Dongleserver myUTN-800

TERRA CLOUD GmbH
Dongle Server as Part of a Cloud
Hosting Solution

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The myUTN-800 Dongle Server allows the direct assignment of USB software licenses in data centers, even with virtual servers.

TERRA CLOUD GmbH, a subsidiary of Wortmann AG based in Huellhorst, Germany, installed and tested myUTN-800 Dongle Server. They were looking for a product which enabled the use of dongles with virtualization. Dongles are very commonly used to protect high value software. Until now this was only possible with host hardware that has available USB ports, and a data center security policy that allows connections to these unsecured ports. The result was very satisfactory for TERRA CLOUD: The myUTN-800 Dongle Server provided secure access to up to 20 protected software licenses centrally across their network. Each of the 20 USB 2.0 Hi-Speed ports were assigned servers on one of their respective VLANs. In addition, TERRA CLOUD especially valued the reliability of the device.

The Challenge

Terra Cloud GmbH, a cloud hosting provider, was looking for a solution which enables the operation of USB dongles with virtual servers. The market for cloud hosting is growing quickly, and a fair share of Terra Cloud's customers require hosting services for licensed software protected by these USB hardware keys, also called dongles. However, virtual server environments are not well equipped for handling USB devices. It was simply impossible to provision USB dongles with virtual servers and assign them exactly to a specific customer's virtual machine.

The SEH Dongle Server myUTN-800 is the perfect solution to this dilemma: Its 20 USB 2.0 Hi-Speed ports enable the central management and safe operation of up to 20 hardware license keys across a network.

The Objective

The hosting of dongles is an essential part of the overall cloud hosting services that TERRA CLOUD provides for its customers. In order to fulfill their customers' demands for security, they found the need to host dongles in virtual environments indispensable. Until now, TERRA CLOUD had no reliable way to connect dongles to virtual servers and assign exactly the right virtual machine to a customer.

Customers using DATEV products (DATEV is a leading German accountancy software and service provider) who outsource their data processing to hosted external servers, still had to fall back on a physical server. This, however, is about ten times as expensive as a virtual server and it makes hosting economically unattractive. TERRA CLOUD had to face the challenge of finding a provider who enables virtual dongle assignment.

The myUTN-800 Dongle Server provides up to 20 protected software licenses centrally and securely across a network via 20 USB 2.0 Hi-Speed ports. This makes the distribution of licenses for users and IT administrators very easy. When users want to work with their software they simply connect to their dongle with the help of the myUTN manager software, which is provided with the Dongle Server, and then use their application as usual. When their work is finished, the dongle will be released from their computer and then another colleague can use the license without transferring the dongle from one computer to another.

Keeping the dongles in one central place and locking them up in the metal case of myUTN-800 protects them from loss, damage, and theft. Moreover, a redundant power supply and two network connectors protect against server outage, ensuring high availability for TERRA CLOUD customers. The multi-segment display for error reports, such as „SD card error" or „power supply error" offers further reliability. In addition, the complete configuration of the myUTN-800 Dongle Server can be saved to an SD card. In case of emergency the configuration is quickly transferred to another myUTN-800 by moving the SD card to another Dongle Server. The optionally available SEH service package includes a replacement of the device free of shipping costs. In this way, TERRA CLOUD can assure its customers of continuous access to their dongles.

With the myUTN-800 Dongle Server, TERRA CLOUD now possesses a dongle management option for many software license dongles across their network – perfect for their operation in a cloud hosting environment in which access to a great number of dongles across many customers is required.

Also, the myUTN-800 Dongle Server is TERRA CLOUD's solution for safe and simple dongle management in virtualized environments. This makes external hosting via data centers financially attractive for customers. TERRA Cloud is now able to tap into new customer segments and to distinguish itself clearly from its competitors.

SEH

The Tests

Extensive market research by TERRA CLOUD yielded the only product which matched their requirements: the myUTN-800 Dongle Server.

Shortly after it was launched, this SEH product was deployed and thoroughly tested in the data center of the Wortmann subsidiary. During the test, TERRA CLOUD worked closely with the SEH product management to assure a smooth deployment. The Dongle Server software was modified further according to Wortmann's working demands, and these mods have been added to the production release. After the quick deployment into the 19" server rack and an installation process which is self-explanatory for administrators, the Dongle Server could be operated right away.
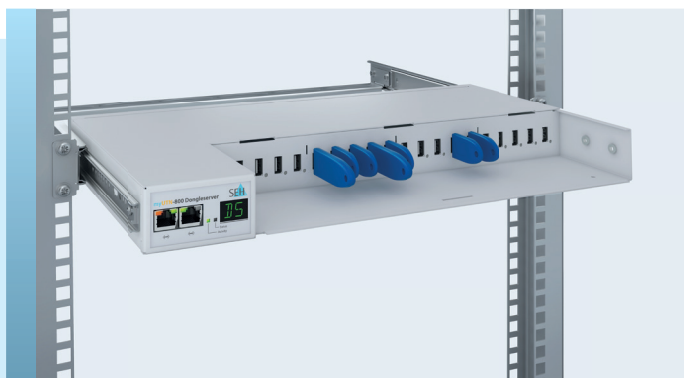
The myUTN-800 Dongle Server allows for up to 20 dongles to be connected via USB 2.0 Hi-Speed ports. The myUTN-800 is developed for data centers and large companies which have their own server rooms. It is specially designed to be built into a 19" server rack.

The SEH product is unique in that it offers both the ability to establish a management VLAN, and it also supports several other VLANs with the option that every VLAN can use the same IP range.
This saves time, administrative effort, and costs.

During the testing, the VLAN technology and the VLAN support were enhanced. The myUTN-800 can be used to establish logically separate virtual VLANs, which each in themselves represent a separate broadcast domain. Every USB port – and thus every connected dongle – is assigned to a dedicated

The advantages

› USB-Virtualization in Ethernet, Fast Ethernet and Gigabit Ethernet networks
› 20 software license keys via USB 2.0 Hi-Speed-Ports
› Direct assignment of USB ports to a VLAN
› User authentication
› Simple dongle management
› Network availability due to two Gigabit network connectors
› System stability due to two integrated power packs
› Simple installation, implementation, and configuration because of plug-and-play
› Additional automatic configuration backup via SD card
› Simple deployment into 19" server rack

customer network as its own VLAN. All connected dongles are physically within the same data center and on the same network, but separated into VLANs. Each customer's access is limited to his own dongles on their own VLAN.

Dongle Server is well suited for data centers. It offers many advantages and significantly relieves the administrators work burden. Installation, implementation, configuration and administration of the connected dongles are managed transparently using a web browser and the UTN-Manager. There is no need for extensive instruction. MyUTN-800 Dongle Server has been operational at TERRA CLOUD since May 2015.

„There is no product comparable to the SEH Dongle Server, we are perfectly satisfied with it."

Stefan Schitik, TERRA CLOUD network administrator

SEH

The Result

„There is no product comparable to the SEH Dongle Server, we are perfectly satisfied with it," says TERRA CLOUD network administrator Stefan Schitik. "Dongle Server fulfills our needs: The business solution with 20 USB ports raises our cloud hosting efficiency. The direct assignment of a USB ports to VLANs enables operation in a multi-tenant facility. The myUTN-800 Dongle Server makes special allowance for system stability and constant availability with a redundant power supply and two Gigabit network connectors".

TERRA CLOUD has decided to expand dongle management in the TERRA CLOUD data center significantly. The plan is to fill a complete server rack with 48 dongle servers, so that more customers with these specific demands can be served.

„The my UTN-800 is technically mature and we are happy to recommend it for use in data centers," Schitik states with conviction.

Case study company

TERRA CLOUD GmbH, a subsidiary of WORTMANN AG, Europe's largest and independent hardware manufacturer, offers space for more than 5,000 servers in its data center in Huellhorst, Germany (2,500 square meters). More than half of these are virtual servers for Cloud Hosting, which are operated on the basis of German legal and security standards and available for small and medium businesses. TERRA CLOUD offers its customers data center services on the highest level, from server housing via server hosting storage solutions and IaaS (Infrastucture as a Service) to SaaS (Software as a Service).

Internet: www.terracloud.de

SEH Technology

SEH Technology is a vendor of professional network solutions. With more than 20 years of experience in the field SEH is a competent solution provider for network printing and USB virtualization for all professional environments.
SEH Technology offers a broad product portfolio: the mobile printing solution primos, a broad range of internal
and external print servers for all common networks (Ethernet, Gigabit, fiber, WiFi), hardware solutions for ThinPrint and personal printing solutions by Cortado, SEH myUTN device server for accessing, managing, and administrating USB devices via the network (USB-to-Network), and network solutions for efficient spooling management (ISD product series).
Headquartered in Germany, SEH operates across Europe, Asia, and North America via an extensive network of partners, distributors, and resellers. The U.S. headquarters is located in Phoenixville, PA.