



Virtual End User Environment (VEUE) (Thin Client Initiative)

What is it?

VEUE is an end-user computing device (monitor, keyboard, thin/zero-client device) paired with supporting infrastructure, such as servers and data storage. The computing device has no dedicated local hard drive, often runs only web browsers or remote desktop software, and relies on the Network to access data and information from a central server. The supporting infrastructure stores and processes all applications and user data. (In contrast, a thick or fat/traditional client has dedicated local storage and processing capabilities that can function independently of a central server.) The Army Chief Information Officer/G-6 has identified VEUE as one of its top 16 information technology initiatives.

Why is this important to the Army?

VEUE provides a standardized, more secure and effective computing environment for many Army missions. With storage and processing occurring at the Network level, the Army will improve Network defense. Backups, updates and reimaging will be centrally managed, and users will not be able to load unauthorized software. Additionally, operation and maintenance costs, including those for hardware and personnel, will drop.

What has the Army done?

Thin clients have been in limited use over the last decade, including at U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, the Intelligence Center of Excellence, and U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command. The Chief Information Officer/G-6 recently established formal thin-client policy (as supplemental guidance to Army Regulation 25-1) regarding the planning, acquisition and use of thin-client computing technology. As part of base realignment and closure, the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management approved implementation of thin clients at Training and Doctrine Command headquarters and Installation Management Command headquarters.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future?

The Army is finalizing a cost-benefit analysis that will support service-wide implementation of VEUE, and intends to request funding to start the effort in Program Objective Memorandum 14-18. Ultimately, the Army plans to establish VEUE as a means for delivering an end-user environment that enables mission command at all posts, camps and stations. While virtual end-user environments can support most Army personnel, they are not a good fit for every Army mission; therefore, certain positions and users will retain traditional thick-client personal computers.