



INDUSTRY

Aircraft Manufacturing



Airbus gives contractors increased access to Aircraft development applications through VMware Horizon with View

Airbus is a world leading commercial aircraft manufacturer headquartered in Toulouse, France. The organisation has more than 80,000 employees, working in 160 offices across 100 countries. Airbus offers a modern and comprehensive family of civil airliners with capacities ranging from 100 to more than 500 seats. In 2013, it produced more than 600 airliners.

Airbus, a world's leading commercial aircraft manufacturer, has deployed VMware Horizon with View to give its staff and contractors secure remote access to develop, test and support business applications.

Secure access for contractors

Aircraft manufacturing is a highly specialised field, requiring the services and collaboration of a wide range of specialist organisations. This brings a number of business challenges, as large numbers of contractors, subcontractors and partners need to work alongside Airbus' employees and need access the company's core IT systems.

The Solution

To address these challenges, Airbus needed to introduce a brand new virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) specifically for subcontractors that would enable it to better manage third party access to its systems and to develop, test and support business applications.

Airbus embarked on a benchmarking process to identify the best infrastructure solution. Arnaud Albinet, ICT Merger, Acquisition and Outsourcing Project Manager at Airbus said: "VMware was able to demonstrate its capabilities to deliver 2D applications and the capacity to be integrated in Airbus ecosystem. We have a worked successfully with VMware in the past on server virtualisation and VMware View had a reputation as one of the top desktop virtualization products on the market."

Following this process, VMware Horizon with View was found to be the most

suitable solution due to its fulfilment of all Airbus' requirements; the solution was well adapted to integrate within Airbus' IS environment, and VMware offered a strong support package for evaluation and roll out.

Now, up to 500 concurrent external users are using the VMware platform. The implementation of Horizon with View is only 'wave one' of a large, multi-phase project to make a wider range of vital IT services accessible to contractors and facilitate greater collaboration between Airbus and its partners. In 'wave two', Airbus aims to extend to heavy applications accessible on its platform.

Business Benefits

The implementation of Horizon with View has also improved system flexibility and agility. This in turn has reduced lead time for the delivery of the desktop to end users, enabling them to to access all necessary files and data quickly, with consequent gains in efficiency and business productivity. The system also enables faster decommissioning of desktops, which again improves security by reducing the number of end users with unnecessary system access.

Previously, large numbers of subcontractors elected to work at desktops within Airbus offices, leading to a considerable cost in providing PCs,

“Airbus is leveraging its current virtual desktop solution enabling IT talent to develop, test and support business applications, paving the way to access a team of engineering talent using VMware Horizon with View.”

Arnaud Albinet, ICT Merger, Acquisition and Outsourcing Project Manager at Airbus

IT services and office space for this additional headcount. Now that the virtual desktop service is up and running, these subcontractors are able to work remotely using their own PCs, laptops and tablets, freeing up space, as well as saving money for Airbus.

Next Steps

Airbus is already planning the extension of virtual desktop usage, developing the system to deliver more advanced usage for end users who require more resources, for example those using vGPU technologies.

Working with VMware to develop the solution has given Airbus the opportunity to influence progress from strategy to product and ensure this fulfils all requirements.

In the concluding phase of ‘wave one’, Airbus will roll out VMware Horizon with View to further subcontractors and partners over the next twelve months, extending the solution for up to 1,000 concurrent users.

