

360 View - Stratusphere™ UX

Overview

Stratusphere UX is a comprehensive monitoring, performance-validation and diagnostics solution for organizations that support physical, virtual and mixed-platform desktop environments. Unlike physical desktops, virtual desktop workloads are supported by a shared infrastructure composed of hosts, storage, networking and a spectrum of applications and services. Stratusphere UX provides the necessary end-to-end inspection necessary to provide ongoing and proactive visibility into the performance and the end-user experience. Additionally, Stratusphere UX offers the ability to flow its metrics and information into other operational and systems tools, providing valuable access to the most critical information, and to the most relevant IT teams.

Do You Need Stratusphere UX?

You do if you said "yes" to:

- Are end users complaining that they're having issues, but you cannot verify whether this is so?
- Is senior management asking you to validate that the virtual desktop investment is "paying off"?
- Are you seeking a way to identify, diagnose and address the root cause of virtual desktop infrastructure problems?
- Do you lack a method of knowing how changes (adding new users, apps, OSEs) will affect the environment?
- Do you lack a means for capacity planning and workload management as your environment grows?
- Do you need a fast and straightforward way to drill down into user experience metrics?

Stratusphere UX Customer Use Cases

Stratusphere UX applies to organizations where virtual workloads are already in production as well as mixed environments with both physical and virtual workloads by offering:

- Ongoing and proactive monitoring—the ability to quantify user experience
- End-to-end visibility into all layers of the virtual infrastructure
- Confidence to scale from proof-of-concept to production
- Validation of infrastructure changes to ensure optimal performance
- Visibility to identify rogue entities to minimize resource contention
- Quick identification of bottlenecks and root causality
- "What-if" scenarios and optimization opportunities
- Support for physical and virtual machines as well as mixed platforms

Managing next-generation desktops can be a challenge without access to all the metrics that contribute to an optimal end-user experience. With Stratusphere UX, you can track performance characteristics from the endpoint to the data center. Stratusphere UX enables you to meet current and future requirements, minimize outages and disruption to your end users, and ultimately realize the return on investment and total cost of ownership attributes that result from a thoughtful desktop transformation strategy.

Proactive

Users who seek to validate their proof-of-concept and pilot projects realize far more success in meeting end-user expectations. Further, Stratusphere UX's periodic virtual-environment health checks identify small issues before they become systemwide events. In the process the overall architecture is optimized, and ROI is evident to senior leadership via the system's ongoing overall well-being.

Post Production

Managers of next-generation desktops can face escalating challenges due to centralization and its complex supporting infrastructures. Stratusphere UX supports proactive monitoring and provides inspectors that enable time-based diagnosis of events affecting users, machines, applications and/or the supporting infrastructure.

Business Benefits

Stratusphere UX can:

Save Time	Save Money	Boost Productivity
Track user-performance characteristics from endpoint to data center. Arm administrators with system transparency to rapidly remediate issues.	Ensure that the design meets current and future requirements by understanding ongoing user-resource consumption patterns and required resources.	Enable administrators to validate whether users are experiencing issues, quickly identify means for speedy resolution and maximize uptime.
Validate POC with confidence and quickly scale virtualization platforms to ensure an "equal-to" or "better-than" physical desktop user experience.	Keep users productive by minimizing outages, reducing downtime events, and rapidly identifying root causes of unavoidable events.	Stratusphere UX's cross-platform support (physical desktops, VMware, Citrix and terminal services) eliminates the need for multiple solutions.
Quickly determine root causality and minimize downtime. This solid monitoring and diagnostics solution provides flexible and dynamic visibility.	Leverage in-depth visibility through robust metrics and built-in and API-based reporting to optimize and help quantify ROI and TCO.	Proactive desktop monitoring helps manage workloads, add capacity and perform upgrades to prevent unplanned downtime.

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Key Features

The indicator metrics designed into Stratusphere UX reflect a comprehensive list of the critical data points that must be gathered, weighted and compared against thresholds in order to portray the most accurate picture of the user experience.

Indicator	Benefit
User Logon Time in Seconds	Slow logins indicate that workloads require balancing and/or that capacity needs to be added. It can also indicate that user profiles are misconfigured. Stratusphere UX shows how login durations vary over time as projects scale, thus allowing you to proactively address issues or changes.
Application Launch Time in Seconds	Slow application launch times indicate potential problems with newly deployed, patched or revised applications. Stratusphere UX identifies the specific applications that are hanging, as well as, any patterns across users or over time.
Application Server Response Time (ART)	Suitably fast application server response times indicate that the infrastructure is configured and balanced properly and is sufficiently resourced. ART is a unique patented technology in Stratusphere UX that isolates the root cause of improperly configured systems.
Application Not Responding (ANR)	Stratusphere UX can inspect application behavior over intervals (in minutes or hours) so administrators can isolate exactly when applications fail in order to see if it is an individual, group or system-wide problem.
Applications Usage Tracking/Installed vs. Consumed	Stratusphere UX provides applications usage data so administrators can alter desktop images based on actual usage to support licensing compliance and reduce the overall number of deployed applications.
Network Latency/Round Trip Time (NRT)	This measurement is extremely important for distributed or remote locations on a WAN. Remote users may have issues that local users are not experiencing, so administrators need a means of tracking offsite virtual desktop user experience.
Network Connection Failures	Virtual networking adds a layer of complexity on top of physical networks. Stratusphere UX diagnostics take this into account when measuring connection failures, helping to pinpoint the root cause of issues faster.
Network Connection Tracking by Port, User, Device to Device	The large number of endpoints in a virtual desktop infrastructure would make it extremely difficult to pinpoint an issue without a diagnostic solution such as Stratusphere UX.
Disk IOPS per Application	Proper storage sizing and resourcing is one of the most critical aspects in virtual desktop performance. Users and applications can have an immediate impact on storage IOPS and desktop performance. Stratusphere UX supports rightsizing and testing of storage types to ensure performance and capacity without over provisioning and excessive costs.
Disk and CPU Queues	Stratusphere UX provides this data as a means to redesign application processes or balance application workloads across systems. Resources can be deployed in relation to the users or groups and applications that consume them, lowering the cost of virtualization, while increasing ROI.
Visibility into TCP and UDP Traffic Streams & Patterns	Easy-to-use feature provides insight to desktop administrators about TCP and UDP network issues to facilitate communications with network engineers when troubleshooting problems.

Unique Differentiators

Stratusphere UX provides time-based inspection of desktop performance and a window into network applications and protocols via a Network Station virtual appliance. These features, combined with the Stratusphere VDI UX composite metric, provide a unique monitoring and diagnostics solution to ensure and enhance the end-user experience.

True Cross-Platform Support

Hypervisors include VMware ESX 3.0 and higher, VMware ESXi 3.0 and higher, Citrix XenServer 5.5 and higher, and Microsoft Hyper-V on Windows 2008 R2 and higher. Desktop platforms (physical and virtual) include all current Windows operating systems and Linux. Virtual desktop platforms include VMware View, Citrix XenDesktop and XenApp. Protocols: Citrix ICA, RDP and VMware PCoIP. Thin Application solutions supported include VMware ThinApp and Microsoft App-V.

Stratusphere UX Complements VMware vRealize Operations

VMware vRealize™ Operations Manager™ is designed to provide visibility into the virtualization layers and other supporting systems, including host, storage and network. VMware vRealize Operations is complemented by Stratusphere UX and Stratusphere Adapter, allowing organizations to gain an entire view of their desktops in a single pane of glass in VMware vRealize Operations consoles — from users, their applications and the endpoints to the virtualization layers through the storage and network layers. Stratusphere Adapter provides an integration feed for Stratusphere UX metrics to flow and display directly into VMware vRealize Operations consoles.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Stratusphere UX and Stratusphere Adapter for VMware environments.
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Stratusphere UX Complements Citrix EdgeSight/Director

- Stratusphere UX goes above and beyond Citrix EdgeSight™ and Director™, offering detailed user, machine and application metrics for XenDesktop and XenApp environments.
- For environments with Citrix XenApp or XenDesktop running on virtual hosts, Stratusphere UX provides a view into the virtualization and storage layers as well as into the guest metrics.
- Stratusphere UX runs in the background as a platform-agnostic virtual appliance while collecting data metrics to complement EdgeSight and Director for mixed environments running virtual desktops and Terminal Server or XenApp sessions.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Stratusphere UX for Citrix environments.
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