Terminal Services Option for Insight

Description

The Terminal Services Option for Insight® provides remote access to an Insight workstation through Microsoft® Windows® Terminal Services. Terminal Services provides mobility; facility operators can monitor their building automation system without being restricted to dedicated Insight workstations.

Features of the Terminal Services Option are:

- Remote client access to Insight applications.
- Remote access using Intranet, Internet, LAN, WAN, low-bandwidth or dial-up connections.
- Use of the Terminal Services component of Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 or 2008 R2.
- Centralized execution and independent sessions of Insight on a Windows-based server from a wide range of client devices over virtually any type of network connection.
- Minimal client requirements. Clients are only required to support the Terminal Services Client software.
- Central location for upgrades and maintenance. Insight software only needs to be installed on the Terminal Services server machine, not on the clients.
- Reduced network traffic since all work is conducted on the server.

Requirements

- Insight 3.6 or later.
- Windows Server 2012 R2 (Insight 3.14 or later) or Windows Server 2008 R2 (Insight 3.9.1 or later).
- A Windows Server Client Access License (CAL) and, for each client, a Microsoft Terminal Services CAL (a CAL may be device- or user-based). Both can be obtained from Microsoft.
- An adequate number of Insight user licenses must be available from the server. Each client session using Terminal Services will consume a standard Insight user license.

Terminal Services Architecture

When using the Terminal Services Option, Insight client execution, data processing, and data storage occur on the server. The Insight interface and user desktop are transmitted remotely and displayed using either Terminal Services Client software or a Web browser. Similarly, printing, keyboard input, and mouse clicks are also transmitted remotely between the server and the terminal emulation or browser software. Users log on and see only their individual Insight session, which is managed transparently by the server operating system and is independent of any other client session.

NOTE: On systems with a Life Safety Option enabled, only non-Fire workstations can be configured as a Terminal Services server due to UL requirements.

Centralized Insight Installation and Execution

In a Terminal Services configuration, Insight software is installed and runs centrally on Windows Server 2012 R2 or 2008 R2. The Terminal Services client software can be used to access only the applications that have been enabled for Terminal Services sessions, rather than the entire desktop. While the server must be rich in processing power, RAM and hard drive space, a client machine requires relatively small amounts of processing power, RAM and local disk storage capacity. Terminal Services ensures that all clients can access the same, current revision of Insight software because the Insight software is installed once on a server, rather than every desktop throughout the APOGEE Automation System. This reduces the cost and challenge of deploying and updating software on desktop machines, especially for remotely-located desktops or consoles.

Reduced Client Hardware Requirements

Since using Terminal Services reduces the client machine requirements, customers can continue to use older computers as Insight Terminal Services clients, and gradually replace them over time.

Benefits of Terminal Services

Insight software can be deployed and managed from a central server location, saving administrators initial deployment time, as well as the time and effort required for software maintenance and updates. Once the Insight software is deployed using Terminal Services, many clients can connect through a remote access dial-up connection, local area network (LAN), or wide area network (WAN).In addition, clients can be Windows or non-Windows based.

Terminal Services Licensing

The Terminal Services Option for Insight must be installed on the designated Insight Database Server, which must have Windows Server 2012 R2 or 2008 R2. Each client, regardless of the type of operating system and protocol used to connect to Terminal Services, must have the Microsoft Terminal Services Client Access License (CAL) as well as the standard Windows Server CAL, obtained separately from Microsoft.

Each client session using Terminal Services will consume a standard Insight user license. Therefore, the Insight server must have enough Insight user licenses available to support the desired amount of concurrent sessions.

Recommended Specifications

Operating System environment	Windows Server 2012 R2 (Standard or Enterprise) Windows Server 2008 R2 (Standard or Enterprise) Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0 **NOTE:** On systems with the Life Safety Option enabled, Insight Fire Workstations must not be configured as a Terminal Services server.
Insight Database Server	See the *Insight Base Workstation Technical Specification Sheet* (149-332P25) for specifications.
Terminal Services Client computer	Windows Server 2012 R2/2008 R2 or Windows 7/8.1–all with current service pack/security patches.

Ordering Information

Description	Product Number
Terminal Services Option	571-105

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