Internet Access to InfoBases: The Citrix Solution

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Project Overview: By deploying a Citrix Winframe Terminal Server, IUPUI has developed a service that allows patrons of our library to access CD-ROMs and a variety of InfoBase applications via the Internet. Initially laptop users in the building could access the system, followed by access to users throughout the campus and via the dial-in modem pools. Soon we will offer unlimited access across the Internet after user authentication. This may be the only way currently available to allow full access to CD-ROM database searches and application usage via the Internet without making substantial changes to a desktop device. The accessing system can be Windows, Mac, DOS, or Unix based, on a platform that can be much less powerful than the platform actually needed to run the application. The program has been successful and has also been a technical challenge.

Goal: Provide a low impact method to allow remote access to IUPUI University Library Infobases.

Coverage Groups:

1. Participants in the campus laptop programs
2. Users from a variety of IUPUI on-campus locations
3. Users of the campus dial-up access modem pool
4. Authenticated IUPUI affiliated users anywhere via the WWW

Applications: The focus is solely on Infobases, regardless of their media home. There will be no attempt made to make various desktop productivity applications

available remotely. Thus the system is designed for infobases such as ERIC, PyscINFO, Global Books in Print, Computer Select.

Areas of Consideration:

1. License Issues
2. Authentication
3. Authorization
4. Cost
5. Client System
   Supported platforms
   System hardware and software impact
   User skill sets
6. Scalability
7. Support
   Phased deployment
   Manpower
   Technical expertise
   Future upgrade path
8. Technical Feasibility
   CD-ROM access via the Internet
   NetWare/NT file access via the Internet
   Computability with current systems

Future Impact:

1. Immersion into campus distributed education systems
2. Immersion into campus developing On-Course Web based education initiatives
3. Use in supporting IUPUI University Library Instructional Teams efforts
4. Use in house for special applications