WHITE PAPER: **BUSINESS PRODUCTIVITY**

Geo-Replicator® with Microsoft Office 365®

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Software as a Service

Software as a Service (SaaS) applications are existing applications run and managed by a third-party organization that you use as if they were installed locally within your environment. Some common examples include Windows Live Hotmail, Live Mesh, and Office Communications Online.

Microsoft delivers Microsoft Exchange, SharePoint and Office together in the cloud today in the form of the Office 365®.

Office 365®

Office 365® allows business-critical applications, such as e-mail or collaboration, to be run in a hosted environment. The service provided is identical to one hosted on-premise: for example, for e-mail, clients can connect using Outlook, Outlook Web App or a mobile device as they may do today. The services are still managed locally; they integrate with Active Directory so control of access, configuration, policies and so on remains the same.

However, the task of server management, including backups and security protection, are handled via Microsoft IT staff in a Microsoft data centre. For further details see **http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/office365/default.aspx**

Geo-Replicator® with Microsoft Office 365® (continued)

Cloud Computing – but with Intermittent Access?

Microsoft Office 365® creates a compelling option for providing scalable access to SharePoint through the medium of internet hosted services. How do you guarantee that all users, including those on limited or intermittent bandwidth, can share the collaborative experience?

iOra Geo-Replicator® provides secure, automated, transparent and managed access to hosted SharePoint for remote users with limited or intermittent access to networks. To guarantee availability of business content the Geo-Replicator® product creates and efficiently maintains a local replica of data on the end user's laptop or local office server in order to deliver content during times of limited network bandwidth or disconnection.

Geo-Replicator® software uniquely provides two modes of replication within the same product;

- Replication of the SharePoint content for distributed access to a group of users.
- Replication of SharePoint server content to end users' laptops for access when offline.

Solution Description

The iOra solution incorporates two primary technologies:

- Epsilon (the patented differencing and compression system)
- Web Virtualization

These provide the engines which enable only data changes to be replicated and web based enterprise applications to be used through a standard browser by users who have no network connection.

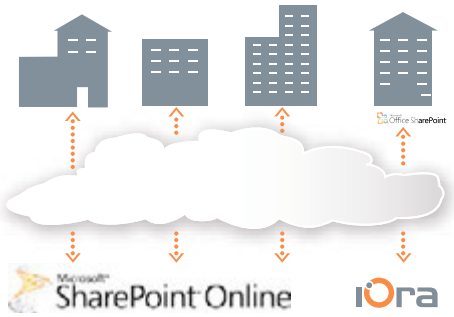
Geo-Replicator® with Microsoft Office 365® (continued)

Solution Components

Server to Server

For remote users who do not benefit from fast and efficient access to the online resources, Server to Server replication provides a mechanism for positioning SharePoint content locally, so that they can all be included as part of the SharePoint collaborative community. Content and data can all be replicated to local virtualized SharePoint environments using unique compression and web virtualization technologies. Terabytes of data can be efficiently replicated and efficiently updated even over the most limited and challenging network environments. As a result remote users benefit from dramatically faster access to corporate business data.

With one-way broadcast replication, updates are sent from hosted SharePoint via the iOra Publisher modules to remote servers. This solution is perfect for publishing guidelines, information packs, compliance information manuals or providing a Continuation of Operation (CooP) capability for organizations that are unable to guarantee corporate-wide 100% WAN up-time. The diagram illustrates how the iOra Publisher is used to define the scope of content that is required to be replicated to the remote replica. Once configured the publisher is scheduled to review the online source of content to compile a list of updates for the remote server. These updates are efficiently compressed using the industry leading Epsilon compression algorithm so that the impact on the network is minimized. Once replicated the remote users can access the hosted SharePoint content even though they are physically disconnected from the online world.

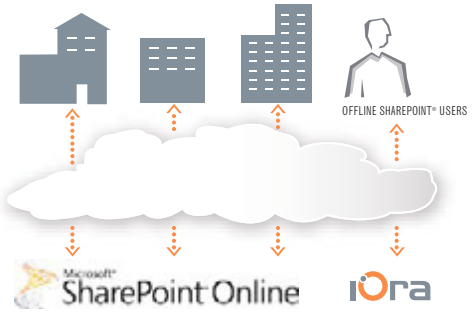


This solution allows true global and full collaboration between a workforce who primarily are using the hosted SharePoint method for accessing business content and remote users interfacing with the locally installed virtual SharePoint environment.

Geo-Replicator® with Microsoft Office 365® (continued)

Server to Laptop

Additionally, iOra Geo-Replicator® can be used to create virtualized copies of hosted SharePoint deployments on end users' laptops. By replicating SharePoint content to the laptop, Geo-Replicator® allows mobile workers to continue using and accessing the critical business content stored in the hosted SharePoint, even when they are offline.



Geo-Replicator® replicates all of the SharePoint data structures and content directly onto the laptop over any network connection, using iOra's unique compression and web virtualization technologies. Huge volumes of content can be very efficiently replicated on laptops – giving users 24/7 access to vital information, even when they have no network connection. The Epsilon compression not only reduces the size of the update amendment, it also has a dramatic effect on the local storage requirements for the offline repository.

Geo-Replicator® with Microsoft Office 365® (continued)

In summary

Geo-Replicator® provides offline support for any combination of SharePoint Online content, enabling remote hosted SharePoint user access for workers even when they are disconnected.

In addition where compliance with corporate guidelines help within the SharePoint environment is an important consideration, the delivery of offline content can be monitored and recorded for later audit.

Benefits

- All users, irrespective of the availability of network connection, have guaranteed access to key data
- Decision making enhanced by making up-to-date information always available
- Offline and remote SharePoint user access to central data at LAN speeds
- Reduced WAN and server costs through server content replication
- Guaranteed service even when there is no network
- Where SharePoint is being accessed via satellite communication costs cut by up to 90%.

"We have been supporting remote users on the edge of the corporate network to access and contribute to SharePoint for many years. We look forward to our products to our products ensuring that all users irrespective of network availability have guaranteed access to hosted SharePoint content."

Lawrence Poynter, Product Director at iOra

Disclaimer

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For more information on how iOra Geo-Replicator can help your organization, get in touch
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