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Remote Connection via ICA Protocol

VisuNet remote monitors can be connected directly to Citrix host PCs via networks with the ICA protocol

VisuNet remote monitoring systems were the pioneers of Ethernet-based connectivity to hosts. Until now, RDP (Remote Desktop Protocol), which is integrated in Microsoft Windows, was the standard protocol used by VisuNet. VNC protocol, in addition to protocols from other manufacturers, was also available. With the official release of the 2.0 VisuNet remote monitor shell, unrestricted use of ICA protocol from Citrix is now possible.

In hazardous areas, VisuNet remote monitoring systems are quickly replacing KVM systems, which have dominated for years. Trouble-free digital data transfer and software-based control, as well as the simple administration of a remote monitor as a network device are persuading more and more users. The popular RDP connection to the relevant host has been expanded: all users of Citrix server farms and the ICA protocol (Independent Computing Architecture) can also add VisuNet remote monitors directly to their network.

The RDP protocol from Microsoft is often selected to connect a VisuNet remote monitor to a host via an Ethernet network. This protocol is an integral component of Windows XP, Vista, and 7 other operating systems. Depending on licensing, only a virtual point-to-point connection between the remote monitor and the host is established, or server versions of the Microsoft operating system with corresponding User Licenses are required on a server PC.

For applications where a large number of users must simultaneously access a large common data and program base, a virtual server environment is often created based on virtualization software from Citrix. This software makes the required data locally available to each user (up to several thousand users) via the network, and simultaneously manages large, central

server farms (several hundred computers) and organizes load distribution and data partitioning. The ICA protocol is then used from the remote monitors as the data transfer language to the virtual server located somewhere in the company network. These virtual architectures are used by large, mainly international companies, that prefer central data storage for maintaining and further developing formulations and batch-processes.

Until now, for every standard monitor on site, an additional computer was installed to make network capability and ICA protocol available. With the implementation of the ICA protocol in the VisuNet remote monitor, additional computers can be eliminated, and customers can connect their local IT architecture more simply and more cost effectively. In particular, customers who apply the widely used MES (Manufacturing Execution System) solutions in the process industry profit from this functional enhancement of VisuNet remote monitor systems.

Key words: remote, RM, monitor, connection, Ethernet, ICA, RDP, Citrix, MES

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Fig. 1: Eye catcher



Fig. 2: An ICA profile can be set up with a few mouse clicks: *Citrix Program Neighborhood* supplies the parameters



Fig. 3: VisuNet remote monitors can now be connected to the host with ICA