Aqua Connect Terminal Server 3.5 White Paper
Snow Leopard Edition

Introduction

This white paper explores the potential technical and business benefits of a Aqua Connect Terminal Server (ACTS) deployment. ACTS delivers the Macintosh® experience via OS X® servers to diverse hardware and software platforms and mobile devices using graphically enhanced terminal emulation. Incorporating various protocols, ACTS can run most Mac-based program and supports existing Mac OS X 64-bit computers. Easy to install after a quick download, the Aqua Connect Terminal Server will empower businesses to stream Mac® OS X-desktops and applications non-intrusively and cost-effectively. Enabling OS X servers to support multiple thin-client environments makes Aqua Connect Terminal Server the leading solution for reducing Mac OS X deployments throughout your organization.

Need

Companies and organizations that prefer the Mac OS X platform often face considerable expense and deployment challenges. An alternative to a full deployment of Mac hardware and software is to virtualize the Mac desktop and applications across a network, creating a challenge if the desktop needs to be accessed from PCs and thin clients. Remote access for traveling users via PDA or UMPC presents another challenge. Additionally, many companies may be financially committed to existing infrastructure that does not support the Mac OS X environment. Aqua Connect Terminal Server addresses all of these issues, making it possible to deploy Mac OS X desktop and applications across networks affordably and rapidly.

Solution

The Aqua Connect Terminal Server can be accessed by Mac workstations or laptops with PowerPC or Intel-based processors or any device that is compatible with Remote Frame Buffer (RFB) protocol, Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) and X11 as implemented by Virtual Network Computing (VNC). RFB compatible devices include nearly all PCs, PDAs, smartphones and thin clients. RDP compatibility is included with most Windows software.

ACTS Server software can be quickly downloaded and centrally deployed on the server to facilitate access from local and remote clients throughout your enterprise. Only one Mac OS X server license is required to handle as many clients as your server hardware will support. Once installed, ACTS allows multiple clients to run shared copies of applications in the Mac OS X desktop environment simultaneously! As well as ACTS providing the framework for clients to share your OS X server desktop, it also is a powerful administration tool that provides remote session shadowing, user prioritization, and access rules.

Questions?
(866) 543-AQUA (2782)
PartnerPrograms@AquaConnect.net

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Benefits

Aqua Connect Terminal Server's user friendliness combined with the familiarity of the OS X desktop environment will increase user productivity. With ACTS, the latest operating system can be streamed to any hardware, postponing the inevitability of upgrading your hardware and/or software investment. Therefore the cost of user implementation is greatly reduced. Older computers and other devices can now function as OS X thin clients. Since all configuration files and applications are stored and maintained in one central location, ACTS significantly reduces overhead in the following areas:

- Desktop support
- Upgrades/patches
- Licensing costs
- Support costs
- Hardware costs
- Desktop Security

System Requirements

Server requirements:

Aqua Connect Terminal Server will run on any Mac OS X Leopard or Snow Leopard server that meets minimum system requirements. Refer to server documentation available at www.apple.com for details.

Client requirements:

Any RDP, X11 or RFB/VNC-compatible device can function as an Aqua Connect Terminal Server client.

To see the of recommended client software, please visit our website at:

www.AquaConnect.net/client-software-compatibility.php

Product Overview

The Aqua Connect Terminal Server consists of these software components:

Server Daemon:

This background process enables the Mac OS X server to host multiple simultaneous client sessions.

Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP):

Aqua Connect Terminal Server includes an RDP protocol server component that supports client connections that offer improved user experience by increasing speed and efficiency using the RDP protocol.

Graphical User Administration Tool:

This Graphical User Interface (GUI) enables you to administer the ACTS remotely in an intuitive, simple-to-use environment. Administrative functions include switching terminal services on and off, managing client user accounts, ability to manage administrators (add/delete/change passwords) and shadowing of user sessions for training and support.

Directory Services Integration:

Integrates with Directory Services such as LDAP, Open Directory, Active Directory, etc.

Remote Frame Buffer (RFB/VNC):

Aqua Connect Terminal Server includes an RFB server component that transfers the display information of the OS X environment to VNC-enabled clients according to the RFB thin-client protocol. By design, RFB protocol makes very few demands on the client environment, so that RFB clients can run on the widest range of hardware with minimal implementation.

XDMCP/X11:

ACTS includes an X11 protocol server component that supports client connections using the XDMCP protocol.

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