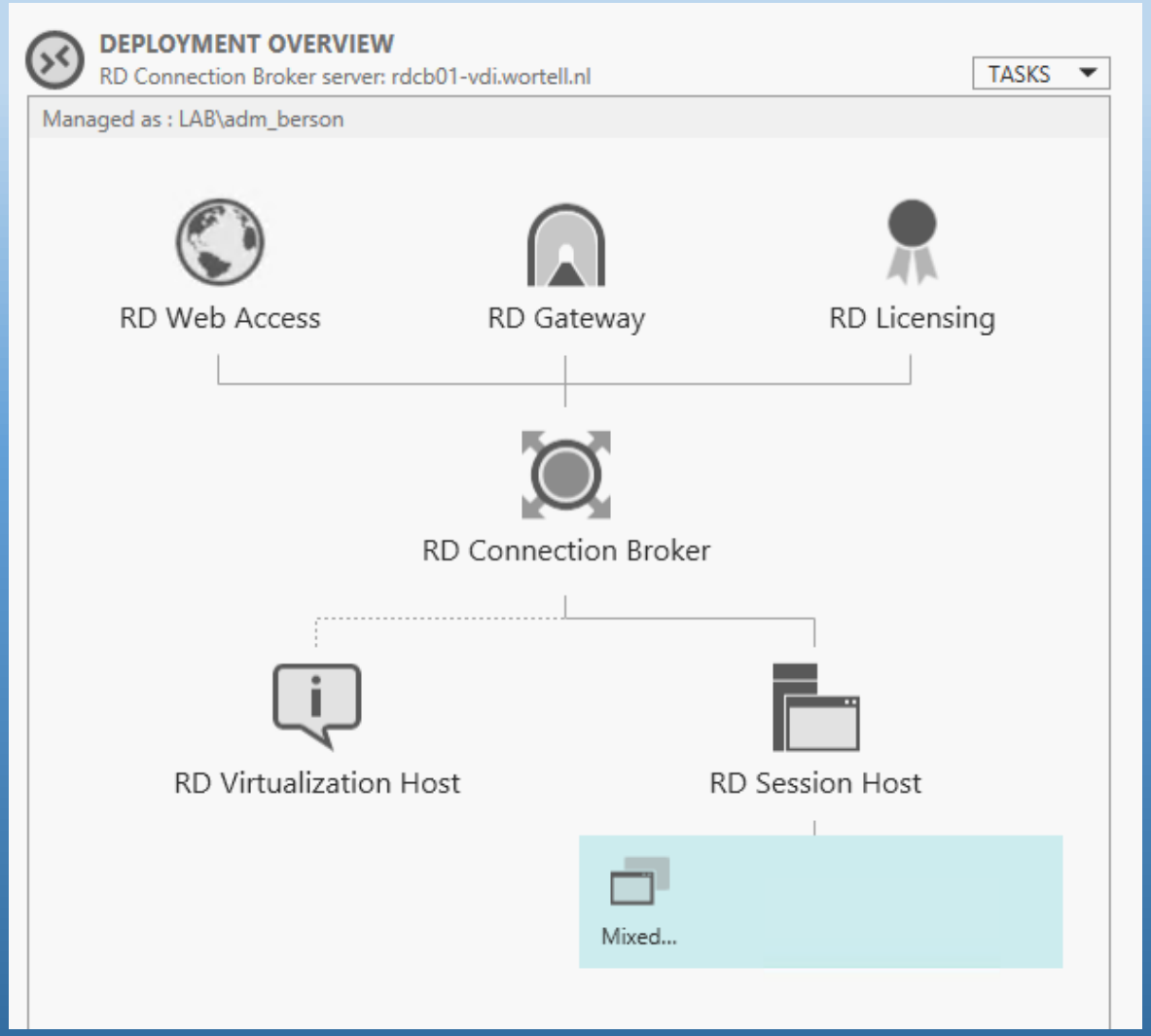
Citrix: Personal vDisk (PvD)





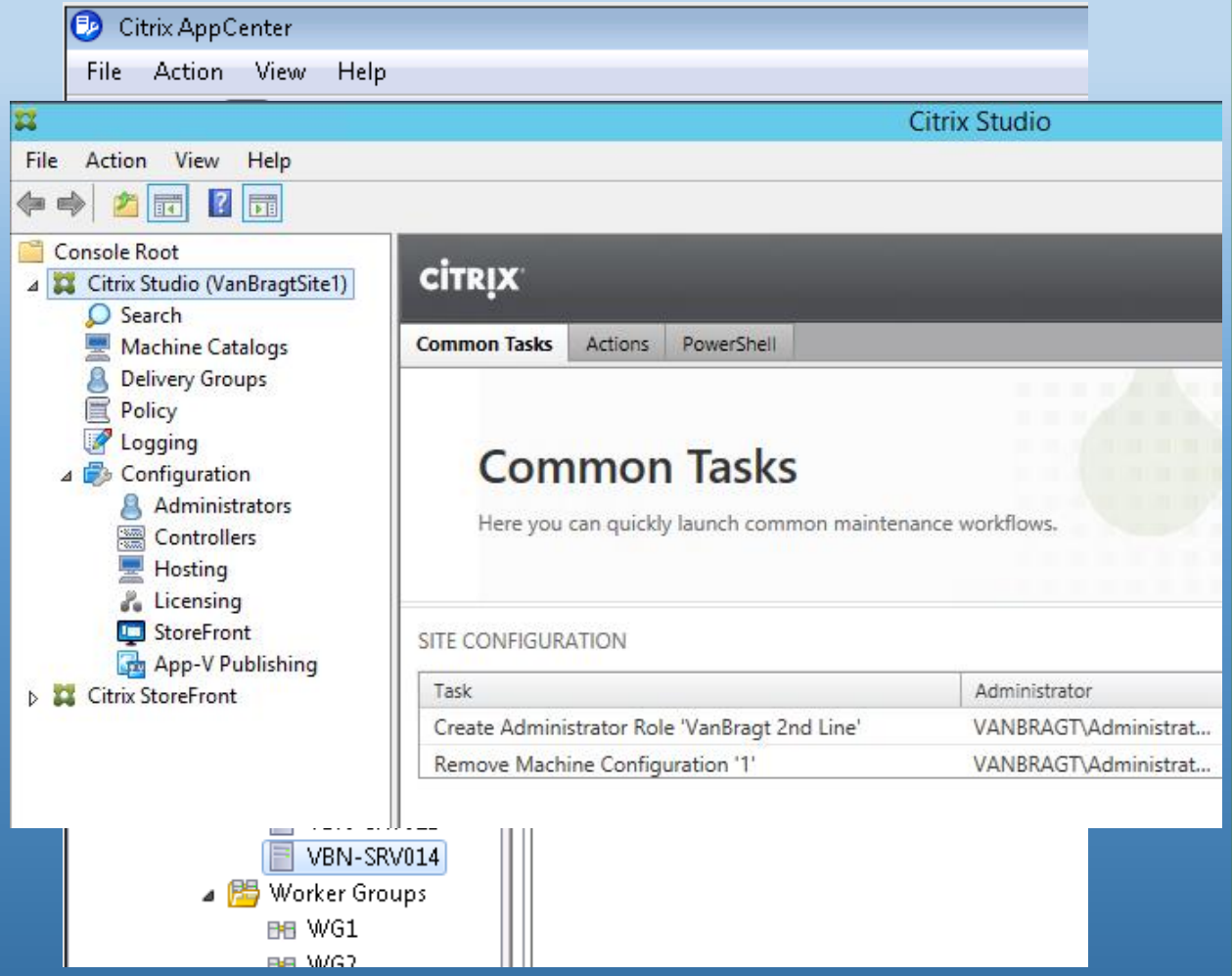
- Only for XenDesktop (Client OS)
- Stores all user settings and data in a single virtual machine disk
- Contains user profile, data and installed user applications
- Specific to one VM per user (1-1)

Microsoft: RDMS



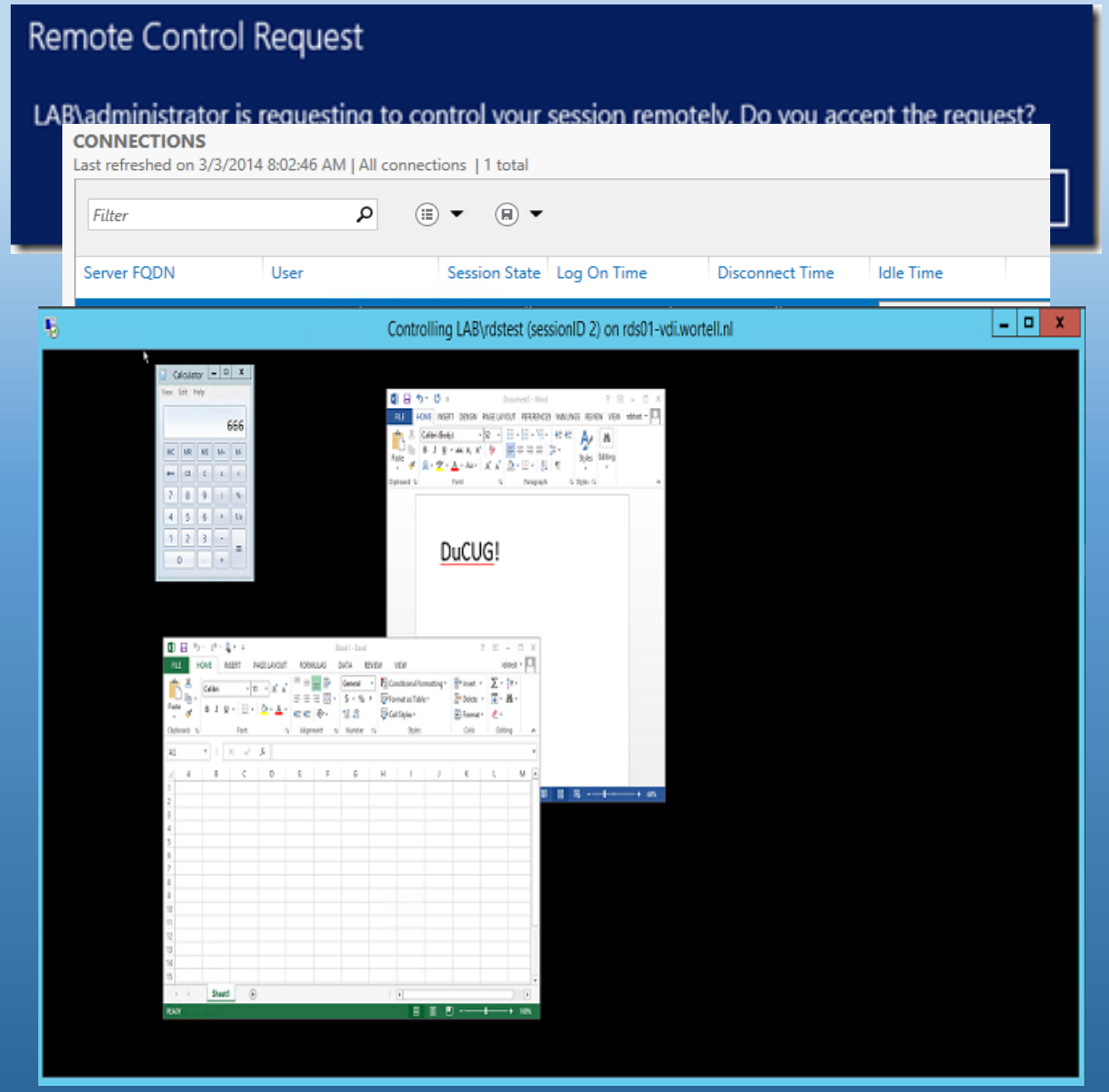
- Integrated in Server Manager
- Single Management Interface
- Scenario-based deployment
- 3 deployment types, 1 console, 1 user experience
- Full PowerShell support

Citrix: AppCenter/Studio



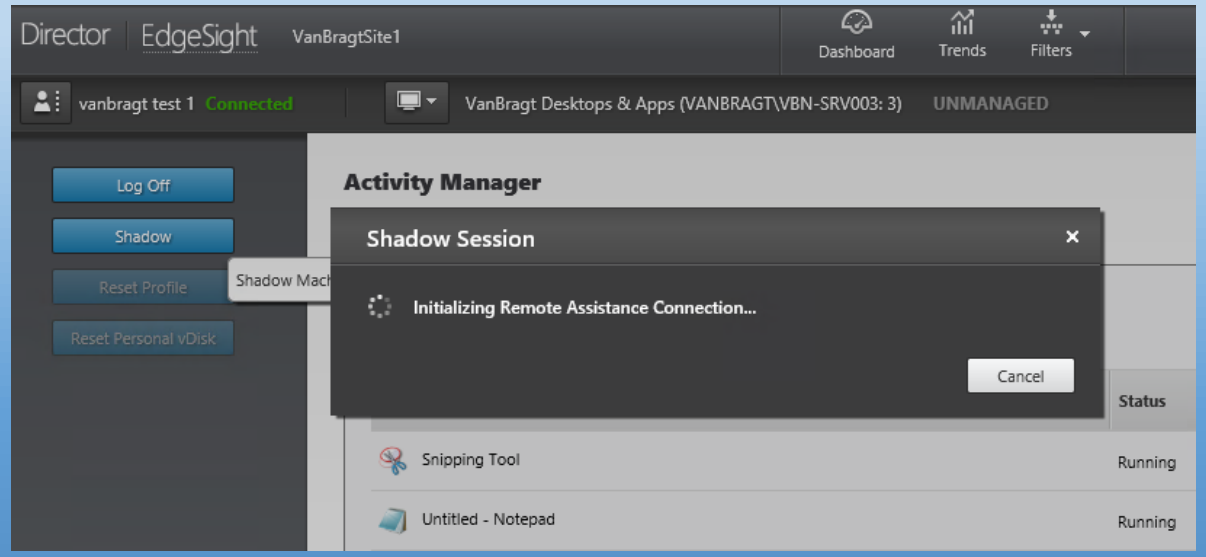
- Both stand alone installation and embedded in product installation
- Single Management Interface
- Different product / Different console
- Seperated console for monitoring (in XD)

Microsoft Shadowing (remote Control)



- Reintroduced in Windows Server R2
- Part of the mstsc client
- Command line & GUI
- Support for Remote Apps

Citrix: Shadowing / Remote Assistance

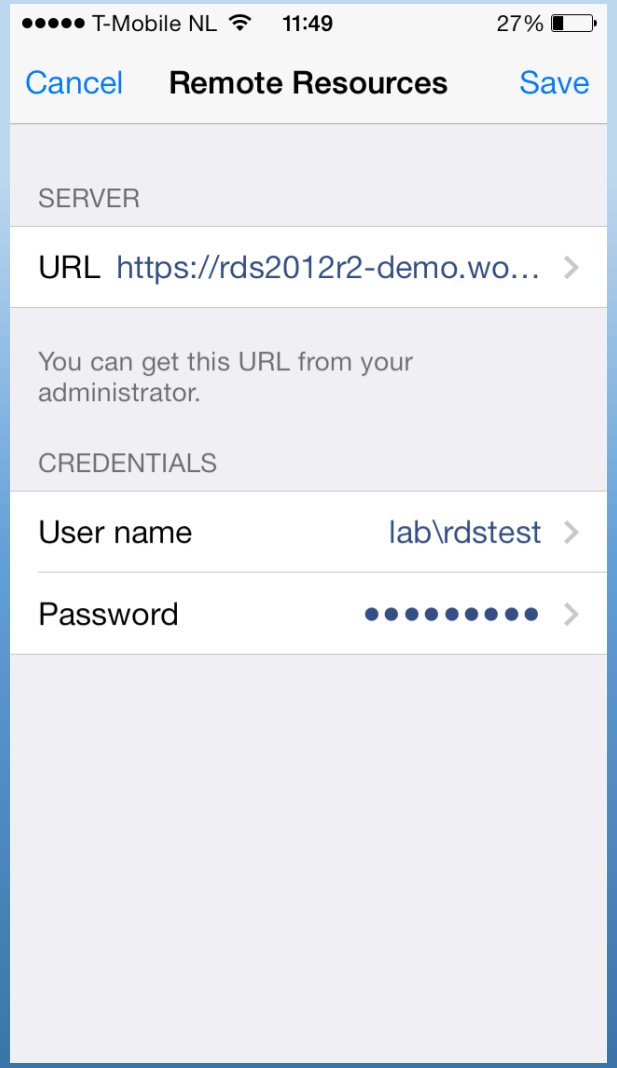


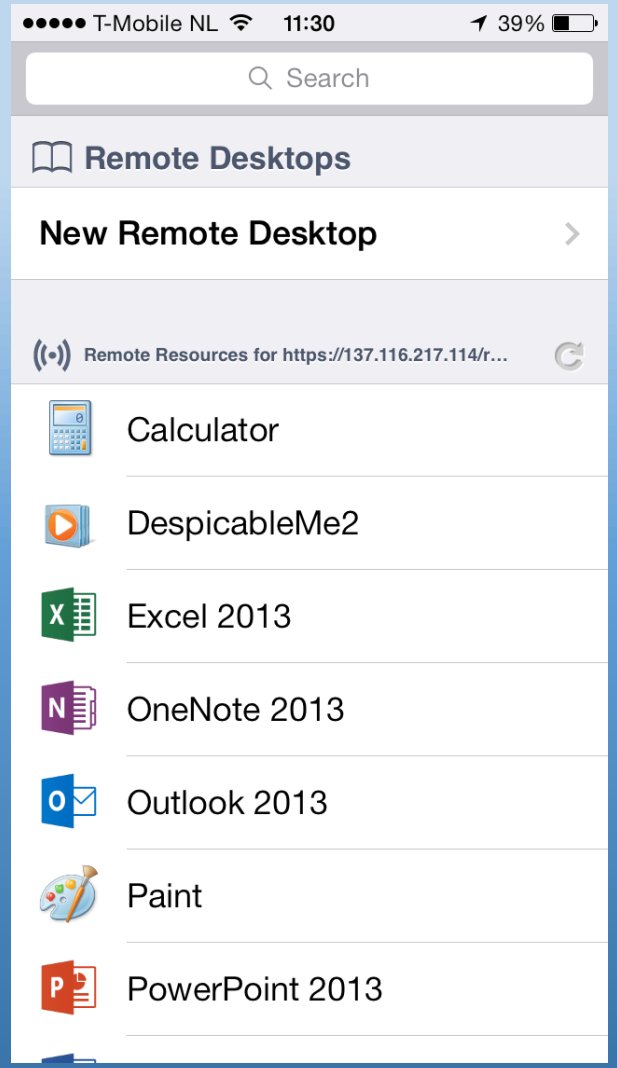
- Relying on Microsoft Technology
- XenApp 6.5 ->Shadowing (with multiplescreen issues) / Remote Assitance
- XenDesktop 7.x --> Remote Assistance

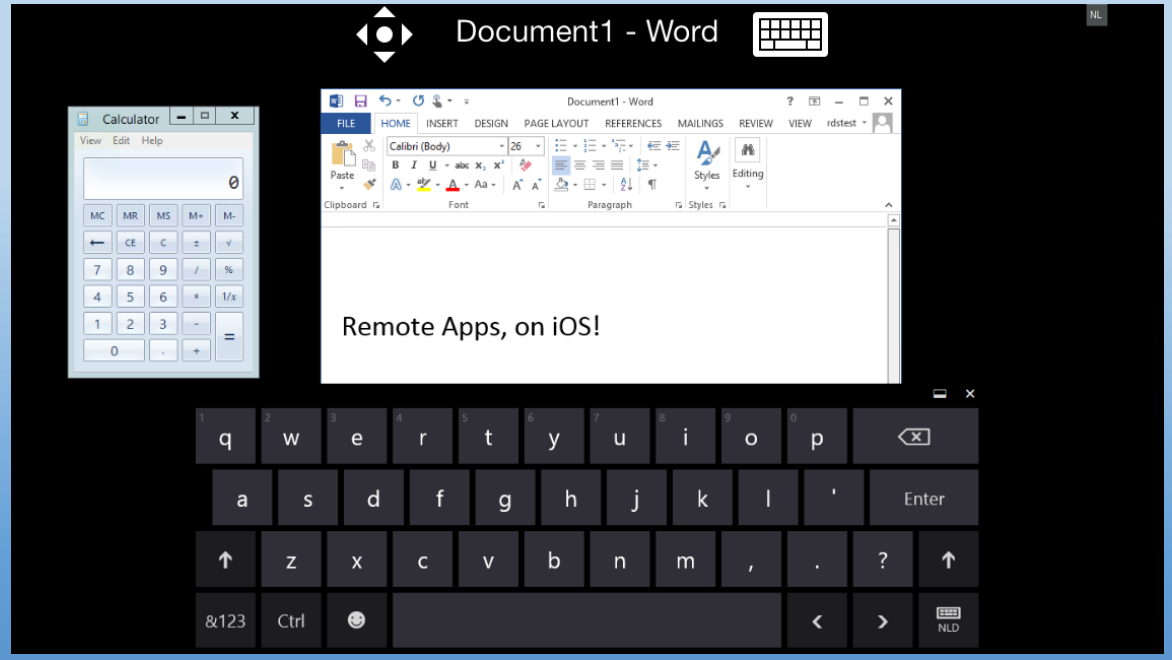
Microsoft: non-Windows RDP Clients

- Introduced in October 2013
- Available in App stores for iOS, Android, MacOS
- High updating sequence
- Also supporting Web Access

Microsoft: non-Windows RDP Clients



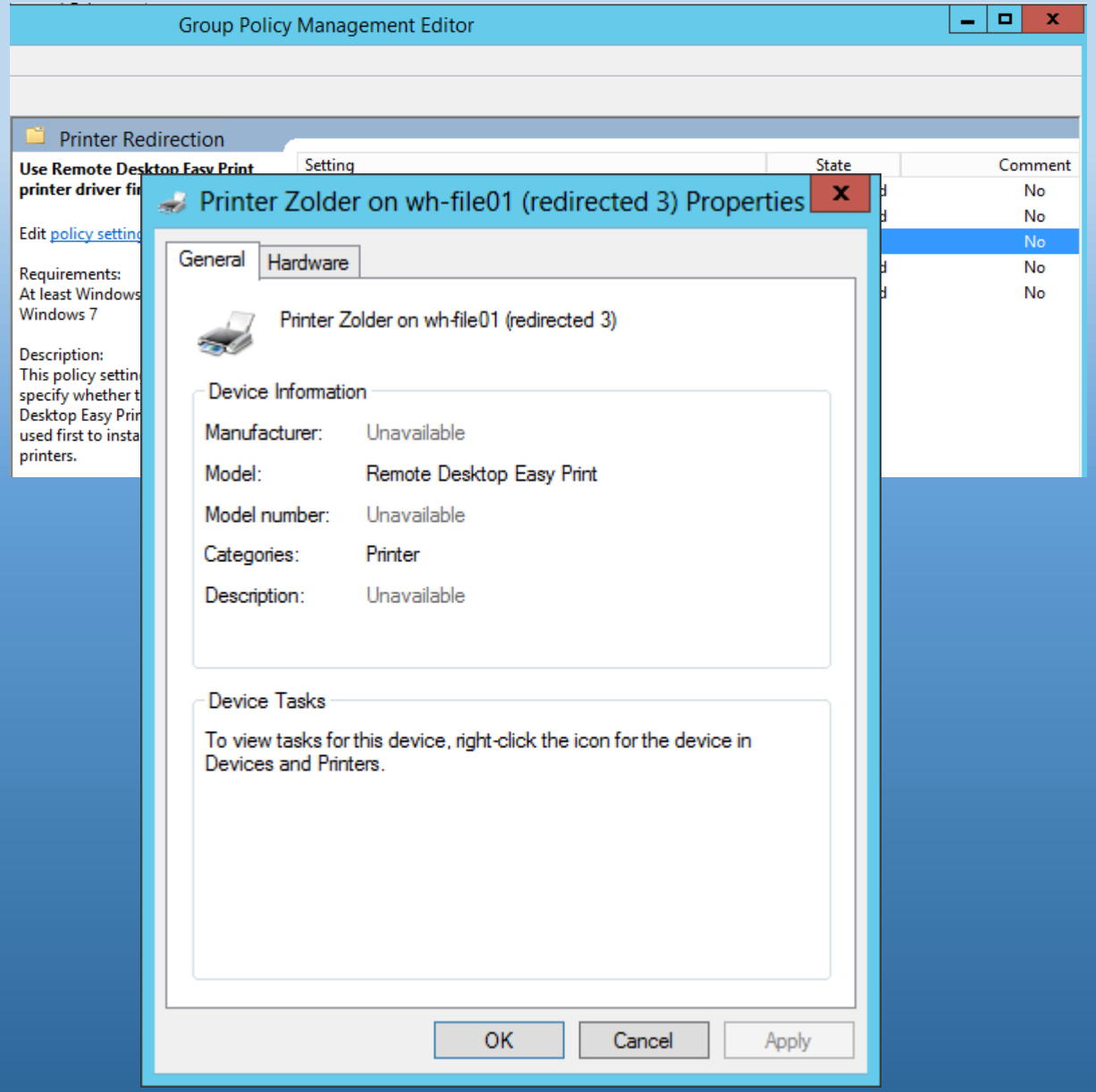




Citrix: Receiver Clients

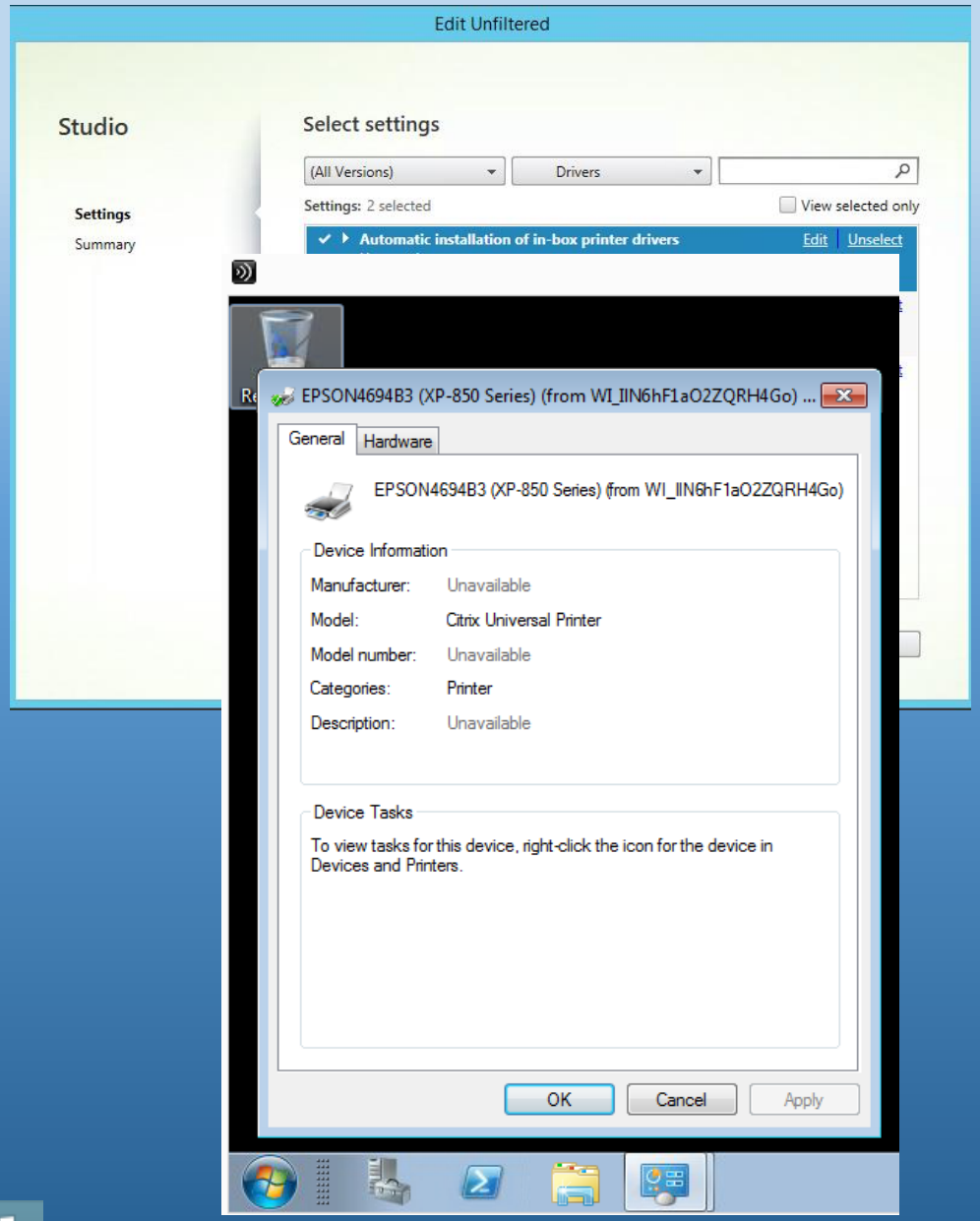
- Available for a long time
- Available in App stores and Citrix Download website
- HTML5 Receiver, the new future?

Microsoft: Easy Print



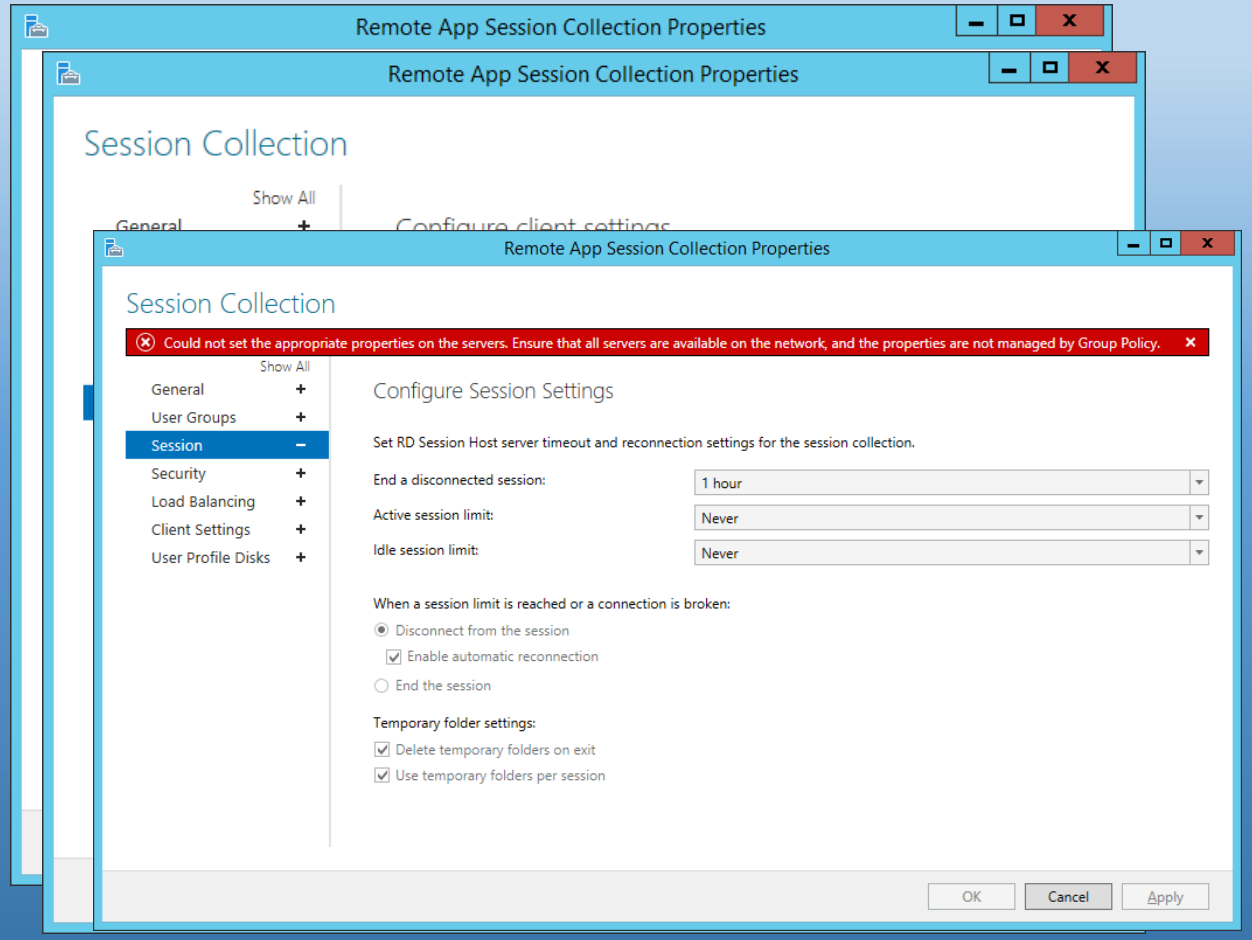
- Available from Windows 2008 or above
- Easy Printer for all connections or Fallback (if 3rd party/ inbox driver is not available)
- Not many enhancements after initial release

Citrix: Universal Printing



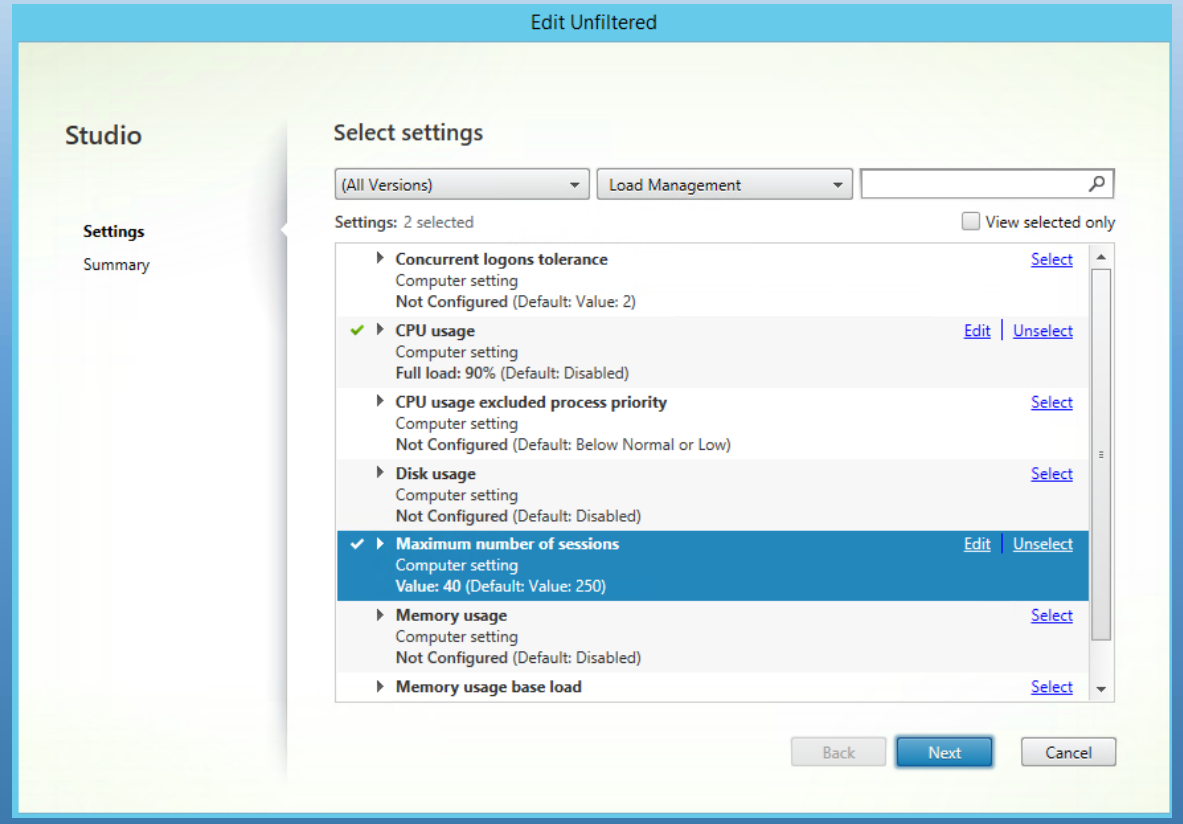
- Client UP available for a long time
- "Disable installation of inbox-driver" setting
- Not much enhancements in the latest releases
- First version for network printers, no enhancements after initial release

Microsoft: Configuration settings to Management Console



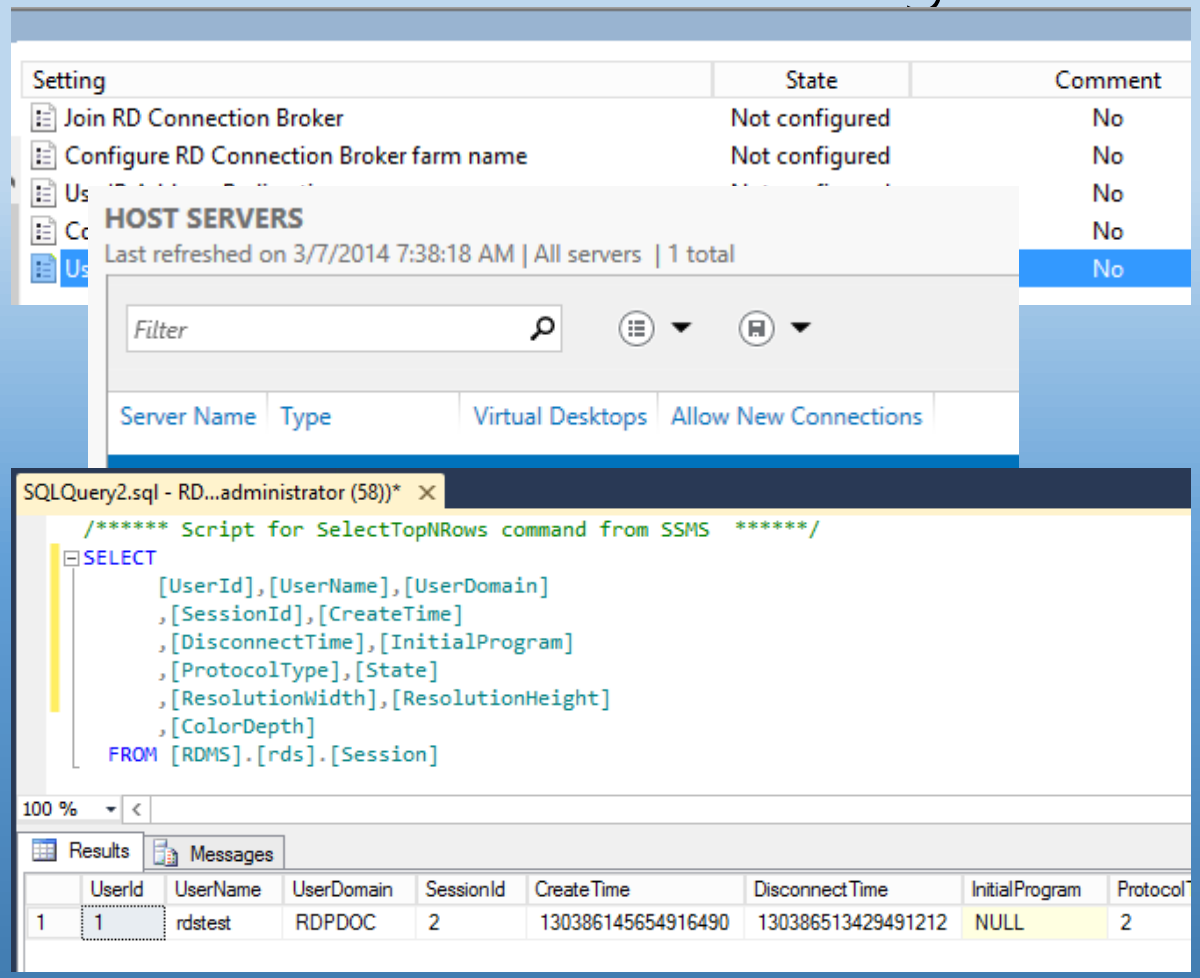
- More settings adjustable via the Management Console with each new release
- Also available in GPO (if conflicting, GPO wins)
- Can be a bit confusing

Citrix: Move configuration to Policies



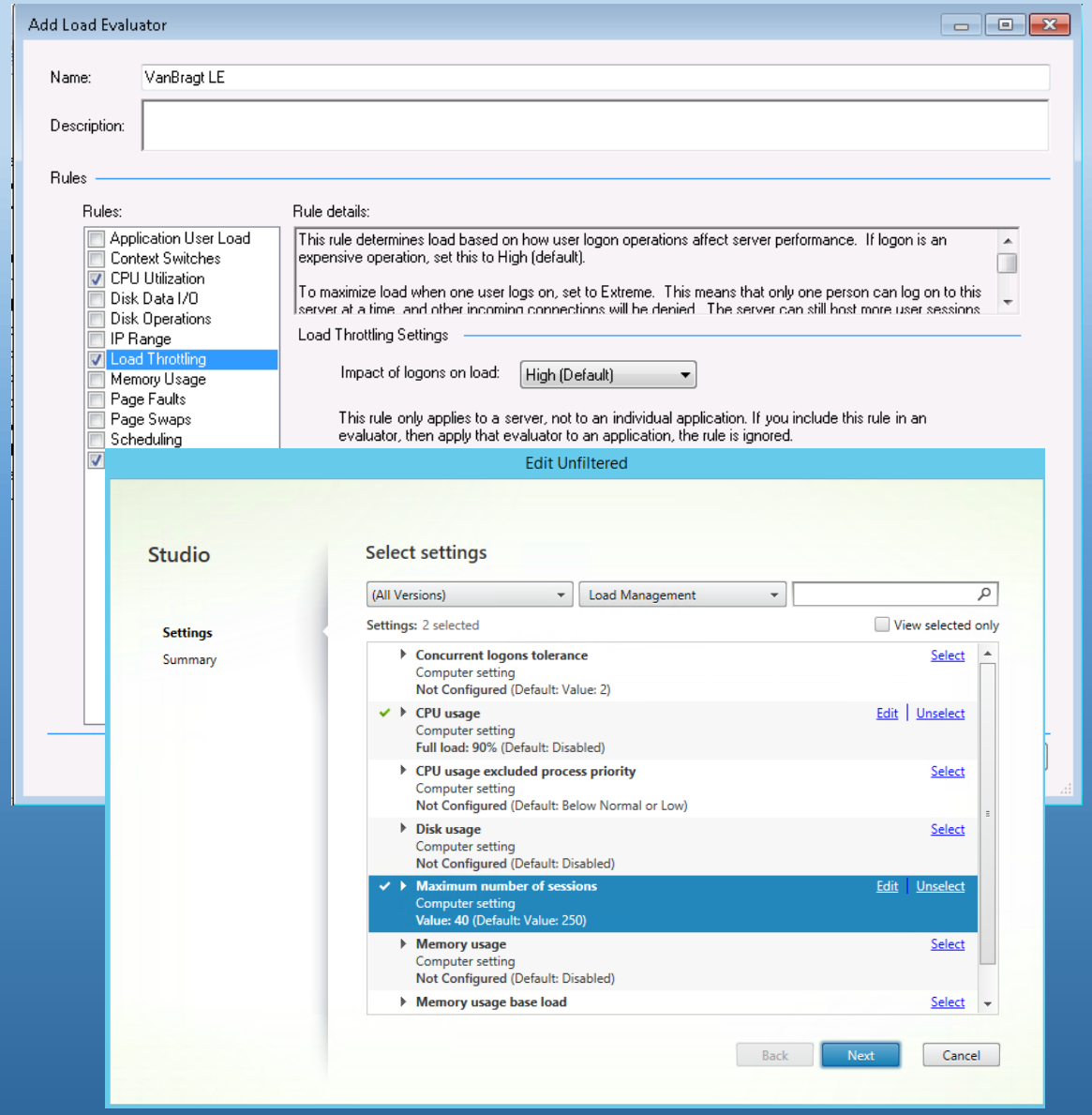
- More settings out of the console into policies
- Policies both in console as GPMC (GPMC wins)
- Still a (big) feature gap between XenApp 6.5 and XenApp/Desktop 7.x

Microsoft: Load Balancing



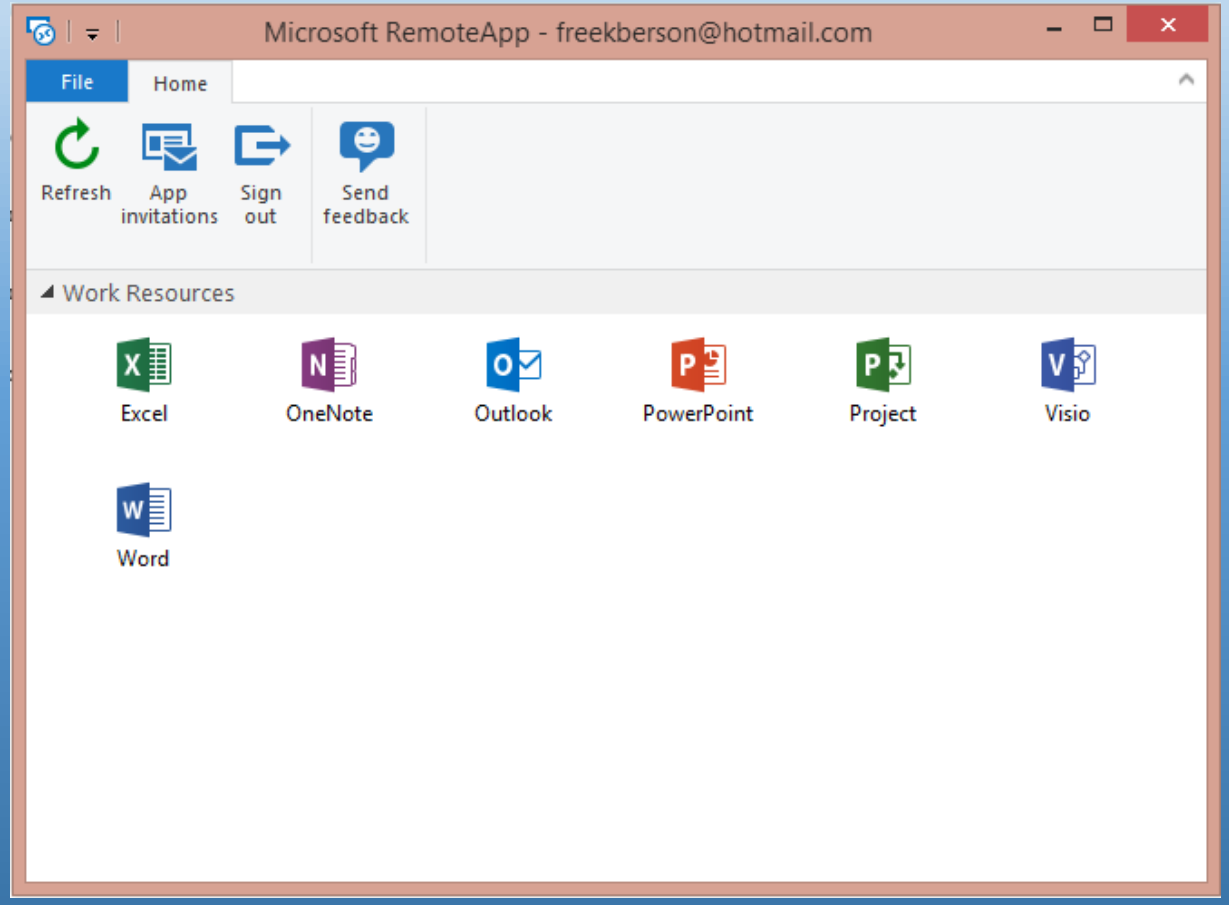
- Basic Load Balancing (least sessions) and reconnection out of the box
- Configured by RDMS, can be disabled using GPO
- RD Connection Broker handles initial connection
- Session table in RDMS database

Citrix: Load Evaluators



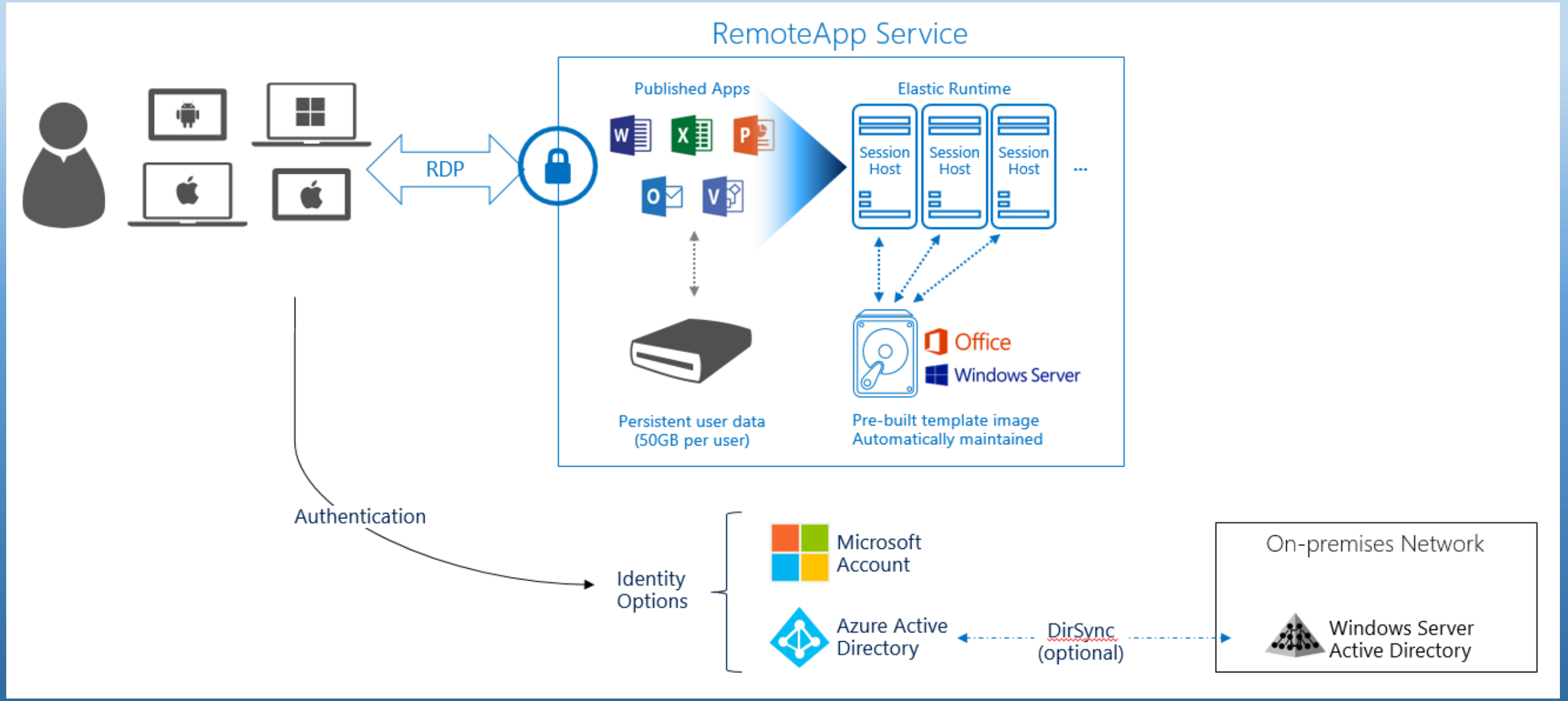
- LE in console, assigning in policies in XenApp 6.5/ Fully in policies since XD/XA 7.x
- Still the most adjustable and configurable LB
- Feature gap between XA 6.5 and XD/XA 7.x
- Adv Load Balancing in XA 6.5

Microsoft Azure Remote App



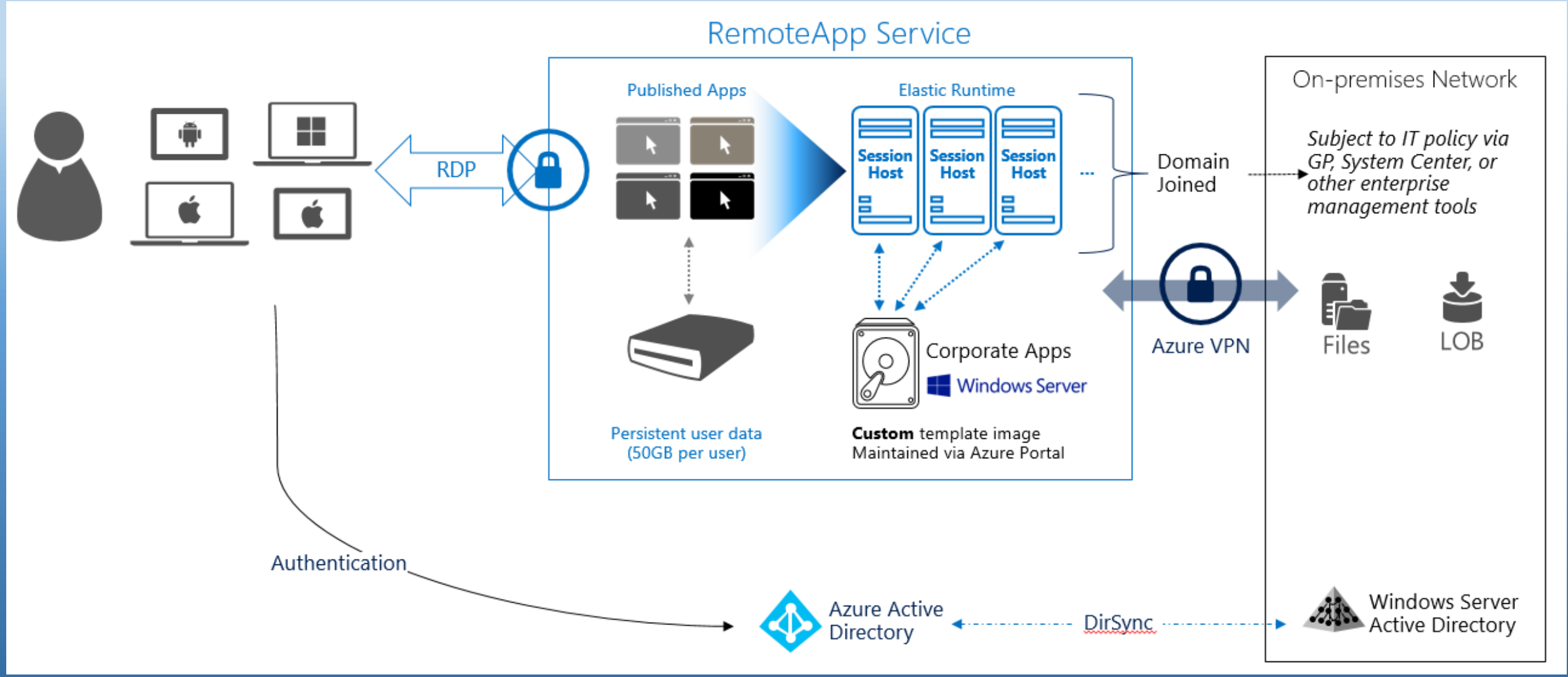
- Publishing Remote App running on Microsoft Azure
- Two deployments
  - Cloud Deployment
  - Hybrid Deployment
- Currently in preview

Microsoft Azure Remote App (Cloud Deployment)



Source: http://channel9.msdn.com/Events/TechEd/NorthAmerica/2014/PCIT-B342

Microsoft Azure Remote App (Hybrid Deployment)



Source: http://channel9.msdn.com/Events/TechEd/NorthAmerica/2014/PCIT-B342

Microsoft Azure Remote App (Feature set)

Features

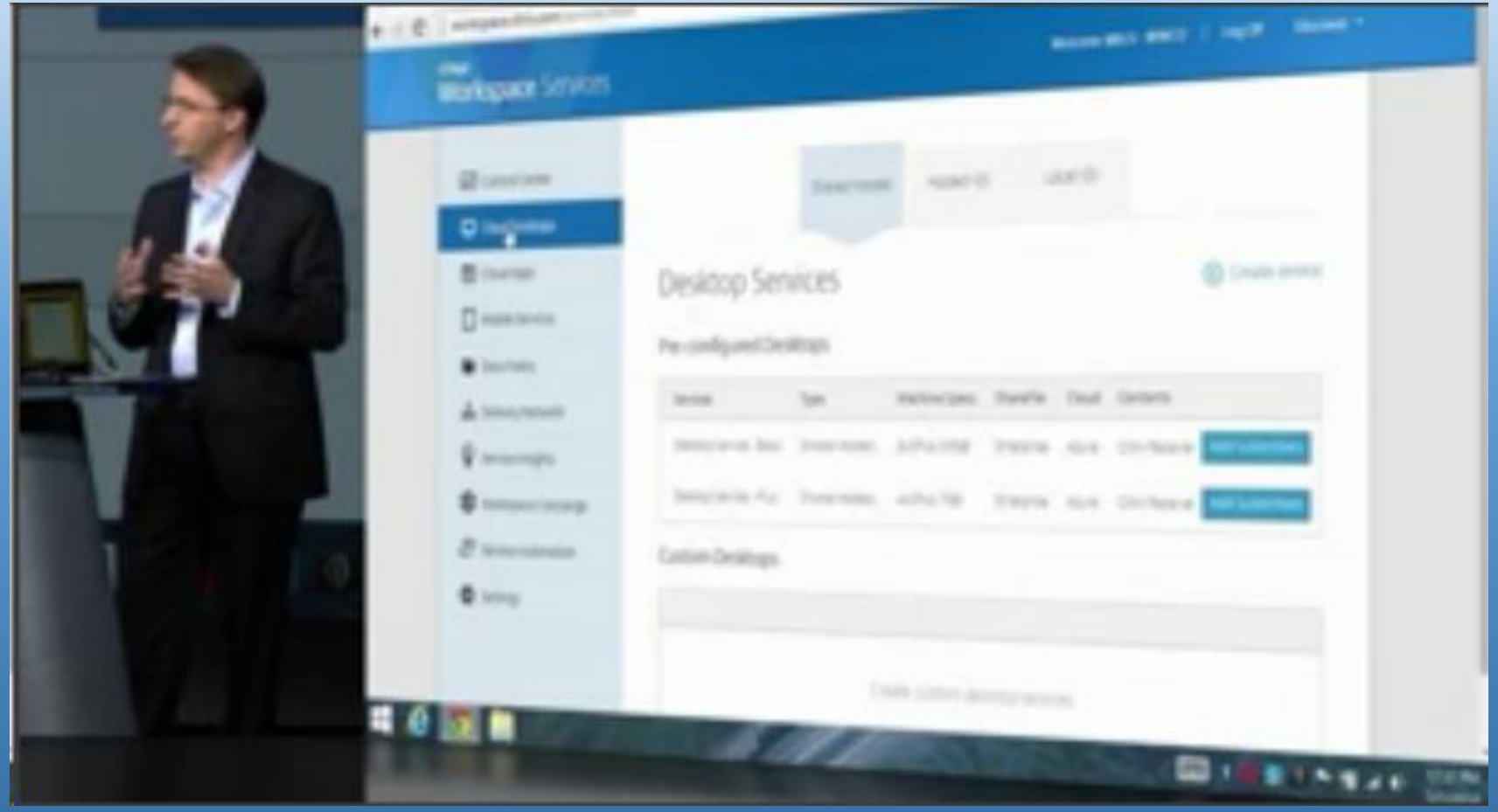
Price (per user)	Free during preview
Window Server version	Windows Server 2012 R2
Remoting Protocol	RDP 8.1
Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2013	✓
Bring your own applications	✓
Device platforms	Windows 7/8.x, iOS, Android Coming soon: Windows Phone, Windows RT, Mac OS X
Microsoft Account support	✓
Federated Identity with Active Directory	✓
Integration with On-Premises IT Infrastructure	✓
Storage (per user)	50 GB
Initial capacity at preview	20 users per Azure account. *Customers can request additional capacity during the preview.*
Regions	US East, US West, Europe North, Europe West, Asia Pacific East, Asia Pacific Southeast

Citrix Workspaces

- Cloud Based Control Pane Citrix Products
- Looks like it's not providing a desktop or apps by Citrix itselves
- Preview H2 2014

Citrix Workspaces

Citrix Workspaces



- Questions?

Thank you!

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