

Viewfinity Windows 7 User Migration Product Independent MVP Product Review

Download the product here: <http://www.viewfinity.com/Products/UserMigration/Default.aspx>



Matthew Hudson
MCTS, MVP - Configuration Manager
Network Coordinator, Information Technology Services

I was very impressed with your product. It definitely made profile migration a breeze! It was a big time saver.

Disclaimers from Viewfinity about this Product Review:

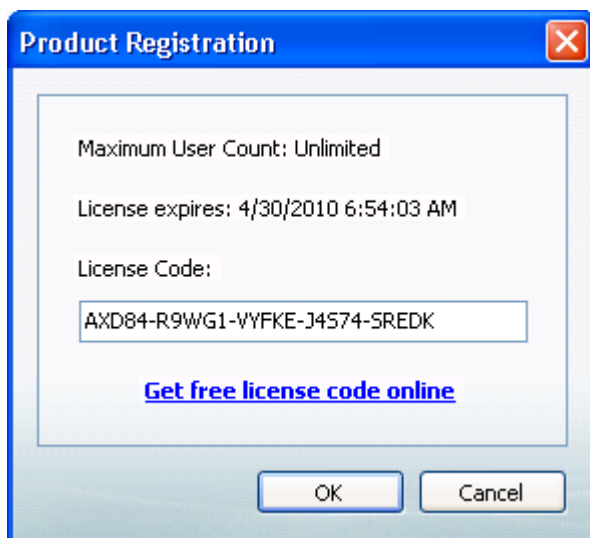
Viewfinity User Migration is a product which streamlines the process of migrating user personality settings and data from Windows XP or Vista to Windows 7. The review of this product focuses on what the product is specifically designed to do in its current state.

Description of Viewfinity's User Migration Product:

Viewfinity has developed a centralized, domain-based, multi-user migration tool for XP or Vista to Windows 7. It is a wizard-based User State Migration tool that works with the Microsoft User State Migration (one-to-one) scripting tool and adds out-of-the-box automation for multiple-user migration, all from a centralized status and monitoring console. The tool will collect all settings and user data, perform the migration cycle and the restore process all on the same PC or you can elect to completely migrate to a new piece of hardware. All this is done automatically without the need for any custom scripting.

Viewfinity User Migration Product Overview

The Viewfinity User Migration application is great tool with potential to create a seamless and effortless migration of user files and settings between Windows XP and Windows 7. The advantage over other products is the lack of application installation required on the host or target machines as well as the ability to put the time frame for migration of data into the hands of the users. I simply copied the USMT folder from my SCCM server to my console machine. I think there could be some added features to make the product shine even more but this was a positive experience that I didn't think would happen. When registering the product it expired 2 months prior to my registration.



Per this problem the title bar states "License Expired" yet the product still functions correctly. (This may be a function of their evaluation license.) I didn't see anything about where the GPO was created. It was easy enough to find but I still would like to know where it is so I can document it.

Getting Started with Viewfinity User Migration – Installation and Setup

From the time I read the documentation to the time I was testing my first machine was no less than about ten minutes. Easy to understand instructions coupled with simple and straight forward user interface made setup a breeze.

Product Usability

Creating the project and importing users was easy. One problem I had was it would always select our Top AD and not our current AD/Domain. This wasn't so much an issue when I looked why it wasn't finding a user name. The popup on the host machine is straightforward and easy to understand. Equally was popup on the target machine. While I like that percent of collecting do you think you could give a changing estimate. I realize that it all depends on network speed, local files/folders, destination hard disk speed. But if you can't do that then have a 50% (50MB of 100MB) since you can grab folder sizes via WMI. Granted you can get registry entries but you can assume about 15k per application selected. The name field for the project doesn't real have documentation. You need to let the user know this is for the project/Group/AD/Department, not an individual computer.

Specific items tested using Viewfinity User Migration

I didn't test the Office 2007 migration but it occurred to me to use it for this purpose since you can upgrade office from 2007 to 2010 and then it will import the NK2 file and other data and then use it. The NK2 file doesn't exist in 2010, and this is the file that contains all the email addresses in your quick search when you type in an email address. This is a standard file we move between machines so we must have this. Users are at a loss when they can't find an email address and they never created a contact for it. I would like to see the ability for the administrator to create a custom rule. Since you are just moving data have the user enter the source file/registry location and the destination location. Then with custom files/macros/ODBC connects they can be collected and moved to the new machine. If Viewfinity creates a forum or upload site where users can submit their own custom files/macros, then there is a community effort that only serves to improve usability of the product. From there you can pick and choose the best add-on custom options to incorporate directly into the product.

Of the numerous options available to use for migration I tested the following items: Documents (My Music, Desktop, My Pictures, My Documents), System (Favorites) and Applications (Mozilla FireFox) on a production machine consisting of a 10Gb user profile. The profile was moved as a part of a normal migration. IE Favorites were modified and then the project was Reset and run again. We saw the modifications appear correctly on the Windows 7 destination machine in accordance with our expectations.

Performance

Given all the factors involved I found the performance of the console as well as moving the files to be exceptional. The one problem we found was when the profile approaches 600MBs. The collection process appears to drag on, especially when we have users that PST files that are 2GB and they have several of them. If you have several of these transfers occurring at the same time the storage location tends to lag. If you can determine the basic amount of data to be transferred and give a warning that the data to be migrated exceeds a recommended size (2GB) the progress of collection will appear to be stalled but in fact will be transferring data, please be patient. This should also be noted when restoring this much information. The largest amount of data I moved was 12GBs from a machine and everything moved fine and without errors.

Notes to Viewfinity: Are you in any way utilizing BITS to move the data? What happens when the transfer is over a slow wan. Could the administrator mark a user as a slow link transfer to somehow help/notify the user/machine?

Functionality

I had no problems understanding the interface or how everything works. I think the simplicity of the interface gives the users and admins everything they need to accomplish their migration. When performing the Reset on the user it did take a bit longer for the GPO to update and kickoff for the recollection than it does when you first setup the user. Maybe this is our AD, I don't know.

Favorite Features

My favorite feature would be the ability to select and sub-select features and applications to migrate. The best feature of all, no installation required! I like the Reset ability to recapture the settings and redeploy.

Summary

We have been testing and working on our Win 7 deployment/Migration strategy for several months. We have deployment completed and most application deployments completed. One of the last few steps is the migration of data between machines. With the problems abounding inside the profile we didn't want to migrate the profile and all the problems. I was pleased with the selection process and the ease that it took to setup, run, administer. *I was very impressed with your product. It definitely made profile migration a breeze! It was a big time saver.*

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Measurable Results:

Independent Product Review by Microsoft MPV Viewfinity's Windows 7 User Migration Product

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Step 1: Preparing for and installing the software

Locating the software for download

Installation process

Product Registration

Setting up the dedicated network share

Easy --> Difficult

1	2	3	4
x			
x			
x			
x			

Step 2: Creating your migration project

Ease of use

Speed

Available options for user and app settings

Time Savings

Rating Low --> High

1	2	3	4
			x
			x
		x	
			x

Step 3: Collect User Settings and Data

- Ease of use
- Speed
- Time Savings
- Minimizes end-user interruptions
- User Notifications
- Ability to monitor and control migration stages

Rating Low --> High

1	2	3	4
			X
			X
			X
			X
			X
			X

Step 4: Restore user settings and data

- Ease of use
- Speed
- Time Savings
- User Notifications
- Minimizes end-user interruptions
- Reduces post-migration tasks
- Product Accuracy
- Ability to monitor and control migration stages

Rating Low --> High

1	2	3	4
			X
		X	
			X
			X
			X
		X	
			X
			X

Step 5: Status Monitoring and Editing

- Ease of use
- Speed
- Feature Set
- Status Information Available

Rating Low --> High

1	2	3	4
			X
			X
		X	
		X	

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