



ABERDEEN STANDARD INVESTMENTS

Aberdeen Standard Investments standardises global virtual desktops via IGEL



The IGEL Operating System simplifies deployment, security and maintenance whilst improving desktop performance

Standard Life Aberdeen plc is one of the world's largest investment companies, created in 2017 from the merger of Standard Life plc and Aberdeen Asset Management plc. Operating under the brand Aberdeen Standard Investments, the investment arm manages £505.1bn, (€562.7bn, \$643.3bn) of assets, making it the largest active manager in the UK and one of the largest in Europe.



” I have had a number of the Leadership Team pull me aside to just say how great their new IGEL solution is. Faster and easier to use than their previous desktop. It was also mentioned how great it was to see something that they had approved at the Change Board being delivered in front of their eyes and to their benefit in a matter of weeks. As one person said that's real delivery.”

~ Tom McCormick
Head of Infrastructure Technology at Standard Life Aberdeen

The Customer

- Investment arm of Standard Aberdeen Life plc
- manages £505.1bn, (€562.7bn, \$643.3bn) of assets
- The largest active manager in the UK and one of the largest in Europe

The Challenge

- To simplify deployment and management of its end user computing environment
- Replace ageing Windows desktop devices
- Bring together technology infrastructures following merger

The Solution

- IGEL's Universal Desktop Converter to extend life of existing hardware
- IGEL UD3 and IGEL UD7 hardware to replace desktops as required

The Benefits

- Extended life of existing hardware
- Time and money saved when deploying and managing end points
- Simple integration of technology infrastructure following merger

Aberdeen Asset Management began the move to a virtual desktop environment four years ago to simplify deployment and management of its end user computing environment by creating a single gold standard image for its virtual desktops. After the initial project, the next step was to change the Windows endpoint devices, which were still having to be patched and maintained extensively.

Exploring the options, the infrastructure team realised that by using IGEL's Universal Desktop Converter (UDC) solution they could convert their existing Windows PC's to IGEL OS endpoints, standardising all the devices and bringing them under granular, centralised control whilst further sweating existing hardware for another 2-3 years.

IGEL OS is purpose-built for enterprise access to virtual environments of all types. Built on a highly secure Linux distribution with an extremely small attack surface to fortify the enterprise against malware, it can run on any compatible 64-bit device to extend the life of hardware investments.

Following a successful pilot, Aberdeen Standard Investments saw a range of benefits, including savings on security, a reduced requirement for patching and maintenance, and significantly improved start-up and log-in times for users.

Simplified merger technology infrastructure

THE IGEL deployment also facilitated combining the technology infrastructures of Aberdeen Asset and Standard Life after the merger. "When we merged with Standard Life, they were also looking at IGEL solutions and already had some virtual desktops," said Nicholas Chase, Global Infrastructure Project Manager at Aberdeen Standard Investments. "Following the merger, we were able to have two icons on the device at start-up; one pointing to Aberdeen Standard Investments and one to Standard Life's technology infrastructure. This has been a huge benefit for our migration teams. They can deploy one IGEL managed device and not worry about which users will be using it and which technology infrastructure they need to connect through to."

Deployment expanding globally

This year the business is looking to continue the IGEL endpoint deployment in the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, with the project completing in 2020. Following some innovative work from Aberdeen Standard Investments' technology team, the company has automated the deployment process and can roll-out and configure a new IGEL device in just 15 minutes.

The business is also trialing IGEL UD3 and IGEL UD7 hardware to replace the existing converted PCs when they reach end of life. The IGEL UD7 will be used by specialist business users that require more than two screens.

Positive relationship

Nicholas commented that the positive relationship with IGEL. "The IGEL account management team is also second to none. When issues have arisen, nothing is too small to resolve quickly. There was one recent licensing issue that was quickly escalated to the senior IGEL management. It became apparent at the end of the day on Friday and by Monday morning the problem was resolved. Their recovery was second to none."

Positive impact recognised

And the positive impact of the IGEL desktop deployment is being recognised at the highest levels of the organisation. Tom McCormick, Head of Infrastructure Technology at Standard Life Aberdeen, recently reported to his team: "I have had a number of the Leadership Team pull me aside to just say how great their new IGEL solution is. Faster and easier to use than their previous desktop. It was also mentioned how great it was to see something that they had approved at the Change Board being delivered in front of their eyes and to their benefit in a matter of weeks. As one person said that's real delivery."



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