2X WhitePaper

2X APPLICATION SERVER VS. WINDOWS 2008 SERVER APPLICATION PUBLISHING

Comparison and Description of 2X Application Server vs. Microsoft Windows 2008 Application Publishing

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This white paper describes the advantages of using the 2X application publishing and load balancing solution in comparison to the Windows 2008 integrated publishing solution.

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Introduction

Since Microsoft has announced it will extend its Windows 2008 Terminal Server functionality with the ability to publish applications to different desktops, more and more of our customers are asking the question "Why should I buy 2X ApplicationServer?" After intensive testing and comparing our product with the Microsoft solution, we released this white paper. It will clearly show you all the advantages a cost efficient and professional application publishing solution like 2X ApplicationServer can offer your business.

2X Application Publishing Comparison Matrix and Feature Description

	2X ApplicationServer	Windows 2008
Seamless Application Publishing	Yes	Yes
Filtering Applications for users and groups	Yes	No
Resource-based load balancing between TS	Yes	No
Farm-oriented infrastructure	Yes	No
Centralized published application management	Yes	No
Tunneling all the traffic through a single port	Yes	Yes*
Dynamic web portal	Yes	No
Publishing server redundancy	Yes	No
Universal printing	Yes	Yes*
Single Sign-On	Yes	No
Different Platform Support	Yes	No*

Seamless application publishing: Both 2X and Windows 2008 provide users with seamless applications. Applications can be resized and user experience is no different to local applications.

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Filtering application for users and groups – 2X allows you to filter applications by user name, group, IP (IP range) or machine name. Windows 2008, however, creates an RDP link which you have to put on the user's desktop, thus there is no filtering on a server level present.

Resource-based load balancing between TS – 2X offers you real resource-based load balancing. It checks your farm for the best performing server and directs new sessions to it. Windows 2008 works with "old school" NLB creating 1 Virtual IP for your servers and doing load balancing round-robin style.

Farm-oriented infrastructure – 2X is totally farm-oriented server-based software. You can add Terminal Servers, manage the farm centrally, and publish applications from specific servers. In the Windows 2008 environment, there is no real farm. You can use NLB to have several servers to publish applications from, but those servers have to be absolutely identical. You cannot publish an application from a specific server or a server group (yes, 2X allows you to have server groups within a single farm).

Centralized published application management – 2X allows you to manage all your published applications centrally: add, remove, or change filtering options and group\ungroup applications. This all is done from the 2X Console – central light-weight management console. Windows 2008 requires you to deliver server-created RDP links to client local desktops. That means you will have to send those links to your clients and watch for any obsolete links which have to be removed. No centralized management is possible in this scenario.

Tunneling all the traffic through a single port – 2X creates a tunnel on the port you specify in the 2X Console and sends all RDP traffic over that port. You can even use SSL encrypted channel making your data as secure as it can be in the modern world. Windows 2008 application publishing allows you to share TCP port, basically doing a tunneling. However, it is still not wrapping all the traffic and SSL option is not possible.

Dynamic web portal – 2X has a 2X Web Portal application which allows you to access your application using a web browser. You are required to login to 2X Web Portal so all applications are filtered. Windows 2008 has a web portal too, but all the users see all the applications the server has published.

Publishing server redundancy – 2X offers you a fully redundant infrastructure. You can have Primary and Secondary servers which clients can connect to. If the Master server fails, the Slaveserver will kick in automatically. Windows 2008 can have only 1 server as a publishing server(well, you can still connect to a Terminal Server directly.)

Universal printing – 2X has an option to eliminate the need to install and maintain local printer drivers on your Terminal Servers. Our 2X Universal Printer creates a PDF file from a print job and sends it to the local PDF Viewer. Then, the end user can print to a designated local printer.Windows 2008 has EasyPrint which does basically the same thing. However, you have to have .NET 3.0 and RDP 6.1 installed leaving you with Windows Vista/XP SP3 environment.

Single Sign-On – 2X Client has a Single Sign-On component which allows you to pass Windows credentials to a 2X Client. That way you don't need to put in or change credentials manually when you have multiple users using the same machine. Windows 2008 published applications require you enter credentials every time you run them or store the credentials but all users then will usesame user name and password reducing security and making all the logging pointless.

Different platform support – 2X allows you to run Windows applications on different platforms: Windows, Linux, and Mac. Windows 2008 only allows you to run applications on Windows platform, and you can only run them in Windows Vista/XP SP3 (not all the features supported) environment.

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ABOUT 2X | 2X Software Ltd - 2X - is a company developing software for the booming server-based computing market. Thin client computing controls skyrocketing PC management costs, centralizes application and desktop management, improves security and performance and allows users to work remotely. The company's product line includes: 2X ApplicationServer for Windows Terminal Services, 2X VirtualDesktopServer, 2X LoadBalancer for Terminal Services/Citrix and 2X ThinClientServer. 2X is a privately held company with offices in the USA, Germany, France, UK, Australia and Malta. Its management team is backed by years of experience in developing and selling network infrastructure software. 2X is a Microsoft, VMware, IBM and RedHat partner. For more information visit: http://www.2x.com. All product and company names herein may be trademarks of their respective owners.

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