![IGEL logo]

APP NOTE

IGEL OS: THE IDEAL NEXT-GEN ENDPOINT OS FOR EASY, SEAMLESS MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

Many businesses today are undergoing a series of transformations. Those transformations may take several forms, from digital infrastructure updates to organizational rightsizing to regional or even global expansion. As a result, mergers and acquisitions have become commonplace. This M&A activity has been seen in transportation with airlines and shipping, in life sciences with pharmaceutical firms, in healthcare, and also within the finance sector. According to the Institute for Mergers, Acquisitions and Alliances (IMAA), almost 50,000 M&A deals were completed worldwide alone during 2019, with a total volume of 3.37 US$Billion*. As these firms combine forces to expand their reach and/ or achieve new levels of production, the resulting new, combined organizations can face significant challenges within their digital infrastructure and newly combined and expanded IT organization.

One specific area within IT that faces particular disruption and strain is in managing and controlling endpoint device access to end-users' digital apps, desktops, and cloud workspaces. Historically, most companies evolved to a position with one, or maybe two, platforms in place to manage and control their people's endpoint device usage. With the recent surge in year-over-year M&A activity, however, it is not unusual for an organization to end up with three, four, or even more platforms focused on managing user endpoint devices running different operating systems from multiple hardware and software providers. The result is a cumbersome and costly mix of disparate endpoint hardware and operating environments, as well as multiple isolated endpoint management platforms that cannot be integrated. This creates a myriad of challenges for the combined organization, including

- A mix of disparate endpoint hardware from different vendors, each of which has its own flavour of OS (Windows 7, Windows 10, Windows Embedded, multiple Linux distributions, etc.), maintenance and system management, and update/upgrade procedures
- A mix of endpoint hardware that may be fully depreciated and near its expected useful life, implying upcoming costly and disruptive hardware refreshes in multiple locations

* https://imaa-institute.org/mergers-and-acquisitions-statistics/

- Architecturally segregated users' inability to access key systems like ERP or special applications
- Inconsistent or lost integration with the latest version of critical security and single sign-on systems from companies like Imprivata
- Disjointed and disconnected access to printers, card readers, scanners, copiers, and other peripherals due to either lack of support for those devices or outdated integration firmware
- Inconsistent access to full end-to-end solutions for users due to a lack of enterprise-wide integration with key ecosystem technologies
- Difficulty in maintaining full compliance with critical privacy protection requirements like GDPR
- Out-of-date versions of virtualization client software from Citrix, Microsoft, or VMware
- Inconsistent or unpredictable access to cloud-based resources from the likes of AWS and Azure
- A sudden and rapid increase in distributed employees, branches, or road warriors, that have to be managed

This list above could be even longer, but the point is, when disparate endpoint hardware platforms, operating systems, and management and control software is suddenly "combined", the result for a newly merged organization can be a state of productivity paralysis, and a costly disruption that may negatively impact work quality, timeliness, and production.
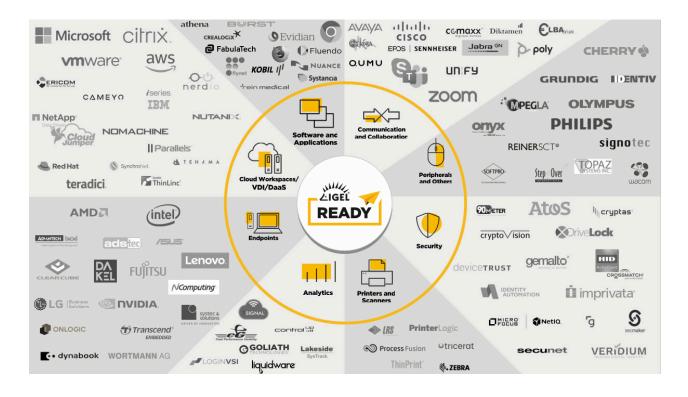
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The IGEL deployment has been a huge success for the college. It has been a complete game changer – just by moving to IGEL we have addressed so many problems.”

Glen Harrison.   IT INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGER, LINCOLN COLLEGE GROUP

READ THE FULL CASE STUDY

Fortunately, there is a platform-independent solution available today that can easily and seamlessly address the above areas of concern and unify the management and control of all endpoints across a merged organization without requiring the addition of any new endpoint devices. It's called IGEL OS.

IGEL OS is the next-gen edge operating system for cloud workspaces that enables easy and fast conversion and integration of all of an organization's endpoints, regardless of brand or existing management software, while allowing highly secure and productive access to virtualized apps, desktops, and cloud workspaces. IGEL supports a vast ecosystem of well over 100 integrated partner technologies to help ensure your end-to-end systems and solutions stay up. In fact, with a track record of extremely rapid deployment of partner technology interfaces and protocols post-release on IGEL OS, IGEL helps ensure your entire endpoint estate keeps running with the latest software from each of IGEL's technology partners. Consider the following graphic:

IGEL OS is based on Linux and is a ready-only and modular endpoint operating system for extremely high endpoint security. It is secure from end to end and includes a complete "chain of trust" verification process from the processor (on select IGEL endpoint devices) or UEFI all the way to the host server or cloud. It is thus extremely resistant to manipulation, as well as viruses and other malware.
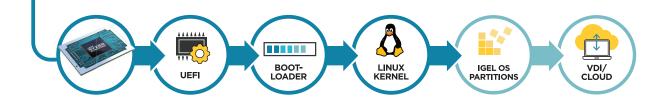
THE IGEL CHAIN OF TRUST

- Ensures all components of your VDI/cloud workspace scenario are secure and trustworthy
- As each component starts it checks the cryptographic signature of the next, only starting it if it is signed by a trusted party (e.g. IGEL, UEFI Forum)

THE PROCESS

0 On the new AMD-driven endpoint models UD3 and UD7 a dedicated security processor checks the cryptographic signature of the UEFI

1 Any UEFI supported devices* with IGEL OS: Chain starts at UEFI

2 UEFI checks the bootloader for a UEFI Secure Boot signature

3 Bootloader then checks the IGEL OS Linux kernel

4 If the OS partitions' signatures are correct (starting with IGEL OS 11.03), IGEL OS is started and the partitions are mounted

5 For users connecting to a VDI or cloud environment, access software such as Citrix Workspace App or VMware Horizon checks the certificate of the connected server

with UEFI Secure Boot deactivated the process starts at bootloader (3)

UEFI → BOOT-LOADER → LINUX KERNEL → IGEL OS PARTITIONS → VDI/CLOUD

IGEL OS is easily installed on all your existing x86-64 compatible endpoint devices including PCs, tablets, and thin clients from a broad range of hardware providers, over the network and with no-touch conversion. Where new endpoints may be needed, IGEL also offers world-class, compact endpoint devices designed for ultra-high reliability, great performance, and prolonged non-stop operation.

Platform-independent and highly secure IGEL OS runs on any compatible x86-64 device, with management and control software that is legendary for its simplicity and ability to drive down operational costs. And a broad range of integrated partner technologies stays current with the very latest firmware, enabling organizations that that undergo a merger and acquisition to quickly and seamlessly exit the process more productive, more efficient, and, most importantly, further equipped to offer greater productivity than ever before.

Learn how Diversicare successfully completed an M&A process and saved over $600,000 in year-one cost in hardware and software licensing savings by using IGEL.

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Repurposing the old hardware gave us exactly what we needed, at each center, even with many devices to deploy we were in and out within 30 minutes. The shift was basically transparent to the end-users; and, for IT, created a single, homogeneous desktop landscape that is easy to manage with a simple drag and drop interface."

Shanna Persful, DIRECTOR OF IT OPS, DIVERSICARE

READ THE FULL CASE STUDY

IGEL
next-gen EDGE OS
for cloud workspaces