



# virtel

## CASE STUDY



## Customer Story – VDI Enablement

### THE CUSTOMER

Fraikin - the European leader in Commercial Vehicle Fleet services – with 180 branch offices, 7,000 customers, and 2,800 employees in 13 European countries, Russia, and the Saudi Arabia relies on legacy CICS applications to manage a 58,000 vehicles fleet.

### THE VDI INITIATIVE

In 2016, to reduce their costs and support requirements, Fraikin decided to get out of the mainframe client workstation business altogether by replacing the 1,500 Windows PC workstations used to access their mainframe applications with Chromebook and Chromebit devices, part of an Enterprise-wide Virtual Device Infrastructure (VDI) initiative.



Figure 1 - Chromebook



Figure 2 - Chromebit

Chromebook and Chromebit devices, run the latest Chrome OS and web browser, are centrally managed with the Chrome device manager, get automatic updates and antivirus protection for effortless and worry-free support, and connect via the Internet to Cloud applications such as G Suite.

With G Suite, users can create, edit, store and share Cloud-hosted documents, spreadsheets, and presentations in the Chrome browser. G Suite comes with automatic updates and antivirus protection for effortless and worry-free support.

While Chromebooks are notebook-style computers, Chromebit dongles are only the size of a large memory stick. They can easily be carried in a pocket. Yet they create a full computer configuration when connected to a PC monitor, keyboard and mouse.

### THE CHALLENGE

Fraikin's challenge was to replace the legacy client-based 3270 TE product used to access mainframe applications with a thin-client browser-based alternative, because the 3270 TE client applets didn't work under Chrome OS, and were inconsistent with the planned VDI initiative.

## VIRTEL KEY FEATURES:

- ❶ Serves 3270 transactions as web pages or web services
- ❷ Nothing to install or support outside the host
- ❸ Instant deployment: point web browsers to a predefined URL
- ❹ Works with any browser or platform (mobile devices, Apple products, Windows...)
- ❺ Concurrently serves different presentations to different users (3270 TE, WUI/GUI, mobile UI)
- ❻ Supports any protocol and format: RESTful, XML, JSON, SOAP, MQ Series, etc.
- ❼ Low impact and low risk: no application or server change
- ⽑ High performance and small host footprint for highly scalable solutions
- ⽒ Simple host-centric configuration and support for low TCO and early ROI

## THE SOLUTION

The solution was to install Virtel Web Access (VWA) – Virtel's base configuration - on the mainframe hosting the 3270 applications.

Virtel is a scalable and economical solution to transform legacy mainframe applications into new and dynamic web applications. Virtel's mainframe-hosted middleware establishes a direct dialogue between the mainframe and web environments to serve legacy mainframe applications as web pages or web services over end-to-end HTTP/S connections.

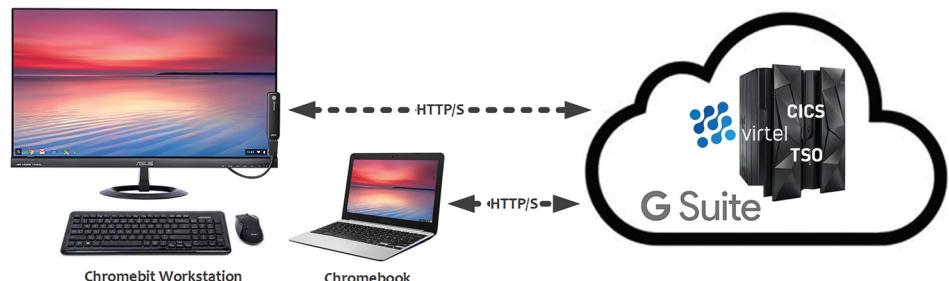


Figure 3 - Solution Architecture

With VWA, users access 3270 applications such as TSO and CICS in 3270 TE mode in their browser. VWA serves the 3270 screens as HTML5/JavaScript web pages with 3270 TE ergonomics. A true thin-client browser-based solution, VWA nicely fits within a customer's VDI strategy, because from a user point of view, it puts legacy mainframe applications in the Cloud together with G Suite.

## THE RESULTS

With the VDI project, Fraikin was able to:

- Divide workstations' TCO (Total Cost of Ownership) by five (5)!
  - Lower HW/SW purchasing or licensing costs
  - Lower support costs
- Reduce and simplify support requirements:
  - No apps to deploy and support outside the host
  - Centralized management and support
- Provide unparalleled mobility and flexibility
- Improve security by eliminating the exposure of distributed applets

This project has been nominated for an IBM Beacon award.

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