



DATA SHEET

Virtual LAN Drive

Bootable Hard Drive Emulation for Windows Clients

Key Benefits

3Com® Virtual LAN Drive (VLD) software lets system administrators create and manage server-based hard drive image files for client PCs, and transfer to those image files all the functions normally performed by local physical hard disks. Client machines can perform a complete operating system boot from the server-based image

files, and use them for all application software and data storage, but continue to perform all application processing locally. Virtual LAN Drive image files can be formatted, partitioned and configured exactly like a physical hard disk, either by the client system user or by network administrators.

Ease of Management

Virtual LAN Drive software helps system administrators simplify client management and reduce total cost of ownership. It provides a simple, efficient system for maintaining operating systems, drivers, files, and application software without time-consuming on-site visits. It speeds the setup of new client systems and the distribution of shared software. Virtual LAN Drive software can be particularly useful in managing homogeneous, task-oriented computing environments that require local application processing and varied I/O facilities.

Data Integrity

Because client data is stored on network servers, it can be easily protected against local system failure with routine server backups. Virtual LAN Drive software lets system administrators extend network disaster recovery, redundancy, and security measures all the way to the desktop.

Data Security

Centralized drive emulation eliminates the physical security problems associated with local storage on client machines. Secure login services help ensure only authenticated users gain access to private directories and files.

Product Features

Feature	Benefit
Patented sector-by-sector drive emulation	Boots client OS directly from server-based boot partition.
Windows client OS support	Extends the Windows platform and server-based setup (SBS). Version 1 supports Windows 95 and Windows 98 operating system clients. Later versions will support Windows NT, Windows 2000, and Windows Me operating system clients.
Secure login	Helps prevent unauthorized access to data and applications.
Centralized virtual disk management	Simplifies client PC management and can help reduce total cost of ownership. Lets administrators update operating systems, drivers, files, applications, and configurations without visiting—or even turning on—the client machines, and speeds new network and client setup.
Optimized data transfer	Fast file and server engine gives server-based image files performance approaching that of a local hard disk.
Easy to use	Users can format, partition, and configure virtual drive image files just like a local hard drive.
PXE client-compatible	Supports all PXE-compliant boot ROMs.
Batch processing of virtual image files	Copy, delete, etc. hard disk image files.
Client-based application processing	Preserves the flexibility of conventional workstations and leverages client I/O systems and multimedia hardware.
Centralized data storage	Helps ensure physical security and integrity of all client data, and allows routine backup of all user files. Expands network disaster recovery options with fault-tolerant client storage solution.

A Complete Software Solution

3Com Virtual LAN Drive software consists of the following components:

- **Virtual LAN Drive Administrator** is the management application used to set up, modify, track, delete, and define the relationships between virtual drives, client systems, and servers that together comprise a Virtual LAN Drive network.
- **Configuration databases** store client, disk, and server information such as client names, image file allocations, MAC and IP addresses, user names, passwords, and UDP ports.
- **Virtual LAN Drive Login Service** validates logon requests.
- **Virtual LAN Drive I/O Service** handles read and write requests from clients to virtual drive image files.
- **Preboot and virtual hard drive images** store essential initialization instructions and up to 2 GB of data using 16- or 32-bit file systems.
- **TFTP Service** uses the Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP) to read, write, and transfer files between a client and server, or between two clients on a TCP/IP network. In remote boot and preboot environments, TFTP downloads a designated boot image file or network bootstrap program (NBP) from the network server to a client PC. In a Virtual LAN Drive network, the TFTP service is used to download the virtual drive bootstrap file to the client PC.
- **BOOTP Service** often substitutes for a DHCP server to provide client IP addresses using the Bootstrap Protocol (BOOTP). It also provides boot image file names and configuration information to client PCs equipped with a BOOTP-compatible boot ROM. This data is stored in a text-based BOOTBTAB database. In a Virtual LAN Drive network, the BOOTP service provides the client PC an IP address and also specifies the filename of the virtual drive bootstrap file to be downloaded.
- **PXE Service** provides boot image filename and configuration information to client PCs equipped with PXE-compliant boot ROMs. The PXE service is an extension of the Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) used primarily in Wired for Management (WfM) remote boot and preboot environments. In a Virtual LAN Drive network, the PXE service specifies the filename of the virtual drive bootstrap file to be downloaded.
- **BOOTPTAB Editor** is an easy-to-use, Windows-based configuration utility used to create and maintain the BOOTPTAB database from which both BOOTP and PXE servers dispense client configuration information.

All software components of the 3Com Virtual LAN Drive product are delivered on a single CD and are packaged with a Quick Start Guide to simplify installation and setup. Detailed product documentation is available online at www.3com.com/vld.

System Requirements

Client PCs:

- PC capable of running Windows 95 or Windows 98 operating systems
- Network interface card with 3Com Managed PC Boot Agent (MBA) or Preboot eXecution Environment (PXE)-compliant boot ROM
- Microsoft Windows 95 or Windows 98 installation CD

Servers:

- Microsoft Windows 2000 or Windows NT 4.0 Server (Service Pack 4 or higher)
- Internet Explorer 4.0 or later
- Hard drive with sufficient speed and disk space to store and access the virtual hard drive image file(s)

Administrative Platform:

- Microsoft Windows 9x, Windows 2000, or Windows NT 4.0 operating system
- Internet Explorer 4.0 or later

Ordering Information

3Com Virtual LAN Drive software with 10 client licenses	3CVLD300-00
3Com Virtual LAN Drive 10 client license pack	3CVLD300-10PK

More Product Information

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Printed in the U.S. on recycled paper.

3CVLD300-MRK-DS1 02/01