

The migration to Windows 7 reopens the debate about using a client/server solution versus a purely Web-based solution to access mainframes

Client/server mainframe emulators have been available for more than 25 years. Introduced when personal computers hit the market, they were able to replace proprietary terminals (3270 screens) and are still widely used. Today, other solutions are available based on the concept of the Pure Web workstation. These new solutions are becoming increasingly popular with companies because their total cost of ownership is much lower than client/server solutions.

Impact on implementation constraints and related costs

- ✓ Client/server solutions must be installed on both the workstation and the server. They interface with the mainframe using the TN3270 protocol. These solutions have not changed in terms of architecture, and purchase and maintenance costs remain high.
- ✓ Pure Web solutions are installed directly on the mainframe, without requiring code on the client workstation. A simple Web browser is all it takes to interface with the mainframe using http or http/s. This is particularly useful for access from outside of the company. There is no workstation deployment, and only a secure Internet connection is required. The Pure Web connection has many advantages in terms of security, compared with the 3270 tunneling used by the TN3270 protocol.

The arrival of Windows 7 is an opportunity for companies to choose between these two solutions, since they will have to install new client applications when migrating the workstations.

This is an opportunity to compare maintenance costs, deployment costs, operating costs, and the risk of failure.

Migrating to Windows 7: An opportunity to compare and bet on the future

Client/server solutions are found to be more costly in terms of annual maintenance and operating costs (deployment and additional operating costs), and they have a higher risk of failure because of the intermediate server and the client application.

Pure Web solutions are not impacted by changes to the workstation, and the cost to purchase and maintain a Pure Web mainframe access solution can represent a 60% savings compared to the cost of a client/server solution.

“Since a large portion of the costs to move to Windows 7 are related to testing and deploying client applications, companies can greatly benefit from this opportunity to migrate to Pure Web solutions. They can benefit from the low cost of ownership that such solutions offer and thus limit the impact of future migrations,” says our expert Philippe Tourneux.

- **If you would like to learn more or meet with our expert, please contact us.**

About SysperTec Communication

SysperTec is a software development company whose mission is to help its customers by providing sustainable solutions for interoperability in order to facilitate and automate data interchange within the range of IT environments of today and tomorrow. SysperTec has a team of experts who have been developing software for nearly 20 years with the goal of simplifying the integration of business applications and networks.

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