Shell Control Box

# The Powerful Citrix SmartAuditor Alternative

**Did you hear?** Citrix ends the offering of its session recording agent, the SmartAuditor. SmartAudior (SA) is the part of the highest XenApp package, the Platinum Edition. However, the XenApp product family is merging into Citrix's new virtual desktop and application platform, the XenDesktop 7 and Citrix confirmed that SA will no longer be available from XD 7. Consequently, upgrading SA users - as well as new XD 7 customers - should look for another user auditing solution.

## SCB – Independent, proxy-based auditing of Citrix users

BalaBit offers a Citrix verified auditing solution, which is a powerful SmartAuditor alternative for Citrix customers. **Shell Control Box (SCB) is an activity monitoring appliance that controls access to your remote servers, virtual desktops, or networking devices, and records the activities of the users accessing these systems**. Among others, SCB supports the Citrix ICA protocol to access virtual desktop and application server infrastructures designed by Citrix. SCB is the first client- and server independent solution, which can transparently control and audit XenDesktop and XenApp deployments.

For example, SCB records as your employees make transactions in a XenDesktop environment. The recorded audit trails can be replayed like a movie to review the events exactly as they occurred. The content of the audit trails is indexed to make searching for events or for any text possible.

SCB is an external, fully transparent proxy gateway, completely independent from the clients and the servers. Your server- and client applications do not have to be modified in order to use SCB; it integrates smoothly into your existing infrastructure. It is a far more scalable solution than agent-based tools, as you don't need to install – and manage – extra agents, if you turn on additional virtual desktops in XenDesktop! All in all, SCB's key differentiators lie in its:

| ease of deployment and operation | control granularity | auditing quality |
| --- | --- | --- |

*Figure 1: The concept of SCB*

## Additional benefits for Citrix customers

Citrix SmartAuditor is a good enough solution for those customers who have XenApp Platinum Edition and want to record "normal" XenApp users for forensics purposes. However, it lacks some functionality which might be relevant in more complex environments. The following table summarizes the key additions of SCB over SA:

✓ Independent device – monitoring system is fully separated from the monitored user (no possibility for manipulation).

✓ Independent device – no need to install and maintain agents on the production servers

✓ Supports XenApp, XenDesktop, SSH, RDP, HTTP(s), Telnet and VNC protocols – audits heterogeneous IT environments incl. network devices, firewalls, Citrix/Win/UNIX/Linux servers, etc.

✓ Provides granular access policy enforcement to servers (e.g. time policy, file transfer control, etc.)

✓ Monitors shared and privileged account activity, as well (e.g. "Administrator", "root", etc.)

✓ Prevents malicious actions (e.g. launch of an unwanted application) from being executed on the server.

✓ Supports custom activity reports – helps in compliance driven projects, where reporting is a strong requirement.

✓ Audit-trails are stored in a tamperproof (encrypted, signed and time-stamped) way – meets compliance requirements.

The above list makes SCB a powerful SA complement or even a standalone audit tool in heterogeneous Citrix environments. SCB is also a strong audit offering for those SmartAuditor users, who want to switch to XD 7. In addition, it might be considered for other XenApp/XenDesktop customers, who just simply want a reliable and easy-to-use user monitoring tool in their organization.

## About BalaBit

BalaBit IT Security is an innovative information security company, a global leader in the development of privileged activity monitoring, trusted logging and proxy-based gateway technologies to help protect customers against internal and external threats and meet security and compliance regulations. BalaBit is also known as "the logging company", based on the company's flagship product, the open source log server application, which is used by more than 1 000 000 installations worldwide and became the globally acknowledged de-facto industry standard.

BalaBit, the fastest-growing IT Security company in the Central European region according to the Deloitte Technology Fast 50 (2012, 2013) list, has local offices in France, Germany, Russia, and in the USA, and cooperates with partners worldwide. Our R&D and global support centers are located in Hungary, Europe.

More information: www.balabit.com

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