



PRESS RELEASE

Liquidware Labs Stratusphere v4.6 Sheds Desktop Agent while Beefing up Assessments and Service Assurance for Citrix XenDesktop and VMware View

New agent-less design gathers data without the need to install software on desktops

Alpharetta, Ga. – May 24, 2010 - Liquidware Labs, the leader in Assessment, Migration, and User Experience Management for next generation desktops, today announced the availability of Liquidware Labs Stratusphere v4.6 with a new agent-less desktop monitoring design, a user experience calibration feature, and a one-click proof-of-concept (POC) validation report for planning and implementing next generation desktops such as Citrix XenDesktop and VMware View.

Stratusphere provides organizations moving to VDI (virtual desktop infrastructure) decision support data to develop a clear path forward. Stratusphere Fit is first used to perform a full assessment on an organization's desktop infrastructure. The solution gathers usage data and metrics at all integral levels – from the desktop, to the network, to the datacenter, to the SAN. Stratusphere UX (User Experience) then goes to work immediately after a migration by using similar metrics to ensure that an optimum desktop experience is being delivered to users. The solution has built-in alert mechanisms to inform appropriate teams when performance of any integral part of the infrastructure falls below a specified threshold.

Stratusphere v4.6 now gathers metrics from desktops with a unique agent-less approach through a centralized network loadable module. This feature makes assessments non-obtrusive and easier than ever to perform. To get started with an assessment, the administrator simply applies the Stratusphere module to selected user(s) through a straight-forward Microsoft Group Policy Setting. Stratusphere then runs silently on the chosen desktops, quietly gathering usage data and performance metrics for later reporting and trending analysis. The solution is automatically accessed over the network without the need to install software on any client PC or virtual desktop. The Stratusphere module can be set to dissolve after a specific date or can easily be turned off by deleting the Group Policy setting. A standalone agent remains available to support laptop and mobile users.

A new user experience baseline feature named Stratusphere UX Calibration™ has also been added in v4.6. Once Stratusphere UX gathers initial usage and infrastructure metrics, the solution reports the status of the user experience as good, fair, or poor based on Stratusphere's analysis of pre-populated thresholds. The administrator can then customize these thresholds if desired and can then use the calibration feature to set metrics of a known good user experience with a single click. If the user experience falls below the calibrated values, proper support teams can be automatically notified before negative trends impact users.

Validations for Citrix XenDesktop/VMware View Proof of Concept Projects

Many organizations are exploring test cases of VDI and have implemented POCs in an attempt to confirm a selected desktop's effectiveness for performance and user efficiency. Stratusphere v4.6 now includes a one-click proof of concept validation report to provide clear answers for these POCs. To use this feature, an integrator or customer would simply run Stratusphere Fit before installing the new Citrix

XenDesktop, VMware View, or Windows and then run Stratusphere UX after the installation. After a short validation monitoring period to ensure accurate results, the administrator can use the simple one-click feature to generate an in-depth before-and-after report of performance increase or decrease at all integral levels – from the desktop, to the network, to application servers, to the SAN.

“Our new agent-less desktop design makes assessments easier to perform than ever before while the robust features we’ve added in Stratusphere v4.6 provide detailed metrics at all integral levels of an organization’s desktop infrastructure - giving integrators clear solutions to recommend and customers a clear path forward for implementing VDI,” said David Bieneman, CEO and founder of Liquidware Labs.

Other notable new features include numerous report additions and a Desktop 360 diagnostics view in Stratusphere UX which offers administrators the ability to see all key data on machine/network/host/SAN on a single pane of glass.

Availability

A fully functional free evaluation version of Stratusphere v4.6 is available for [download now](#). The solution is available for purchase through Liquidware Labs’ worldwide [distributors and partners](#).

About Liquidware Labs

Liquidware Labs™ (LWL) is the leader in Assessment and User Experience Management for next generation desktops including VMware View, Citrix XenDesktop, and Microsoft Windows 7. The company’s Stratusphere™ and ProfileUnity™ solutions have been described by analysts as the industry’s first “On-Ramp to VDI” by providing complete methodology and software that enable organizations to cost-effectively plan, migrate, and manage their next generation desktop infrastructure with best practices in mind. LWL’s comprehensive solutions provide Assessment, Personalization Management, User Configuration, and Service Level Assurance. LWL products are VMware and Citrix certified, and are available through a global network of certified partners. Visit www.liquidwarelabs.com for further information.

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