

BRINGING YOUR CONSULTING PRACTICE TO THE WORLD



***Leveraging simple
software and
technologies to
create a global
reaching Computer
Forensics consulting
practice.***

F-Response is a Registered Trademark of Agile Risk Management LLC. For more information on F-Response, or any of part of the solution presented in this paper please contact us on the web at www.f-response.com.

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CHALLENGE

In a challenging economic climate it is critical to look for new and innovative ways to expand your client base, gain recurring business opportunities, and optimize your cost structure. Let's look at each one of these issues:

Client Base

Depending on your existing location, your local market may or may not be capable of providing sufficient growth opportunities, let alone provide sustainable revenue during a soft economy. However, many geographic regions in the US and abroad are experiencing economic growth and prosperity; the challenge is how to access those markets without relocating, either permanently or through traveling engagements.

Recurring Business

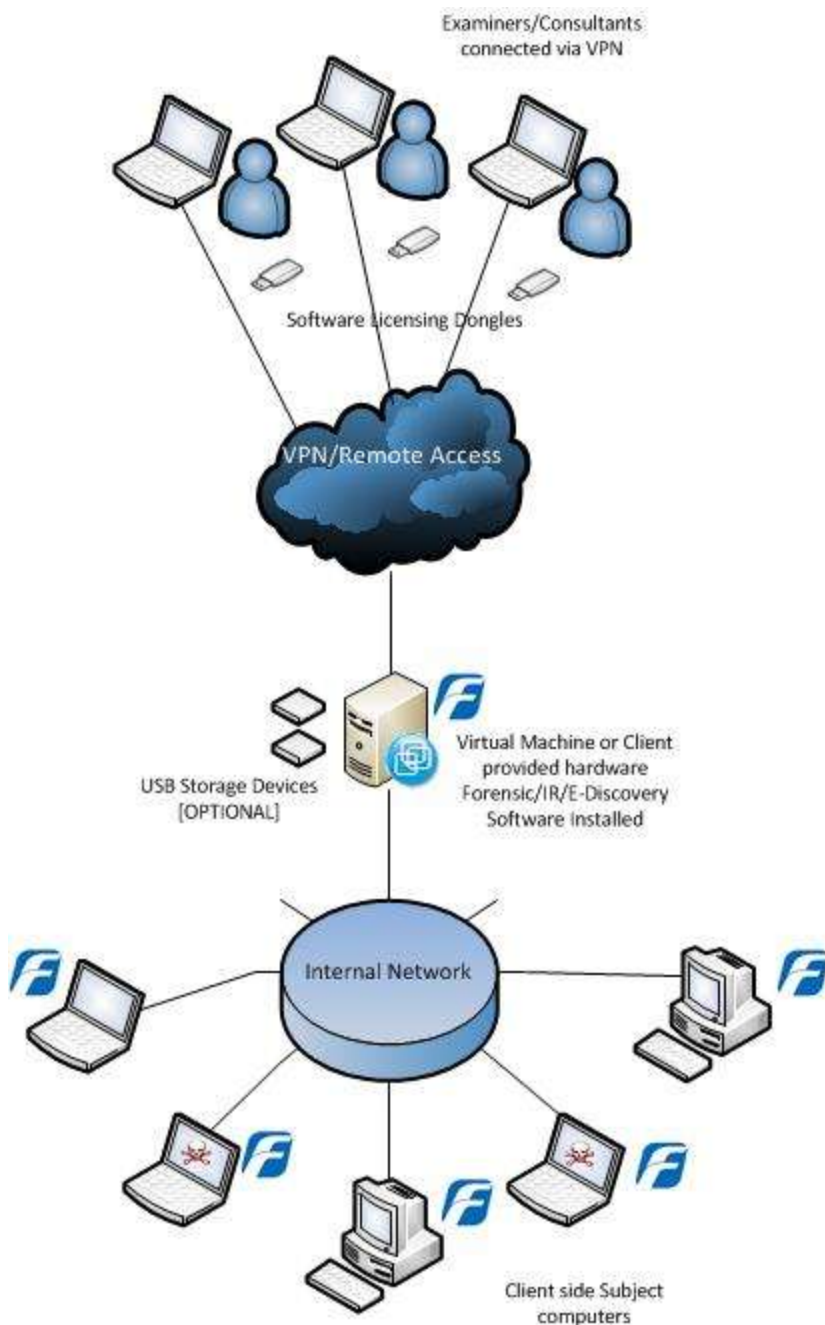
Computer forensics, incident response, and e-discovery all are challenged when it comes to creating sustainable recurring business at existing clients. As all three business models are driven by "on-demand" work it is often difficult, if not impossible to forecast future opportunities, or expand your current staff without a considerable amount of risk. Again the challenge is to level the volatile nature of these businesses to provide a more stable revenue stream.

Cost Structure

Staff salaries, software, hardware, and travel all reduce net profit at the completion of a client engagement. The challenge is to reduce these costs while still delivering quality, on-demand, and well conceived services to end clients.

SOLUTION

Using existing software technologies and potentially commodity class hardware resources it is possible to deliver a complete onsite solution to end customers anywhere in the world, on demand, and with minimal preparation.



The solution hinges on being able to leverage USB forwarding technology to shift your existing dongle based software licenses to a remote virtual machine running within the customer's IT environment. In order to accomplish this we recommend using KernelPro's USB-Over-Ethernet ("USBoE") software product. USBoE allows remote examiners (aka consultants) connected via VPN to forward their physical software license dongles to the remote client side virtual examiner appliance; the "appliance" being any computer configured on the remote side for use by the examiner.

Once connected to the virtual appliance the remote examiner can then deploy F-Response to one or more remote targets, and begin leveraging one or more remotely installed computer forensics, e-Discovery, or incident response applications.

Locally attached USB storage may be used at the client site to retain images, data, etc.

PREREQUISITES

Software Required:

KernelPro (www.usb-over-ethernet.com)

USB-Over-Ethernet

USB-Over-Ethernet provides USB device “forwarding” to remote machines. In essence USB hardware dongles, such as those used by F-Response and other Computer Forensic software manufacturers can be forwarded to a remote virtual or physical workstation at the client location.



F-Response (www.f-response.com)

F-Response Enterprise or Consultant + Covert Edition

F-Response Consultant + Covert or Enterprise provide direct, read-only access to remote computers at the client site. Using F-Response you can attach to remote machines from within the client environment and access physical disks, logical volumes, and physical memory in real-time.

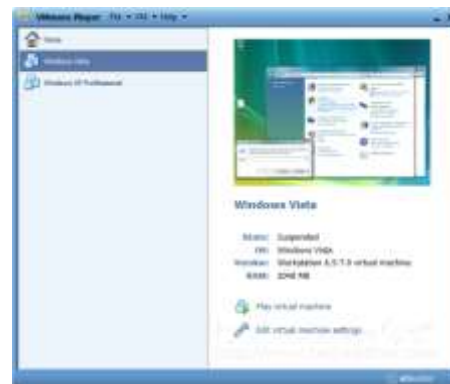


Forensic/Incident Response/E-Discovery Tools

VMWare (www.vmware.com) [OPTIONAL]

VMWare Player + Virtual Appliance (Windows OS License)

VMware Player along with a custom Virtual Appliance allows the customer to deploy a virtual examiner machine tailored to your needs quickly and efficiently.



Hardware[OPTIONAL]

A remote computer is required, either physical or virtual. A Commodity Class 1U Rack mounted Server or equivalent may be used, as can almost any client provided hardware (including a laptop, for example).

A sufficiently large USB Storage Device, used to store evidence, images, collected files, etc.

SUMMARY

A simple investment in existing software technologies makes it possible to deliver exceptional onsite services without a physical onsite examiner. In summary the solution proposed provides the following benefits when adopted:

Improved client base and visibility

This new services delivery model extends the existing customer base to include geographic regions typically outside of the existing local area.

Enhanced Opportunities for recurring revenue

With an always available onsite presence opportunities to provide virtual onsite services will increase, in addition value add recurring services can now be considered by the client with little additional overhead. For example, random subject investigations, based on the concept of a physical drug test, a preliminary investigation could be administered on random subject computers on a periodic basis.

Reduced Cost Structure

Removing the need to travel will result in a higher profit margin, will provide the flexibility to bring expert consulting skills to bear on multiple clients sites during the same work period, and will provide added value to the client by significantly reducing response times.

LEGAL NOTICES

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