



“In the near future, we will be able to switch off 80 percent of our XenApp servers during the night when they are not needed, and switch them back on in the morning. This way, we contribute to a better environment and save on energy costs as well.”

Ed de Myttenaere
ICT Manager
Ymere

Ymere supports growth and sustainability with XenApp

Ymere is the largest housing corporation in the Netherlands, active in the Northern Randstad. The organization manages 82,500 houses, shops and commercial business accommodations, and develops new houses and social property on a large scale. In the next few years, Ymere plans to build another 5,900 owner-occupied houses and 7,000 rental houses. The profit from commercial activities is invested in social projects in the region. Ymere's 950 employees work at nine subsidiaries and the headquarters at the IJ River in Amsterdam.

The challenge – Improved flexibility and scalability of IT

Ymere was formed in 2008 from the merger of the old Ymere and another housing corporation, Woonmaatschappij. Both organizations had been using Citrix® XenApp™ for more than five years as a virtual application delivery solution. “Our challenge was to join and optimize the two separate environments to form the new organization,” said Ed de Myttenaere, ICT manager at Ymere. “We needed to integrate business processes and the two IT departments, and wanted to create a new standardized desktop. Our company grew very fast in 2008 and we think this growth will continue during the next few years. The new environment needed to be scalable and flexible enough to adapt to ongoing growth. There was no doubt or disagreement that Citrix XenApp should be part of the new design. Both organizations for years experienced the power of this Citrix solution for centralized management and one-time roll-out of their complete application landscape, which proved to be very efficient and cost-effective.”



Implementing server image management and provisioning

After some exploratory talks with Citrix, Ymere decided that server image management and provisioning, a component of Citrix® XenApp™, Platinum Edition, could contribute to improved flexibility and scalability of the environment. In addition to upgrading to a new version of XenApp, Ymere introduced another virtualization technology: provisioning capabilities and application streaming. Log-in Consultants Nederland BV, a Citrix Managed Consulting Provider, supported Ymere during the implementation and with the profiling of application packages for streaming to the XenApp servers.

The golden image for the 32 HP blade servers, including XenApp, Microsoft® Windows Server® 2003 and some basic applications such as Microsoft Office 2003, are stored on a NetApp® 3040 storage area network (SAN) in the datacenter and are streamed to the physical blades with provisioning technology. After the workloads are running, business applications such as AFAS Profit and Microsoft Navision® are streamed to the XenApp servers. Proactive user experience monitoring, another component of XenApp Platinum Edition, is used to oversee the performance of the XenApp servers and the applications.

Key benefits

- Supports growth through scalability and high availability
- Improves IT flexibility and efficiency
- Reduces eco impact of the datacenter
- Enables use of cost-effective thin clients

Applications delivered

More than 80 applications, including:

- Microsoft Office 2007 Professional
- Microsoft Dynamics NAV (previously Navision) – ERP application
- AFAS Profit – ERP application

Networking environment

- Citrix XenApp, Platinum Edition running on 32 HP BL460c G1 servers and 15 HP DL360 servers in the fallback datacenter
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003
- Three NetApp FAS3040 SANs (in two datacenters)
- 530 HP thin clients, 370 desktops and laptops

High availability and stability

To guarantee system availability, the organization created a fallback datacenter at the headquarters with another 15 XenApp servers and a NetApp storage environment with periodically duplicated data. “Thanks to XenApp provisioning services, the setup and maintenance of an inactive fallback farm do not require any additional system administration. These servers are simply provided with a workload from the storage environment. The XenApp servers in the fallback datacenter are always identical to the ones in the production environment,” added de Myttenaere.

“Everybody working with the XenApp environment and thin clients experiences a faster and more stable and efficient infrastructure. No matter if employees are accessing financial data for housing or rental properties, or providing assistance through our service organization, in the end, the customer immediately benefits from high-performance application delivery.” In the future, Ymere plans to provision all virtual servers within the infrastructure using Citrix provisioning technology.

Realize controlled expansion

If an organization is expanding as result of organic growth or mergers, IT should be able to support this growth with scalability and a high level of flexibility without lowering performance. The combination of virtual application delivery with XenApp and provisioning and application streaming enables this flexibility for Ymere.

“Citrix XenApp has the best technology to standardize and deliver thin client applications with the best possible environment in the front office. For example, we are able to upgrade to a new version of an application with a one-time centralized installation on the XenApp farm,” continued de Myttenaere. “With the upgrade to the Platinum Edition of XenApp, we gained server image provisioning for simplifying the administration of XenApp workloads.

This way, we add another dimension to our already modern infrastructure that strongly benefits system administration. With provisioning, the XenApp servers in the back office now are as manageable as the thin clients: it is simply a matter of setting up a new system and switching it on.

“The golden combination of thin clients, XenApp and provisioning enables our IT staff to undertake more activities than before and focus on quality and services. The growth is controllable,” he says.

Sustainable IT with XenApp, thin clients and image provisioning

XenApp contributes to sustainable desktops for Ymere. Thanks to delivery of virtualized applications running on XenApp, Ymere can use HP thin clients, which save energy, produce no sound and have a much longer lifespan than PCs. De Myttenaere explained, “Ymere is very involved with the public and is investing 65 million euros in housing and living conditions over the next few years. We support the safety, livability and ecology in many neighborhoods, and the use of sustainable IT technology fits this company mission perfectly. For example, the addition of image provisioning to the XenApp environment reduces the environmental impact of the server-side infrastructure. In the near future, we will be able to switch off 80 percent of our XenApp servers during the night when they are not needed, and switch them back on in the morning. In this way, we contribute to a better environment and save on energy costs as well.”



Worldwide Headquarters

Citrix Systems, Inc.
851 West Cypress Creek Road
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309, USA
T +1 800 393 1888
T +1 954 267 3000

www.citrix.com

Americas

Citrix Silicon Valley
4988 Great America Parkway
Santa Clara, CA 95054, USA
T +1 408 790 8000

Europe

Citrix Systems International GmbH
Rheinweg 9
8200 Schaffhausen, Switzerland
T +41 52 635 7700

Asia Pacific

Citrix Systems Hong Kong Ltd.
Suite 6301-10, 63rd Floor
One Island East
18 Westlands Road
Island East, Hong Kong, China
T +852 2100 5000

Citrix Online Division

6500 Hollister Avenue
Goleta, CA 93117, USA
T +1 805 690 6400

About Citrix

Citrix Systems, Inc. (NASDAQ:CTXS) is the leading provider of virtualization, networking and software as a service technologies for more than 230,000 organizations worldwide. Its Citrix Delivery Center, Citrix Cloud Center (C3) and Citrix Online Services product families radically simplify computing for millions of users, delivering applications as an on-demand service to any user, in any location on any device. Citrix customers include the world's largest Internet companies, 99 percent of *Fortune* Global 500 enterprises, and hundreds of thousands of small businesses and prosumers worldwide. Citrix partners with over 10,000 companies worldwide in more than 100 countries. Founded in 1989, annual revenue in 2008 was \$1.6 billion.

©2009 Citrix Systems, Inc. All rights reserved. Citrix®, XenApp™ and Citrix Delivery Center™ are trademarks of Citrix Systems, Inc. and/or one or more of its subsidiaries, and may be registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. All other trademarks and registered trademarks are property of their respective owners.