



PROWESS

SmartDeploy[®] Enterprise Solution Brief:

“Migrating to Windows Vista”

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Migrating to the Windows Vista® operating system is inevitable for many organizations. Eventually, driver and application support for Windows® XP will dwindle, requiring organizations across all industries and market segments to migrate. No matter when an organization determines that the time is right to adopt Windows Vista, there are a variety of challenges to face, including:

- Application compatibility requirements
- User-specific application and data requirements
- Hardware profile challenges
- Image distribution and transfer challenges

In response to these challenges, Prowess created SmartDeploy® Enterprise. Designed by a team with decades of in-the-field deployment expertise, SmartDeploy Enterprise helps organizations quickly and cost-effectively clear the hurdles that impede migration to Windows Vista.

The Problem

Upgrading operating systems in a large network is no easy task. Successful operating system migration requires extensive planning, complex scheduling, and often forces you to make costly business compromises. The level of effort and costs are necessary for several reasons:

- **Application Compatibility:** You have to continue support for existing software applications that do not run on the new operating system. For example, a custom billing application written for Windows XP does not work properly on Windows Vista.
- **User Productivity:** To remain fully productive, users need to retain their local data and settings. This can require extraordinary effort from IT staff to inventory each system and walk users through upgrading their systems one at a time.
- **Hardware Compatibility:** To deploy to heterogeneous hardware platforms, most current imaging technologies require you to maintain separate images for each hardware platform.
- **Imaging Requirements:** System images are large. Transmitting images to geographically disperse locations is resource-intensive and time-consuming. The process has to be repeated as patches and upgrades are released.
- **Imaging Complexity:** Because imaging technologies are so sophisticated, IT staff are required to have specialized knowledge and skills required to operate and maintain the complex imaging and deployment tools currently on the market.

These challenges cause some organizations to delay upgrading to new operating systems. In other businesses, these needs can lead to upgrading some computers but not others.

If you are determined to move ahead despite these challenges, it can mean extensive training or adding specialized staff, infrastructure, and processes. While none of these additional requirements are desirable, they are unavoidable compromises because you also pay a price when a migration initiative is delayed, when it is forced into a drawn-out phased schedule, or when you are saddled with expensive execution assets.

The Solution: SmartDeploy Enterprise

SmartDeploy was born from decades of experience with these problems and compromises in the field. Its design and feature set were driven by the knowledge of IT professionals with years of experience deploying operating systems in global enterprises. As a result, SmartDeploy Enterprise was developed specifically to help organizations overcome the challenges associated with operating system migration. SmartDeploy Enterprise eliminates many of the typical compromises required by current deployment solutions.

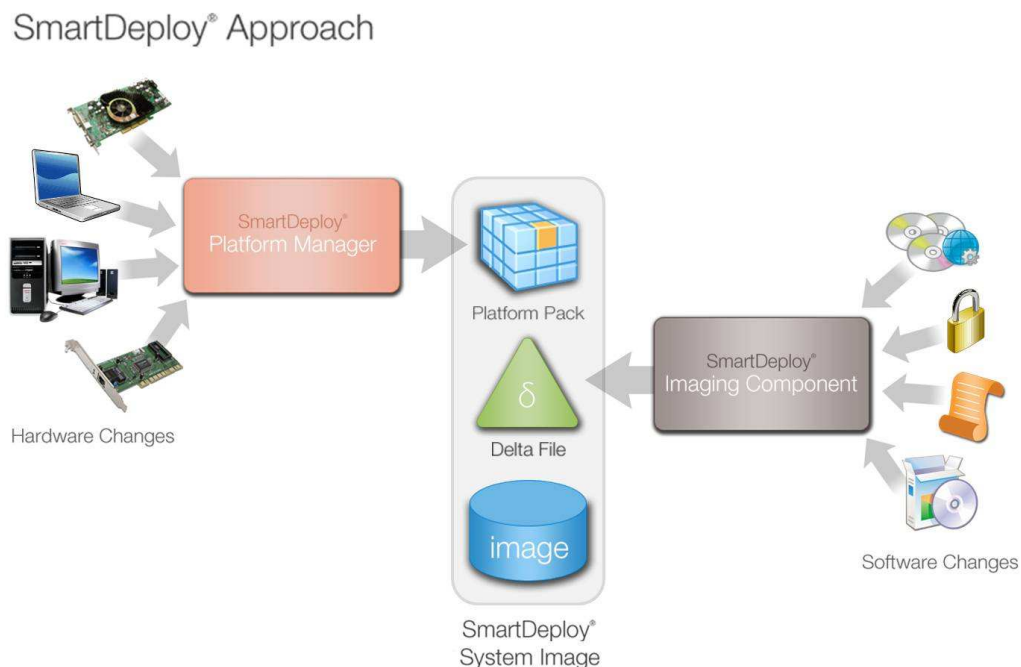
At the heart of SmartDeploy Enterprise are several innovations: a patented single-instance store technology, a new methodology for hardware-independent imaging, a master-and-delta image architecture, and virtual disk integration. This core set of technology components is expressed through a full range of features to offer a comprehensive, easy-to-use deployment toolset for organizations of all types.

- SmartDeploy Enterprise can dramatically reduce the number of images required for your entire infrastructure.
- SmartDeploy Enterprise relieves strain on bandwidth and storage through a highly efficient master and delta imaging method.
- SmartDeploy Enterprise reduces the need for specialized expertise by providing a simple, wizard-driven method for image creation, maintenance, and deployment.
- SmartDeploy Enterprise provides powerful advanced tools and APIs, allowing IT generalists with basic scripting skills to accommodate the most complex environments.
- SmartDeploy Enterprise delivers a simple application compatibility solution by migrating legacy applications in place with SmartMigrate™, retaining user settings, application data, and configuration, in addition to the application itself in its native environment

How Does SmartDeploy Work?

SmartDeploy Enterprise is designed for efficient deployment—to reduce or eliminate redundancy, wasted time, unnecessary effort, and superfluous infrastructure. In the simplest terms, SmartDeploy follows a basic three-step process:

1. **Capture an image:** The SmartDeploy Enterprise approach uses a single environment for building a reference system—a virtual machine running on the IT worker’s local workstation. SmartDeploy provides all the tools and automation for this, including the SmartDeploy Platform Manager for isolating hardware data from the image.
2. **Deploy an image:** SmartDeploy Enterprise allows you to deploy to physical and virtual machines. It also supports wizard-driven, zero-touch deployment via the Windows Preinstallation Environment (WinPE). During deployment, SmartDeploy Enterprise lets you prepare partitions, and, if desired, migrate the existing contents of the physical target system into a virtual machine, which is automatically present on the desktop of the new operating system after deployment.
3. **Update existing images:** SmartDeploy allows you to easily and quickly create delta files that contain only the changes to an existing image. For example, a single delta file may contain the latest patches, security updates, and definition files relating to an existing image. Using this approach, you can regularly distribute the small delta files to your endpoints to keep your images up to date.



End Results

By using SmartDeploy Enterprise, organizations can now deploy Windows Vista quickly and easily to all computers without having to make expensive, time-consuming compromises. There is no need to delay migration or implement a protracted, phased approach to accommodate legacy applications and specific user scenarios.

There is also no need to acquire specialized IT skills in imaging and deployment. Migration to Windows Vista can be achieved faster and easier than with previous tools and guidance.

- SmartDeploy Enterprise retains legacy applications seamlessly in a virtual machine that runs on the new Windows Vista desktop.
- User settings and data are retained, either in a protected folder, or in a virtual machine that can be run from the desktop.
- SmartDeploy Enterprise isolates hardware platform data from the system image. Images are deployed to each target using Platform Packs to insert drivers in WinPE. A different Windows Vista image is not required for each hardware platform.
- After the Windows Vista master image is distributed, it can be easily updated far into the future with small delta images replicated over the network.

See how SmartDeploy can ease and accelerate the upgrade to Windows Vista in your business. Try SmartDeploy Enterprise 2008 today. Visit www.smartdeploy.com for a free trial.

For more information, contact a Prowess product specialist or visit us online at:
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