

July 18, 2014

To whom it may concern,

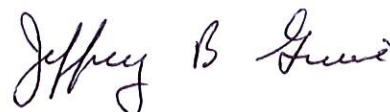
As Director of Information Technology Services (ITS) at Western University, please accept this letter of affirmation that the Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) meets the criteria of an Innovation credit for the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System® (STARS) report. To the best of my knowledge, I can affirm that the program is new (offered in the last 3 years), and has not been awarded a STARS credit through previous innovation submissions or through existing STARS credits.

Since 2011, Western University has pursued the implementation of VDI, whereby client desktops are run as virtual machines on a centralized server. The initial focus of this project has been on deployment of VDI within student labs. Individual faculties and departments that can make use of VDI's central infrastructure have subsequently been targeted. Desktop virtualization offers many advantages to both users and support staff including: efficient software delivery through a central management model, cost savings for power and cooling, enhanced mobility, man-power savings, enhanced security, and improved license compliance. An additional innovative component of this technology is through the use of blade servers within the data centre. These servers have a much smaller footprint than traditional servers, which allows for more efficient power and cooling, as well as increased flexibility.

During an initial pilot-scale project in 2013, Western compared energy usage between a VDI student lab and a traditional student lab using PCs. I am proud to report that there were significant savings of approximately 24% in the VDI lab compared to the traditional student lab. It is also important to mention that at that time, the virtual desktops deployed were not fully utilizing the backend server/storage infrastructure. We are confident that these savings will increase as we increase the number of VDI desktops deployed. By the end of this summer, we anticipate that 900 to 950 VDI systems will have been installed.

I believe that this initiative is essential in order to reduce Western's power consumption associated with desktop infrastructure. I am also confident that this activity promotes long-term campus sustainability by encouraging a reduction in our overall carbon footprint.

Sincerely,



Jeff Grieve