

# 2009 Desktop Virtualization Survey Research Brief



*Sponsored by Imprivata, Inc.*

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## Research Brief

### 2009 Desktop Virtualization Survey

This national survey targeted executives across a wide array of industries, including healthcare, financial services, state and local governments agencies, and others to better understand the rate of adoption of desktop virtualization (VDI) and how organizations plan on securing these new environments. The survey was conducted in May/June 2009 and resulted in 132 respondents.

#### *Key Findings*

### Desktop Virtualization Adoption Rate Grows; Driven by Economic and Desktop Management Benefits

The survey results demonstrate that organizations are increasingly aware of the productivity and economic benefits of implementing desktop virtualization. In fact, nearly 73 percent of respondents indicated that they are investigating or have plans to implement VDI solutions in 2009.

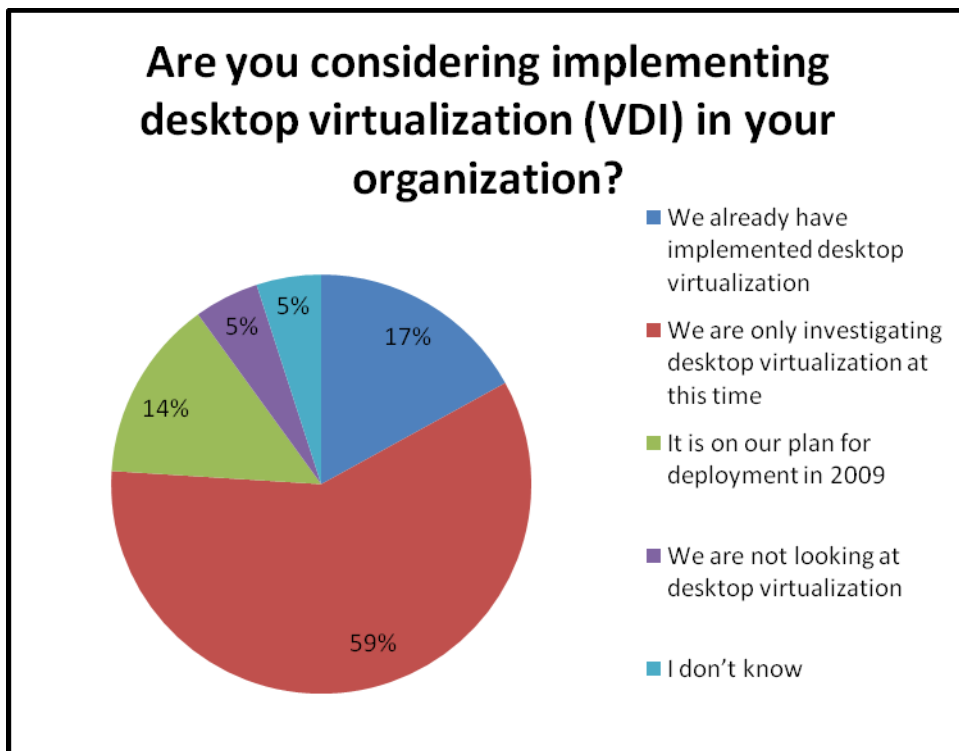


Figure 1

The survey further asked the companies that have implemented or are investigating the use of VDI solutions in their organization to select all relevant reasons for their implementation. Using VDI to simplify the management of desktops scored the highest at 78 percent, while the infrastructure cost savings in equipment, electricity and maintenance was cited 72 percent of the time. The benefits of virtualization are well known, but also lead to new [security risks](#) and challenges, especially around managing [user identities](#) and the enforcement of access policies. As companies continue to test VDI solutions for their organizations, responding to the [security risks](#) raised by the new environment will be a critical barrier to overcome for implementation.

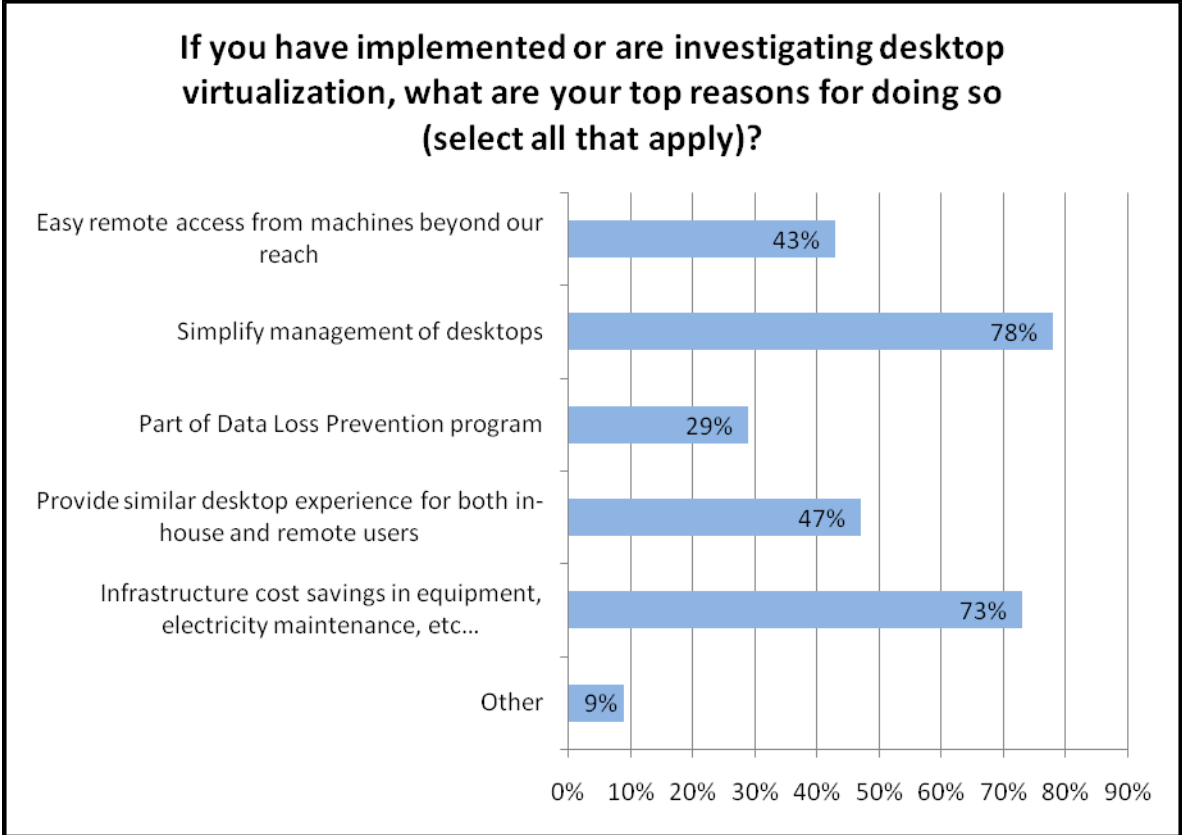


Figure 2

# Security Likely an Issue to Deploying VDI Environments

Despite the strong interest in deploying virtualization, companies are still struggling to figure out how to provide security in a virtualized environment. Nearly 70 percent of respondents indicated that they will be required to track and report user access events in their VDI environment.

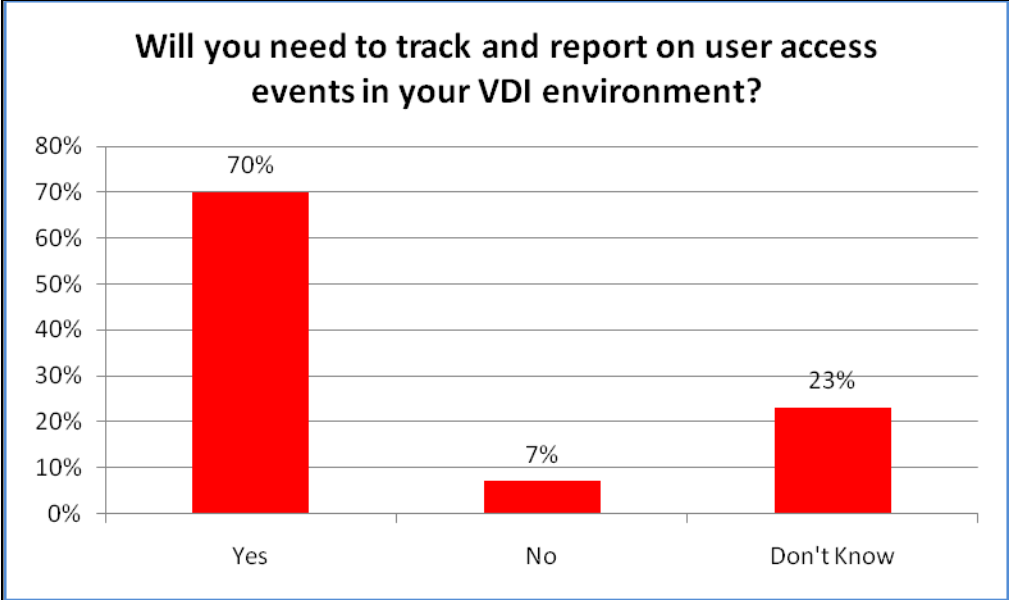


Figure 3

With user identities being relevant in multiple points within the virtual desktop, coordinating and enforcing access policies becomes far more difficult and error prone as all the systems have to be in-sync. Since one of the advantages of having VDI is the ability to dynamically create desktops specific to the user's role within the organization, having a centralized way to manage user identities, roles and access policies is critical. Nearly 73 percent indicated they are still looking for security solutions that will help them meet these requirements. Of that group, more than 37 percent of those respondents indicated that they are looking for ways to provide additional [strong authentication](#) to their VDI environment.

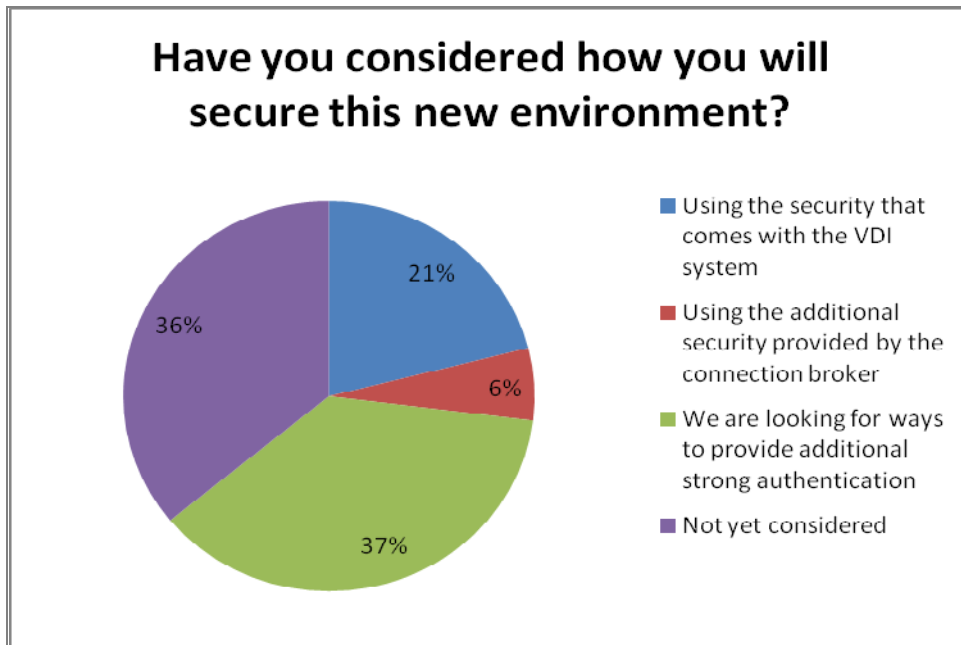
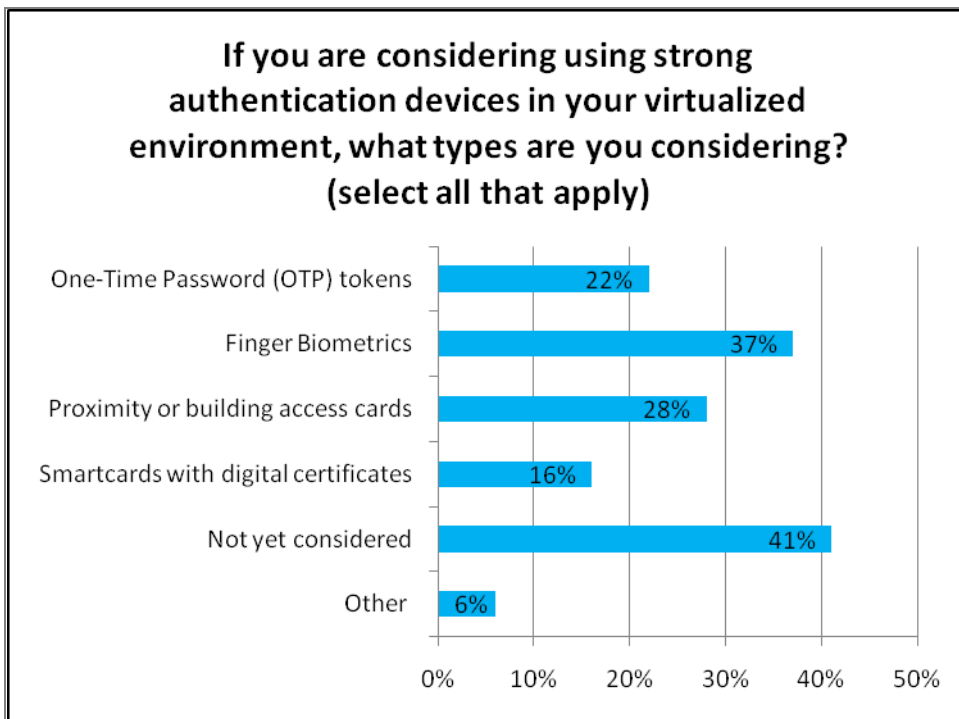


Figure 4

**For Companies Looking for Strong Authentication, Preferences Vary Among Several Options**  
[Strong authentication](#) will play an important role in making it easier to set and enforce authentication and policy in these new virtualized environments. Of the companies considering strong authentication devices to secure their virtualized environments, recipient option preferences vary:

- 37 percent of respondents indicated they are considering [fingerprint biometrics](#);
- 27 percent of respondents indicated they are considering proximity or building access cards;
- 22 percent of respondents indicated they are considering One-Time Password tokens;
- 15 percent of respondents indicated they are considering smartcards with digital certificates.



**Figure 5**

## Other Notable Findings

More than 68 percent of respondents plan on implementing VDI solutions in the next 12 months:

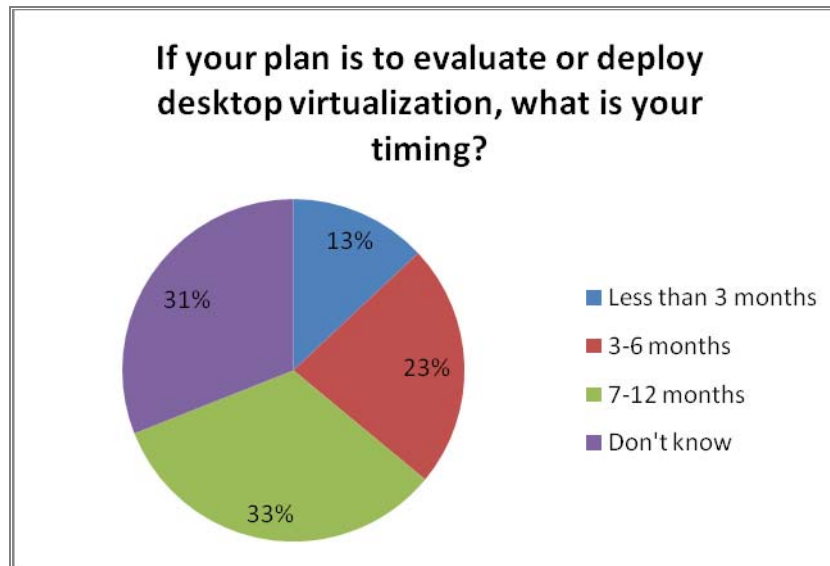


Figure 6

Tags: [security risk](#); [strong authentication](#); [fingerprint biometrics](#)

### About Imprivata

[Imprivata](#) secures employee access to desktops, networks, applications and transactions. Its appliance-based, employee access management platform, [Imprivata OneSign](#), enables organizations to protect enterprise information assets while improving user productivity. By strengthening [user authentication](#), streamlining application access and simplifying compliance reporting across multiple computing environments, customers realize substantial IT Helpdesk and administration cost savings, while achieving the security standards they demand.

Imprivata is a recognized leader in [Authentication and Access Management](#), receiving numerous product awards and top review ratings from leading industry publications and analysts. Headquartered in Lexington, Mass., Imprivata partners with over 200 resellers, and serves the access security needs of more than 800 customers around the world. For more information, please visit [www.imprivata.com](http://www.imprivata.com).