VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
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PROJECT REPORT
on
DESKTOP VIRTUALIZATION OVER THE CLOUD THROUGH HOST-BASED VIRTUAL MACHINES
Sponsored by KSCST

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Abstract

Cloud computing is the concept of rendering computing services to a user over a network and has been the predominant way of delivering IT services in the past few years. It boasts many features such as performance, business continuity, scalability, to name a few. Virtualization is the process of virtualizing computing resources. It is usually done to get better utilization from otherwise under-utilized resources. Desktop virtualization is a type of virtualization where desktops are virtualized. It is the concept of isolating a logical operating system instance from the client that is used to access it. Combining the two, a model is obtained wherein virtualized desktops are provided as a service to a user over the network. The running, storage and the management of the virtual desktops are shifted to the server while the user need only interface with it through a specialized light-weight client device. This can be contrasted with the traditional model of desktop computing where a user is associated with a hardware system and is fully responsible for it. The report describes a management software suite, called Neptune, which can be used to set-up an infrastructure for providing virtual desktops to a user over the web. Due to the ubiquity of browsers, the system provides for a browser based interface for a platform independent solution.