

Web Benefits over Client Server Technology

Quick Comparison

By implementing an access strategy with web access infrastructure, agencies can transform their organization into an on-demand enterprise that offers secure, easy secure and instant access to information, improving agency agility and easy integration with other agency systems.

A web access infrastructure allows you to securely deliver and maintain applications and information to remote offices. Remote office connectivity solutions enable application access from one centralized location, reducing the cost of provisioning branch offices individually.

- Web applications are thin clients
 - Client Server Applications (CSAs) are thick clients
- Web applications are processed at the server
 - CSAs are processed on both the server and the client
 - CSAs have a lot of network traffic between clients and the server(s)
- Web applications are easier to deploy (install on the server only) Gives workers secure, easy and instant access to enterprise applications, information, processes and people, no matter where they are located, from anywhere, at anytime, using any device, over any connection.
 - CSAs must have software installed on both the client and the server. You must have people update both sides for software updates and upgrades
- Web applications give easier access (all you need is a secure internet connection and a browser)
 - CSAs need to have the client piece installed and are more difficult to share outside a firewall
 - CSAs run slowly when you are not on the same network
- Web applications are centrally administered. Enables IT staffs to manage the centralized management of applications, simplifying their deployment, monitoring and measurement.
 - CSAs are more complex to centrally administer
- Web applications require less processing power on the client
 - CSAs require more processing power on clients and are more expensive
- Web applications are more flexible (can be tailored to your needs easier). They can easily be integrated with other agency systems and databases to provide a seamless Agency wide system.
 - CSAs are delivered as binary applications and are harder to customize
- Web applications don't require much training (everyone knows how to use a web browsers and surf the Internet)
 - CSA require more detailed training and takes more time for users to get comfortable and then adopt the new system.

- eFORCE's unique architecture has several advantages over a typical web application.

Browser-based systems may help your organization deliver more convenient and cost-effective applications to diverse user communities.

Today, many agencies offer remote access to organization resources to increase employee productivity for workers on-the-go. However, as the workforce expands and needs become more diverse, administrative complexity and cost grow. To drive down costs while making access more readily available, a growing number of agencies are now turning to browser-based systems.

Evolution of Enterprise Remote Access

Emerging network technologies and business dynamics continue to change the application environment. Organizational increases, growth in high-speed Internet access, and the rise of remote employees are all building demand for anytime/anywhere access to agency applications. However, to realize organizational benefits like increased availability and productivity, agencies must also address security and cost concerns.

Transporting private data over a public network introduced security concerns. To ensure the privacy and integrity of business data, Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) based on PPTP and IPsec were deployed. VPN clients were installed on company-owned laptops, tunneling data to VPN gateways installed at the edge of the company network. VPNs quickly gained favor because they reduced costs associated with traveler remote access. However, as the workforce continued to grow, so did VPN administration costs.

With the advent of residential broadband, the number of workers requiring remote access grew significantly. By the end of 2003, 27 percent of US workers telecommute at least one day per week. Many more work occasionally from home at nights and on weekends. For most agencies, issuing a laptop with VPN software to every single employee is simply untenable. Some have tried administering VPN clients on personal home PCs with less-than-spectacular success, due to concerns about both security and cost.

Complicating matters, many mobile employees have started using public PCs with high-speed Internet access, readily available today in many cafes, restaurants and internet access stores. But installing a VPN client on a public PC is not an option, and public PCs do not warrant the same level of trust and network access as a company-administered laptop.

Over time, it has become increasingly clear that these user communities have distinct requirements for remote access:

- * Employees require the same computing environment, whether working at the office, patrol car, crime scene or from home; anything less reduces business efficiency.
- * Off duty officers needs can be satisfied through secure remote access to organization applications and files from the worker's own home PC.
- * Mobile officers require dependable access from anywhere – patrol car, LANs and wireless hotspots-- unimpeded by network topology.

To satisfy this increasingly large and diverse workforce, a one-size-fits-all approach to agencies systems may not be sufficient or cost-effective.

Meeting Needs While Cutting Costs

To better satisfy organizational needs, many agencies are seeking innovative solutions that support a wider variety of remote access environments while reducing total cost.

Browser-based applications offer both cost and ease-of-use advantages. Web browsers are already present on nearly every computing device, public or private, large or small. Web-based solutions use this browser and dynamically-downloaded code to avoid installing and configuring VPN client software on the worker's device. This approach facilitates remote access from just about anywhere and can significantly reduce per-user VPN administration costs.