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Viewfinity: The Friction of the “Least Privileges” Desktop Environment

Managing an organization’s desktop computing environment properly involves the management of two competing interests:

- Users want to have unfettered access to any application offered by IT—and every other application they might consider useful. This can maximize user productivity, but it makes the organization vulnerable to malware and other problems.
- IT wants to limit users to a minimum number of resources. This protects the network and minimizes IT’s workload. However, end users might be less productive and less innovative.

Establishing the right desktop environment can minimize IT costs and overall risk, but the key is to find the perfect balance: allowing users to access useful resources, while maximizing network security and IT efficiency.

Why Companies Aren’t Relaxing PC Lockdown Policies

Connect with Viewfinity featuring **Gartner** Research on recent trends related to how organizations are revisiting PC control policies and increasing desktop lockdown.

Gartner states, “Survey results and feedback from Gartner clients show that organizations are increasing the number of PCs that IT controls by removing administrative rights and using other measures to control PC configurations.” This practice reduces system vulnerability by allowing end users to use only the applications and desktop functions that are deemed safe. However, to avoid merely shifting support calls related to unstable PCs to a high frequency of incidental type calls, companies should consider privilege management tools that will allow them to manage by user type or role.

The Problem With Current Solutions

A “one-size-fits-all” approach doesn’t work for most organizations. However, many lock-down technologies don’t allow exceptions for individual users. Windows 7, for example, provides only for fairly rigid desktop lockdown

The screenshot shows a webpage layout for Viewfinity. At the top right is the Viewfinity logo. Below it is a navigation bar with links: Home, Viewfinity Privilege Management, Resources, Use Cases, Trial Evaluation, About Us. The main content area features a header with the title 'Effective PC Lockdown: Beyond the All or Nothing Approach' and a sub-header 'ISSUE 1'. Below the header is a photo of Leonard Skellman, Viewfinity CEO, with the text 'PC Lockdown Must Achieve Business Benefits'. The article text discusses the challenges of PC lockdown, the need for business benefits, and the role of Viewfinity's Privilege Management product. To the right of the article is a 'Viewfinity Content' section with a small photo of Dwan Kinghorn and a link to 'Best Practices for PC Lockdown and Control Policies'. At the bottom left of the article is a 'Gartner' section with a link to 'Organizations Are Increasing PC Lockdown' and a 'Key Findings' bullet point: 'Few IT organizations are relaxing PC lockdown policies.'

capabilities: Active Directory does not support an exception to a lockdown policy for a specific user. Further, policies can’t be applied to computers not part of Active Directory. This creates a headache for IT if they are supporting remote workers.

What Functions And Features Should You Seek?

Any lockdown capability should include the following:

- Granular lockdown policies and privileges so an individual can install a new resource if needed.
- Support for remote users.
- Blocking and whitelisting applications for specific users.
- Support for regulatory obligations to protect and manage data.
- Validation of policy delivery to mobile & remote users, computers, and applications.

Enter Viewfinity

Viewfinity Privilege Management offers administrators a flexible approach for controlling the desktop and laptop environment. With flexible control over the types of applications and privileges a distributed workforce is allowed, the more stable the desktop environment becomes. With enhanced control, the number of support calls is reduced, allowing organizations to realize the cost savings they had hoped to achieve.

For organizations presently or planning to move to a locked down desktop environment, Viewfinity can manage rights by function and application. Viewfinity’s Privilege Management features are integrated with Active Directory, allowing administrators to set flexible privilege elevation policies for managing rights. Desktops continue to operate within the least privileges mode except for those functions flagged for elevated privileges.

The result is a least privileges environment that maintains control, while at the same time giving end users the flexibility they need to maximize productivity.

For more information please visit:
<http://bit.ly/ahz56d>

