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Managing Multiple Java Versions with FSLogix Apps

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An Ongoing Need for Multiple Java Versions

A common requirement in Enterprise environments is the need to support multiple Java versions. This generally occurs when IT needs to upgrade Java for security and interoperability reasons, but has applications or websites that require an older version of Java to function properly. These applications and websites may not be easy or cost effective to update, or may be managed by third parties outside the control of the IT department.

How is the Problem Currently Addressed?



IT uses several methods to provide enterprise support for multiple Java versions, all with various challenges.

Presentation Server and VDI: Using RDSH based solutions like Xenapp or virtual desktop solutions like HyperV, administrators install applications requiring a common version of Java on a unique virtual client. This provides a highly compatible environment for those applications, but requires additional resources and management to support, wasting valuable man-hours, hardware, and other system resources. Applications running in VMs or remote servers may also lose their ability to interact with other desktop applications.

Application Virtualization: With products like Thinapp, AppV, and Symantec Workspace Virtualization (SWV or SVS), virtualized browser packages are created, containing the application or browser, plugins, and unique version of Java. Virtualized applications can require extensive and complex packaging and sequencing, and in some instances cannot operate in a virtual layer or bubble. The variations in these components can require administrators to create and support a large number of packages simply to support common, industry standard desktops.

In addition, some customers report as low as 60-80% success rate for virtualizing or isolating applications like Internet Explorer due to sequencing complexity with multiple plugins and Java versions.

Another common approach is to leave enterprise clients on the oldest version of Java that is compatible with their applications. This creates compatibility issues for applications needing newer versions of Java and creates security risks by allowing browsers to openly surf the web with older Java versions.

What is Java Redirection?

Starting in version 1.3, Java redirection is a core feature of FSLogix Apps that allows all applications and websites to run with the version of Java they require to properly operate - all within the same client system. After administrative setup is complete, end users automatically use the appropriate Java version without any intervention or notification. Java redirection allows all required Java versions to be installed in the client environment, but only executed or visible on an as-needed basis, to maintain compatibility for specific applications and websites.

How does Java Redirection Work?

FSLogix Apps uses advanced filtering and a patent pending type of virtualization called image masking to enable Java redirection and our other core functionality. This process is transparent to the client operating system and integrates seamlessly with all Windows based infrastructure.



Does Java Redirection Decrease Security in my Enterprise?

In many instances, Java redirection will improve on your current security by permitting older versions of Java to work with just specific applications and websites approved by IT and INFOSEC. All other applications and websites will default to the most current version of Java deployed to your clients.

What Versions of Windows are Supported?

Windows Vista SP1 and later. Windows Server 2008 and later.

What Versions of Internet Explorer are Supported?

Internet Explorer 8 and later.

What Versions of Java are Supported?

FSLogix Apps requires 1.6.0_20 or later to be installed. Admin can select any version of Java between 1.4.2 and 1.8.0_40 (latest version) for applications and Applets.

How Does Java Redirection Work with Application Virtualization?

FSLogix Apps Java Redirection works at a higher level than application virtualization. Therefore it will work for virtualized as well as normal applications.

How Does Java Redirection Compare to Application Virtualization?

FSLogix Apps Java Redirection uses visibility control and redirection to control the Java versions used by applications and Applets. It is much lighter weight and simpler to administer.

How Does Java Redirection Work with VDI and RDSH?

Since FSLogix Apps runs as an agent in the Windows client environment, it is fully compatible with all Windows based virtual desktop, cloud desktop, and RDSH presentation solutions.

FSLogix is a Microsoft BizSpark partner, a Citrix Ready partner, and winner of Best of Citrix Synergy 2015 in the Application and Desktop Virtualization category.

What Client Environments are Supported?

FSLogix Java redirection works on physical PCs, RDSH based presentation solutions, and all Windows based virtual desktop products.

How Is Java Redirection Sold?

Java redirection is part of our core product offering and included with all shipping versions of FSLogix Apps. Java redirection can also be purchased as a separate module for customers needing only this component.