

BASICS OF CITRIX

What is a Farm?

A Farm is a group of servers running XenApp that can be managed as a unit, enabling the administrator to configure features and settings for the entire farm rather than being required to configure each server individually. All the servers in a farm share a single data store.

What is a data store?

The data store provides a repository of persistent information about the farm that each server can reference, including the following:

- Farm configuration information,
- Published Application configurations,
- Server configurations,
- XenApp administrator accounts,
- Printers,
- Printer drivers,
- Policies,
- Resource Manager metrics,
- Load Evaluators,
- Folders,
- Installation Manager groups, and
- Installation Manager packages.

You will use the default database of Access and keep the default zone name. There are several databases that can be used for the Farm Data Store but the Access database requires no preinstall configuration on your part. The databases available for selection are:

- Access,
- SQL Server Express,
- SQL Server,
- Oracle, and
- DB2.

The Zone name is simply a descriptive name for the zone. By default XenApp uses the Subnet ID. In XenApp 5 for Server 2008, the default Zone name is "Default Zone".

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What is a Zone?

A Zone is a logical grouping of XenApp servers that share a common zone data collector. Zones allow the efficient collection of dynamic farm information. Each zone in a farm has exactly one data collector. All of the member servers in a particular zone communicate their dynamic information to the data collector for their zone. The data collector then shares this information with all other data collectors in the farm.

What is a zone data collector?

A zone data collector is a server that stores and manages dynamic information about the servers in a zone, including:

- Published Applications usage,
- Server load,
- User sessions,
- Online servers,
- Connected sessions,
- Disconnected sessions, and
- Load balancing information.

Note: The License Server components have not been installed at this point so there is no License Server to contact. If you enter **citrixone** as the name for the License Server and click Next, you will receive an error message saying the License Server **CITRIXONE** could not be contacted.

Shadowing can be a useful tool for user collaboration, training, troubleshooting and monitoring. This capability is useful for supervisors, help desk personnel, teachers, and anyone else who may need to examine another user's session. During Setup, you can limit or disable shadowing. You can disable shadowing of ICA sessions on all servers in a farm if, for example, legal requirements prohibit shadowing of user's sessions. Or, you may want to disable shadowing on servers that host sensitive applications such as Human Resources or Payroll.

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Planning for Shadowing

Session shadowing monitors and interacts with user sessions. When you shadow a user session, you can view everything that appears on the user's session display. You can also use your keyboard and mouse to remotely interact with the user session. Shadowing can be a useful tool for user collaboration, training, troubleshooting, and monitoring by supervisors, help desk personnel, and teachers.

Shadowing is protocol-specific. This means you can shadow ICA sessions over ICA and Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) sessions over RDP only.

Important: Shadowing restrictions are permanent. If you disable shadowing, or enable shadowing but disable certain shadowing features during Setup, you cannot change the restrictions later. You must reinstall XenApp on the server to change shadowing restrictions.

Any user policies you create to enable user-to-user shadowing are subject to the restrictions you place on shadowing during Setup.

Shadowing is a server-level setting, so you can enable shadowing on one server and disable it on another.

Citrix does not recommend disabling shadowing as a substitute for user and group connection policies.

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The decision made on this screen cannot be changed without reinstalling XenApp. This is from page 66 of the XenApp 4.5 with Feature Release 1 (AKA XenApp 5.0 on Server 2003) Administrator's Guide:

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Setup. Do not disable shadowing as a substitute for user- and group-specific connection policies.

Prohibit shadowing of user sessions on this server. Select this option to permanently disable shadowing of user sessions on the server. If you disable shadowing during Setup, you cannot enable it using other Citrix Presentation Server configuration utilities or by creating connection policies.