

# THE CHALLENGE OF ANYWHERE ACCESS TO ERP SYSTEMS

## Table of Contents:

Introduction	2
ERP Systems And Remote Access	2
Webify Your ERP Application	2
Simple Enough For Any User	3
Anywhere Manageability For Admins	3
Remote Access Usability	4
World Class Security	4
Simplified Onboarding Process	5
Conclusion	5

## Introduction

The era of the “Anywhere Workforce” is upon us. Workforce mobility is a way of life today as remote work strategies have taken hold across businesses of all sizes and industries. Regardless of where work is being conducted, users need access to the business critical applications that make their company’s digital transformation possible. This includes ERP applications.

ERP systems are designed to support the critical functions of your business including human resources, sales, inventory and engineering just to name a few. While end-to-end visibility is one of the hallmarks of ERP applications, the necessity for remote access has revealed their limitations.

These complex application structures provide real-time snapshots of business operations to multiple teams within the organization, empowering them to quickly make accurate decisions. Remote work strategies however create a real problem when the decision makers are now no longer working on-premise. As a result, organizations must find a way to facilitate remote access of ERP systems to those users that deeply depend on it.

## ERP Systems And Remote Access

While some enterprises utilize cloud based ERP systems, the reality is that the majority of organizations rely on legacy or custom-made ERP solutions that offer little to no remote access capabilities. While switching to a SaaS may be an option for discussion, the reality is that such migrations are long extended endeavors. In a 2019 survey of 200 CIOs that were actively involved in an ERP cloud migration, 90% expressed the frustration of their migration not going as planned due to unexpected problems with the average migration taking more than 12 months.<sup>1</sup> The road to ERP cloud migration is paved with delays and big expenses.

Due to the lack of agility that is characteristic of ERP platforms, companies find themselves adapting to their ERP solutions rather than the other way around. They tend to be tightly coupled with other systems, making migration difficult at best. Rather than seeking a new ERP solution, companies need a remote access solution that can accommodate their existing ERP systems. Thinfinity® is an example of this new approach to remote access that is extending the life of legacy ERP systems at minimum cost and effort and thus, bringing these solutions into the modern age of work.

## Webify Your ERP Application

The one application universal to every device today is the web browser. It’s one reason why the cloud is so popular. Whether you use Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Apple Safari or Firefox, the web experience is still identical. The good news is that with Thinfinity this can be achieved without the hassle and expense of a long migration. With the insertion of a literal few lines of code, your ERP systems can be remote browser enabled. It’s a simple step that provides expansive, yet secure access.

## Simple Enough For Any User

Thinfinity gives you RDP or VNC like access using HTTPS flexibility and security. It's effortless but still secure, using a simple web browser that delivers your business critical applications to your users, regardless of location or device.

In an era in which companies are pursuing digital transformation to attain greater agility, Thinfinity products can provide the needed elasticity to accommodate any user:

**Resource Flexibility:** whether your users need access to a single application session or logon to their desktop back at the corporate office, Thinfinity emulates the local workspace your users need on any device. It supports both physical and virtual machines including Windows Servers, Terminal Servers, UNIX and Linux machines as well as MacOS. Because it supports Microsoft Remote App, you can easily publish Windows applications through an HTML5 web browser experience. It also supports all major desktop protocols including RDP for Windows, RFB for MacOS and iOS, VNC for Linux, UNIX and Windows, and even VT for terminal applications.

**Device Flexibility:** when we say any device, we literally mean any device. Whether your users are on a Windows 10 laptop, Apple iPad, Chromebook or an Android phone, they are less than a minute away from connecting to their needed applications, desktops and data. Windows 8+, macOS, Linux, iOS, Android and ChromeOS are all supported.

**VPN Flexibility:** while this new approach to remote access can help you clip the dependency cord of VPN, it can still work alongside them as it supports all industry standard SSL VPNs including Cisco, Juniper and Palo Alto Network Clientless VPN.

**Browser Flexibility:** the browser preferences of nearly any user can be accommodated for any device mobile or tablet without app installation. All major HTML5-compliant web browsers including IE, Edge, Chrome, Firefox, Safari and Opera are supported.

**Logon Simplicity:** remote access becomes a seamless Single Sign-on (SSO) experience as users can authenticate with local AD, Azure AD, Google, Facebook, LinkedIn and more.

## Anywhere Manageability For Admins

ERP systems require a considerable amount of maintenance and attention from your IT staff. Using a browser-based remote access system like Thinfinity, IT admins can be anywhere. When things go down, help is but a phone call away as your IT support technicians have instant access to server backend and network infrastructure.

**SSH and Console Access:** Thinfinity Remote Desktop gives managed access to more than just servers and desktops. Admins can also remotely manage, troubleshoot and configure switches, routers and access points through a centralized portal. If it accepts an SSH connection, your admins can connect to it from any internet connected device regardless of location.

## Remote Access Usability

Access alone falls short of the goal of remote user expectations. Flexibility doesn't mean being confined to a remote desktop. Users need more than just access, they need to do work.

**Remote Clipboard:** besides applications, users need access to their files and data as well. With Thinfinity, they can use the Text clipboard to copy/paste plain text between the remote machines and their portable devices.

**File Sharing:** another feature is ThinDisk, which gives users the ability to upload and download files between the client and the host devices. ThinDisk functionality is triggered by a user's profile and can be activated or deactivated by internal adminis.

**Multimedia:** Chrome, Firefox and Edge users can also listen to the audio output of their remote machine in real-time.

**Remote Printing:** users can work on a presentation from home and print it back at the corporate office.

## World Class Security

You can't talk about any IT solution today without mentioning security. In 2020 there were more than 4.5 million RDP ports exposed on the Internet.<sup>2</sup> Consequently, there were 1.4 million RDP attacks the same year.<sup>3</sup> RDP attack avenues are constantly under brute force attacks. Once compromised, RDP credentials are traded as a commodity on the internet.

RDP weaknesses have become a common backdoor for many types of attacks, including ransomware. The challenge is to be able to expand the access reach of your IT estate without expanding your risk exposure at the same time. And Thinfinity was designed with your security in mind:

**Data Loss Prevention:** mitigate data leakage by disabling local drive and clipboard redirection as well as published ERP application mappings. Create policies to ensure that users don't save data locally to personal or unsecure devices. Limit the ability to copy and paste as well as restrict access to printers, scanners and USB storage devices.

**AD Integrated:** enforce the same least privilege access for remote users as you do on-premise. Thinfinity integrates with your existing local Active Directory (AD) or Azure Active Directory (AAD) environments. Create granular filtering rules to grant restrictive access to applications, desktops and data for security groups and users alike.

**Multiple Authentication Options:** reinforce the authentication process by enforcing multifactor authentication (MFA) using SAML, RADIUS, Google Authenticator, Microsoft Authenticator or smart card authentication. Use oauth2 to setup SSO schemes with the most popular identity platforms.

**P2P Encryption:** remote sessions are fully protected using SSL encryption.

**IP Filtering:** you can create IP allow and disallow lists to control access.

## Simplified Onboarding Process

There's no doubt that the process of onboarding remote users is challenging at best. Those enterprises that depend on Group Policy struggle greatly with the task of deploying client applications to machines that rarely come back to the mothership. MDM works well as long as machines are properly enrolled. Because of the ubiquitous nature of remote work today, remote access solutions need to be as easy to deploy as they are to use.

**Straightforward Backend Architecture:** you can get started with a single Thinfinity instance on the backend to initiate connections. Once connected, the server will receive RDP commands optimized for the web. Larger enterprises that want to implement load balancing can do so with the addition of multiple connection servers or gateway servers.

**No Client to Install:** your IT teams will no doubt appreciate the onboarding simplicity of Thinfinity as there is nothing to deploy to your client machines. That's right, no applications, client side extensions or browser plugins. It simply uses the already installed HTML5 web browser of the remote device.

**No Browser Headaches:** the Thinfinity system doesn't complicate the browser experience since it doesn't require JAVA, Flash, ActiveX or Silverlight. You no longer have to worry about mismatched JAVA versions and updates as no additional setup tasks are required on the end-user side.

**SaaS Deployment:** independent software vendors can quickly enable their Windows applications into web optimized applications to deliver a SaaS like experience for end users.

## Conclusion

When you add up all the inherent advantages, it's clear that HTML5 browser-based remote access solutions provide the flexibility and security that organizations must have in order to accommodate remote work strategies. Even if your ERP solution is on-premises, your remote users, whose job functions are empowered by it, will still be able to interact with the critical data they need regardless of distance or device. While there are other remote access solutions on the market, none offer the complete package in such a reduced footprint or cost structure as Thinfinity®.

**[Call us or visit our site for a free demo.](#)**

### Resources:

<sup>1</sup> Moving ERP to the cloud? Expect delays | CIO

<sup>2</sup> Cybercriminals Actively Exploiting RDP to Target Remote Organizations | McAfee Blogs

<sup>3</sup> RDP Attacks Surged by 330% in the USA Amid Pandemic - Atlas VPN

### Contact Us:

Write us: [info@cybelesoft.com](mailto:info@cybelesoft.com)

Scan QR code:



More info on: [cybelesoft.com](https://cybelesoft.com)