

## **BRIEFING NOTES: ENTERPRISE THIN-CLIENT**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Background involvement as the Joint Staff Task Force Liaison
2. A DISA Thin-client Tiger Team
  - a. Operational Needs
  - b. Piloting
  - c. A strategy and architecture
3. What is the right approach

### **OPERATIONAL NEED**

The Joint Staff is, as are many other DoD organizations, pursuing the purchase and installation of thin-client desktops to improve their IA stance and reduce their IT infrastructure costs. Since organizations across the Department are expending resources to achieve similar objectives, an enterprise solution for the architecture and acquisition of this capability would be of benefit to all.

1. Similar Objectives
2. An Enterprise Solution
3. Improve IA stance
4. Reduce IT infrastructure costs
  - a. Resources
  - b. Licensing

### **OTHER OPERATIONAL NEEDS**

Defining the operational need, gaining consensus and a prioritization for these needs brought us the following lay down:

- **Multi-Level Security Access**
- **Reduced Footprint**
- **Single Sign-On**
- **Hot Desking**
- **Infrastructure Cost Reduction**
- **Improved IA Stance**
- **Viable in SCIF and non-SCIF**
- **Ability to move files from one classification domain to another**

## **A THIN-CLIENT ENTERPRISE**

In our first look at the Department's request for an enterprise thin-client solution we recognized a multitude of hurdles. The magnitude of this effort with respect to hosting end-user applications, managing to the desktop, and the governance of the aforementioned is an enormous undertaking. Such an effort would have major implications on the relationship between the COCOMS and Executive Agents. This is not a technical or acquisition issue. Discussions need to include: governance of a single enterprise solution; scalability; multi-level security; and legacy applications.

1. Magnitude
2. Hosting end-user applications
3. Managing the desktop
4. Governance
5. Multi-level security

## **PILOT EFFORT**

- Develop a prototype to do the following:
  - Identify problems with fielding, transport and applications
  - Gain better fidelity on roles, requirements, costs
  - Gather empirical system performance data
- Prototype technology should take into account current infrastructure investments
- Model the proposed architectures to determine larger-scale infrastructure limitations

## **What is the Right Approach**

Is Thin-Client the right technology approach? Considering disconnected operations, the strategic/tactical environment and the shear magnitude for an enterprise capability is the challenge. Today's dialog and interaction should help us gain a greater insight on this approach.

VERSION FINAL.6 NOVERMEB 2008

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