

Translation of a test review published in Switzerland in April 2006

Publication: InfoWeek 7/2006 – Print
Category: Tests and Products
Title: Thin-Client-Computing without Server-Overkill
Test: NComputing OfficeStation L100
Author: Urs Binder - Switzerland
Date: 10.04.2006



Translation: NComputing GmbH Europe

© 2006, by NComputing GmbH Europe, All rights reserved, April / 2006. NComputing is a registered trademark of NComputing Co., Ltd. - Korea. We acknowledge all names and trademarks of the above companies. Information on this white paper may contain technical inaccuracies or typographical errors. Information may be changed or updated without notice. NComputing reserves the right to make improvements and/or changes in the products, programs and/or specifications described in this information at any time without notice. Please visit: www.ncomputing.com for additional information.

Thin-Client-Computing without Server-Overkill

**Thin-Client-Computing made easy:
The OfficeStation enables every Office-PC to a Terminal-Server with up to ten
Client-Stations.**

According to NComputing's Korean division, a typical PC consumes an average of 10-15% of its resources. It is this idea that drives their products to utilize the extra resources for additional users. NComputing's Thin Clients do not require a dedicated Terminal Server and also do not need a complex infrastructure or expensive software. NComputing Thin Clients get the needed resources from a standard PC on a LAN without need for a special dedicated Server platform.

Server-Software Included

With the included CD, the end-user can install the server Software which enables the multi-user functionality for the operating system. Instead of using the conventional Microsoft or Citrix products/protocols, NComputing uses their own developed and designed UTMA-technology (Ultra-Thin-Multi-Access) with their own WoIP (Windows over IP) protocols and Clients.

The UTMA-Software runs under Windows 2000, XP, 2000/2003 server, and Linux. Depending on the CPU-performance it would be possible to run up to 10 OfficeStations. If the user wants to attach more than one Client device, a more performance PC is necessary. For 2-3 Clients, an Intel P4 with HyperThreading would be enough.

For up to 10 OfficeStations, we recommend a 3.2GHz PC with a minimum of 2 GB of RAM.

Hassle-Free Installation

Included in the packaging is a six page Quick-Install-Guide and on the delivered CD-ROM is a detailed manual. The Quick-Install-Guide looks a little bit lean, but with one mistake: The installation is more than easy enough without the Quick Guide. Just attach the box to an Ethernet-LAN, attach a monitor, keyboard and mouse, install the software on the Host-PC and the

**The OfficeStation is very compact
and does not have a fan.**



system is ready to use.

TEST - Thin-Client-Solution

In the test we see that the device is very stable and quite fast. We even tested the OfficeStation with our "not recommended" test configuration(an older 2.4GHz notebook as the Host-PC), and everything ran fine. We watched a movie from a DVD as well(highly demanding and unusual for Thin Clients). While working at the OfficeStation with OpenOffice, we could not see any delays or issues. Unfortunately we could not test several devices because we only had one device for testing.

Both the OfficeStation and the Host PC share applications in parallel for anything installed on the Host PC. In addition, most Windows-based applications work with great compatibility and operate just fine while running simultaneously. Each user requires their own profile and if necessary, NComputing suggests purchasing additional licenses for software that might require it. But in our opinion, you would be better off running Open-Office in the background for a carefree licensing environment.

The Hardware-Settings and BIOS are protected by a password, in addition to an implemented "Auto-Login" function that allows the OfficeStation to connect and login automatically with a pre-defined user account.

Limited Connectivity

The OfficeStation is a real Ultra-Thin-Client, which really means that the device is fan-less with no noise. The devices allows for one PS/2 keyboard, a Monitor, one PS/2 mouse, a speaker- or headphone and the LAN-cable. There are no other ports available and the L100 does not have a USB-connector for memory sticks or memory cards. This lack of ports however can mean that there is a higher level of security when considering

NComputing OfficeStation L100.

Conclusion

The OfficeStation is an inexpensive, easy to install and very stable Thin-Client-solution for small and home offices. If someone needs a few workstations in his office - the OfficeStation is the right choice. All popular Windows applications run at acceptable speeds, even when the Host-PC is logged in and operating. The device is not recommended for high-end graphic applications or games.

Positive

- + Extremely simple and easy installation
- + Runs with existing hardware and software

- + Runs without fans or noise
- + Good price/performance relation

Negative

- No USB-Ports (coming soon with L200)
- No DVI-I

Vendor/Distributor

NComputing / CSP AG (Switzerland)

Price

Fr. 318,- (~ USD 249 incl. VAT).

Rating:

Functionality:	4 stars of 6
Usability:	6 stars of 6
Price/performance:	6 stars of 6
Total:	5 stars of 6

that people cannot bring infected files from home and load them onto the Host PC or bring home sensitive company data on memory sticks. Users who will need a USB-port will have to wait until the middle of 2006 - NComputing has already announced that a new L200 model will be launched with a "USB-memory-port" at that time, which is supporting USB-mass-storage devices. It will also not be possible to attach USB-keyboards and USB-mice. Also not that high-end monitors with DVI-interfaces will not be compatible; The device will only work with analog TFT-flat-screens or any CRT-based VGAmonitors.

Designed for small offices

It is understood that this will not replace a larger corporation's Server-Farm (Citrix), however the solution is perfect for smaller companies or even additional workstations for home computers. Even though this isn't designed for larger corporations, numerous devices can be maintained and configured through the included Terminal Server software.

End of translation