

ZENworks for Desktops

The Next Release

Novell's ZENworks team makes several customer visits and receives hundreds of e-mail messages, phone calls, customer responses, and newsgroup threads—all centered around one subject: What will be in the next release of ZENworks for Desktops? Novell plans to release the next version of ZENworks for Desktops, code-named *ZENworks Firestarter*, later this summer. This article is a preview of the new features and enhancements Novell plans to include in ZENworks Firestarter. Please note that because details are still being finalized, the features mentioned in this article are subject to change.

DISK-IMAGING ENHANCEMENTS

ZENworks for Desktops 3 includes the first version of the ZENworks disk-imaging solution. Disk imaging allows you to take a snapshot of the hard disk on a fully configured Windows workstation and deploy that snapshot to workstations throughout your company's network. Using ZENworks for Desktops disk imaging, you can create workstation names and security identifiers (SIDs) from a central location. ZENworks Firestarter will include the following enhancements to the disk-imaging solution:

- **Compression of Images.** ZENworks Firestarter compresses image files by an average of 40 to 60 percent. As a result, the time you spend deploying these images across the wire will significantly decrease.
- **Server-Based Image Multicasting.** By initiating a multicast session from the server, you will be able to push ZENworks images to multiple workstations during a single imaging session without visiting individual workstations. As a result, the time and bandwidth required to deploy workstation images to more than one workstation will substantially decrease. In addition, ZENworks Firestarter will automate

the usual setup procedures required to perform multiple workstation imaging.

- **Advanced Scripting for Imaging.** ZENworks Firestarter will enable you to embed advanced imaging commands within imaging policies. For example, in previous versions of ZENworks for Desktops, tasks such as partition manipulation and conditional imaging were available only from the imaging engine's command prompt. ZENworks Firestarter makes these tasks manageable through ConsoleOne.
- **Pre-boot eXecution Environment (PXE) Readiness.** This feature will ease the deployment of workstation images by eliminating the need to deploy the ZENworks Imaging Partition. The ZENworks Firestarter PXE integration will be available through a separate enhancement pack, currently code-named *ZENworks Firestarter PXE*. (See "ZENworks Imaging and PXE.")



REMOTE-CONTROL ENHANCEMENTS

The new ZENworks remote-control agent will compress screen data over the wire. As a result, remote-control tasks will experience speed boosts from 20

to 50 percent over ZENworks for Desktops 3's remote-control agent. In practical terms, you can expect to be able to comfortably remote control 1024x768, 256-color video over a 64 kb/s connection.

THIN-CLIENT INTEGRATION ENHANCEMENTS

Customer interviews indicate that thin-client solutions are becoming more and more appealing to companies worldwide for delivering applications and services to their employees. ZENworks Firestarter will include support for new thin-client platforms including Windows 2000 Terminal Services and technology

ZENworks Imaging and PXE

PXE (pronounced *pixie*) is the Pre-boot eXecution Environment, which is part of the Intel Wired for Management (WFM) standard. PXE allows a workstation to boot from the network before accessing its on-disk operating system. If you have purchased a new workstation from Compaq, IBM, Dell, or many other vendors in the past 18 months, that workstation is probably PXE ready.

To provide PXE support in ZENworks for Desktops, Novell collaborated with Diamond Network Technologies. Some of the benefits of ZENworks Firestarter PXE are listed below:

- Eliminates the need to deploy the Linux imaging partition to workstations.
- Eliminates the ZENworks Imaging “double boot” required on both Linux and Windows.
- Automates workstation registration and operating system deployment for new workstations by using intelligence built into the ZENworks Imaging Policy.
- Creates a fast-boot process. For example, the Linux imaging engine is only started if necessary. Typically, the PXE boot

process adds less than 10 seconds to a normal workstation boot, and the user sees nothing new.

These new ZENworks capabilities extend ZENworks management to workstation hardware—not just the Windows operating system. In other words, together ZENworks Firestarter and ZENworks Firestarter PXE will provide automation of every aspect of workstation management throughout the life cycle of the workstation.

AVAILABILITY

ZENworks Firestarter PXE will not be released as part of the ZENworks Firestarter core features. As a result, ZENworks Firestarter PXE will not be covered as part of ZENworks for Desktops maintenance (upgrade protection). In addition, ZENworks Firestarter PXE works only with ZENworks Firestarter because it requires the updated imaging tools.

Note. If you live outside of the United States, you should know that Firestarter will not be localized for different languages. If you want to use the ZENworks Firestarter PXE tools within your localized ZENworks for Desktops 3 environment, you must perform a separate installation procedure for the new ZENworks Firestarter imaging features and for ZENworks Firestarter PXE components. ●

from Citrix such as MetaFrame XP. By integrating tightly with the directory, ZENworks Firestarter delivers greater stability, scalability, and customization options to thin-client environments.

POLICY COPY WIZARD

The new ZENworks Policy Copy wizard will allow you to copy ZENworks for Desktops policies within your NDS tree. As a result, you will be able to deploy policies to a new site or department with a couple of mouse clicks.

WHAT COMES AFTER ZENWORKS FIRESTARTER?

The enhancements included in ZENworks Firestarter are certainly hot—but that’s not why the ZENworks for Desktops product team code-named the version *Firestarter*. In reality, ZENworks Firestarter is a step toward a much larger project: Somewhere deep in Novell’s development chambers, the Novell ZENworks team is building the next generation of ZENworks for Desktops, which is code-named *ZENworks Prometheus*. (Prometheus was the Greek titan who stole fire from the gods on Mount Olympus and delivered both fire and civilization to humankind.)

The Prometheus project will extend ZENworks for Desktops far beyond its current capabilities. To whet your appetite, below is a list of some of the fea-

tures that are being developed for ZENworks Prometheus:

- Eliminating all dependence on the Novell client. ZENworks Prometheus will be fully browser accessible and firewall friendly.
- Extending services for mobile users beyond the current disconnected application access.
- Integrating ZENworks for Desktops with Novell Portal Services.
- Expanding thin-client services.

In addition, the ZENworks team is aggressively pursuing partners that will be able to deliver management tools built on ZENworks Prometheus. These partner solutions may include management of new platforms, new types of devices, or even legacy solutions.

Finally, ZENworks Prometheus will provide simple, manageable, and seamless integration from ZENworks for Desktops 3. Because the ZENworks Prometheus project has just begun, Novell cannot accurately predict when this product will be available to the public.

For more information about the ZENworks product line, visit www.novell.com/products/zenworks.

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