

Ardence

a Citrix Company

Ardence Software-Streaming Platform 4.1

Vista Compatibility FAQ

July 2007

With the January 2007 release of version 4.1 of the Software-Streaming Platform, Ardence added support for Microsoft's Vista operating systems, giving customers the ability to leverage efficiency and flexibility of streaming to accelerate Vista migration while reducing the cost and risk.

In addition, Microsoft recently announced the creation of new virtual and diskless license options available with Microsoft Vista Enterprise and Software Assurance. More information on these license options can be found at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/features/2007/apr07/04-02WVenterprise.msp>
<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/enterprise/default.msp>

The following FAQ provides additional information about using Ardence with Microsoft Vista.

What versions/editions/modes of Ardence can be used with Vista?

Vista is supported in Ardence 4.1 and higher in the following editions:

- Academic
- Desktop
- Data Center

Vista can be used with Ardence in either private-image mode or standard-image mode, often referred to as shared-image mode. A list of known Vista issues can be found in the 4.1 SP 1 Release Notes at:

<https://support.ardence.com/Subscription/documents/ardence/4011/ArdenceReleaseNotes.pdf>

What editions of Vista are supported?

The following versions of Vista are supported:

- Business
- Ultimate
- Enterprise

Does Ardence work with Vista Volume Activation?

Yes. Microsoft provides two forms of volume license activation for Vista: Key Management Server (KMS) and Multiple Activation Key (MAK). The choice of which form to use depends on whether Ardence standard-image mode is needed.

KMS Model: KMS volume license can be used with Ardence in either private-image or standard-image mode. Clients communicate to a central Key Management Server the customer runs in their network. Client machines identify themselves to the KMS by sending a hard drive signature ID to the KMS.

MAK Model: MAK activation, which requires that key and activation information be created and stored uniquely on each client, is only compatible with Ardence in private-image mode and only when each vDisk is built uniquely for each machine (i.e. vDisks cannot be cloned). Because of these limitations, use of MAK's for machines that will be served by Ardence is not recommended.

More information on Vista volume activation can be found at:

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/windowsvista/bb335280.aspx>

How do I build and activate a vDisk with KMS?

The Key Management Server maintains a counter of the clients that have requested activation. For Vista, the KMS server does not commence activating clients until it has received requests from 25 unique clients. Therefore 25 machines should have already been activated prior to the creation of an Ardence Vista vDisk.

The steps to create a Vista vDisk are:

1. Install Vista on the master client machine.
2. Install the Ardence client software.
3. Confirm that the client has activated with the KMS server.
4. Build the Ardence vDisk.
5. (Optionally) Put the vDisk in standard-image mode.

If the vDisk is used in standard-image mode, subsequent client machines will boot off of the vDisk normally. At boot-up, and periodically thereafter, each client will "re-activate" with the KMS server. Any updated activation data will be discarded at shutdown when the write-back cache is purged. However, testing has shown that the re-activations are done in the background and have no noticeable user or performance impact.