

# Virtual PC Saves Millions

## Municipality throws out surplus computers

**HARDWARE** Härryda Municipality introduces a concept for virtual workplaces. As a result the Municipality hopes to save millions yearly.

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After several years of evaluation, Härryda Municipality, just south of Göteborg, is starting a venture called Virtual Workplaces. One result is that people working outside the office will be able to log in and connect to central servers.

"The users will get access to all information, not just the web-based software. In addition, they won't need two computers, like laptops to use outside the office," says the Municipality's IT Manager Alec Mägi Särnholm.

**HE HAS CALCULATED** the benefits from no longer having to equip 100 users with two computers each. Since the IT department bills the Municipality operations 20.000 kr per computer and year, this alone reduces the IT costs by two million kronor yearly.

Alec Mägi Särnholm explains that the Municipality used to replace around 600 computers every year, among them about 500 desktops. With the new concept you can chose simpler clients since all the operating systems and software are on the central servers. It also means that crashed systems can be restored quickly.

"Since all software is on the server, it's unnecessary to use expensive commercial software on the individual computers. We will begin testing laptops with Ubuntu Linux and Open Office, for example.



**SOFTWARE SAVINGS** Alec Mägi Särnholm has introduced a concept where all software sits on central servers. The employees use simple laptops or terminals to access what they need.

FOTO: STEFAN IDEBERG

When the users log on to the server they can work with Windows software as usual," says Alec Mägi Särnholm.

The technology used for communication between clients and servers is called Virtual Desktop Infrastructure, VDI, and the software used is Thinlinc from Swedish Cendio. Among the benefits mentioned is that it's much easier to manage new installations and to log in to your own workspace on the server.

"We believe that Thinlinc's functionality is much better than the other products, at least when it comes to efficient login and printer management. The sound and graphics are high-end as well," Alec Mägi Särnholm says.

He puts emphasis on the fact that the greatest benefit from the virtual way of working is the accessibility. It doesn't matter where you are, what kind of computer you use, or what kind of operating system you have. The workplace is always accessible.

The virtual working mode is at the moment evaluated by 25 testers and is expected to be up and running at the end of March.

### CS VIRTUAL WORKPLACE

**1.500 employees** at Härryda Municipality will use virtual computers, powered by central servers.

**The technology** Härryda chose is built on Virtual Desktop Infrastructure, VDI. Swedish Cendio's Thinlinc connects the clients to the servers.

The system administration is done through VMWare Virtual Center. Cendio Thinlinc is VDI broker and VMWare ESX Server is used for virtualization of the workspace.