PCmover Enterprise

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PCmover Enterprise vs. Microsoft USMT

Because USMT is actually a toolkit and specifically will not transfer applications, there is a mismatch between IT's desires and USMT's capabilities. (We) provide PCmover Enterprise with full support for automatically transferring applications.

Thomas Koll - CEO

Comparison Overview

The limitations of USMT

The Microsoft User State Migration Tool (USMT) is a set of command-line utilities provided as part of the Windows Application Deployment Kit (ADK). USMT uses an asynchronous, two-step, export/import process to capture and transfer domain and local user accounts, selected user settings, limited application settings, and some user data to a destination PC.

USMT does not migrate applications, most application settings (only a limited application set is supported), or user data outside of profile folders without significant extra configuration effort. This impacts three key OPEX factors: technician migration efforts, end-user downtime, and postmigration demands on the user or the Service Desk for remediation of missing apps, settings, and data. USMT does not offer the ability to migrate to or from Azure Active Directory (AAD).

USMT offers the ability to migrate only a very limited set of what comprises the full experience or "Complete User Personality" of an end user, including domain and local accounts, user profile settings, settings from a limited set of supported applications, and user files and folders outside of the profile folders that are explicitly specified based on a combination of location and file extension. Without any provision for a full, unbounded scan of the source environment, there is a high likelihood of user data loss and consequent post-migration service desk engagement.

USMT functionality is based on migration rules configured in XML files. While USMT can be run without these directives, in practice, the effect is rarely useful for a production migration. The necessary customization of USMT for a production effort requires the manual development of XML "migration rule" files by your software development resources (or, more often, IT resources who will spend much of their time reading USMT XML documentation), and ongoing engagement of those resources to manage these XML rules as needs change. Additionally, most organizations require multiple configurations to accommodate the needs of different user groups. A software developer, for example, typically requires a much more complex migration effort than an accounting employee. Multiple rule file sets — again, manually developed and managed — will be required. Most large organizations find that USMT simply does not scale from a resourcing perspective.

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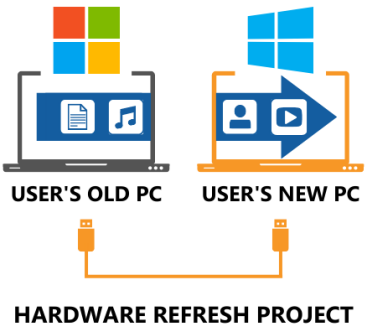

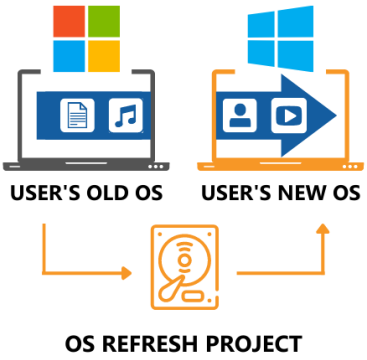

Comparison Overview; Continued

USMT does not include any type of GUI and is specifically recommended by Microsoft NOT to be used in a case where manual technician effort or end-user interaction is desired or required. If your migration effort includes a desire for self-service migration by remote users, USMT is unsuitable.

USMT only offers a process where the data is exported to an external location and then imported into the new environment. Configuration of the external "Migration Store" to hold the information — determining its location and space allocation — demands a significant upfront effort, before even the first migration can be performed, and the sole option for asynchronous operation excessively complicates use cases where one simply needs to migrate from an old PC to a new PC, such as break- fix or small-batch attrition (e.g., ongoing leased-PC replacement). These, too, make USMT unsuitable for all except a severely limited set of use cases.

Microsoft does not offer an official support channel for USMT. Any configuration or execution challenges must be resolved through community support or third-party consultants. Microsoft previously offered the Windows Easy Transfer tool, which also moved only files and select settings. However, this tool has been deprecated and is no longer available for Windows.

The advantages of PCmover Enterprise

PCmover Enterprise software supports any source-destination combination of local, domain, AAD, and even MSA accounts. Account type and user account name are not required to be identical. To offer some examples: you can easily migrate from a traditional AD account to an AAD account as part of an AAD-Intune/MEM migration project; or from a local account on a user's personal PC to a domain account (BYOD); migrate dozens of accounts from a kiosk, conference room, or other shared PC to a new PC in a single transfer; or migrate while changing both domain membership and account name (mergers and acquisitions).

If a migration does not go as planned, PCmover Enterprise offers a convenient one-click undo option to return the new environment to its original configuration, and PCmover does not modify the source environment in any way.

The PCmover Enterprise GUI Wizard interface not only offers a simple path for non-technical users, but also provides advanced selection capability for technicians or advanced users for real-time migration adjustments.

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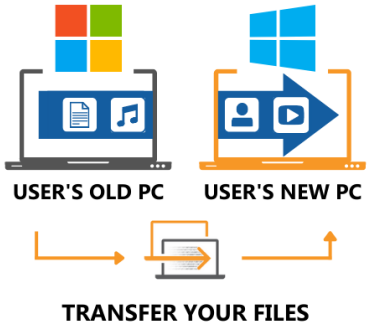

PCmover Enterprise software is also useful in a break-fix environment, offering a dedicated workflow to extract information from an offline Windows installation. For example, if a user breaks a laptop screen, your technician can extract the disk, mount it in the replacement laptop, and use the PCmover Image & Drive Assistant workflow to migrate the complete user personality with the same effect as if the source PC were fully functional.

PCmover Enterprise software offers both synchronous and asynchronous transfer methods. Direct Transfer, the synchronous method, involves running PCmover on two PCs (or a PC source and VDI target) simultaneously. The PCs are connected by network (LAN or Wi-Ffi), directly with an Ethernet or Thunderbolt (3/4) cable connection between the two PCs, or directly with one of Laplink's proprietary high-security, high-throughput USB2 or USB3 cables. File-Based Transfer, the asynchronous method, consists of exporting migration information from the old environment to an encrypted file placed on any external storage, such as a file share or USB flash disk drive. This file is then imported into the new environment. Unlike Direct Transfer, this method supports the OS refresh scenario where you intend to reuse the same PC after deploying a new image.

File-Based Transfer was also specifically designed to support zero-touch integration with your existing ITAM/RMM or job scheduling system. As part of your OS Deployment process or migration project, you can use SCCM, Intune, Altiris, Ivanti Landesk, or even Windows Scheduled Tasks or PowerShell Remoting to launch and run PCmover automatically on the original environment, in zero-touch zero-UI fashion that requires no user interaction, to extract the migration data. You will then complete the migration to the new environment either manually or again in zero-touch fashion as part of a fully automated process.

PCmover Enterprise software makes automation even easier by its portability: you do not need to install PCmover on the environments involved in a transfer. Simply extract the PCmover files by running the setup routine on any workstation, and then copy the entire PCmover Client folder to a network share or USB flash drive to run on the client machines. For remote deployment, simply distribute PCmover Enterprise as a compressed set of files; there is no need to create and manage a Win32 application package or perform an MSI deployment.

PCmover Enterprise Features

The PCmover Policy Manager, a separate application that is included with PCmover Enterprise, offers a simple GUI to create configuration files, called PCmover Policies, which can perform highly advanced and granular configurations beyond what is offered in the GUI. This includes over one hundred advanced configuration options for every part of the migration process, such as advanced file filtering, folder redirection, user account mapping, disk mapping, application whitelisting or blacklisting, and complete control over the GUI so that you can create a light- or zero-touch migration environment by making decisions in advance and then turning off any or all of the GUI.

Profile Migrator

PCmover Enterprise also includes PCmover Profile Migrator, which automates the transfer of user profile content (applications, files, and settings) between user profiles on the same PC. This functionality includes transfers between on-premise Active Directory (Local AD) user profiles to cloud-based Azure Active Directory (AAD) profiles. Within PCmover Enterprise, users can further increase the value of PPM while utilizing policies to make it faster and easier to execute profile migration.

To test a fully functioning copy of PCmover Enterprise, visit enterprise.laplink.com or contact corpsales@laplink.com.

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"PCmover is the World's #1 PC Migration Software and has been selected by Microsoft as their Recommended Migration Solution"

Transfer Manager

The PCmover Transfer Manager allows IT managers remote access to the PCmover client, allowing for multiple migrations to be executed, monitored, and/or controlled from a single PC. The Transfer Manager is installed with the main PCmover Enterprise setup executable, similar to Policy Manager's installation. The Transfer Manager allows access to computers for remote transfers via a variety of communication methods, including access to:

- PCmover: Access to the PCmover engine for all transfer functionality.
- Download Manager: Mechanism for supporting downloading and installation of redistributables, maintaining state across potential reboots.
- PCmover Loader: This service controls loading and unloading the PCmover (and Download Manager) services.
- Unified: This is a single service that provides access to the other services. It exists to minimize the number of services exposed via Azure Relay.

By installing the PCmover service, Transfer Manager can run PCmover in a variety of ways:

- It supports basic functionality, where the end user must log in, and Transfer Manager must be on the same network as the client.
- It supports a "no login" mechanism, in which the client machines do not need to be logged in, but Transfer Manager still needs to be on the network.
- It supports an Azure Relay mechanism, which allows Transfer Manager and the remote machine to exist anywhere on the Internet, without requiring direct local network access.

Moreover, all of these mechanisms can coexist. Transfer Manager will use the method that is best for the configuration in which it is running.

Transfer Manager Intel® EMA Integration

It is possible to enumerate PCs managed within your EMA (Endpoint Management Assistant) instance. Your vPro® devices within your EMA instance can be powered remotely. PCs managed with EMA can also install PCmover remotely. Simply input your EMA information in Transfer Manager to authenticate and benefit from the integration.

Azure Relay Connections

Azure Relay is the technology we use to open connections between two computers not on the same network, bouncing across an Azure Relay object on the Internet. Clients can leverage this to connect PCs that may not be in the same physical location. This is a valuable option for anyone who may have been trying to use VPN in the past, perhaps between a remote old PC and a new PC sitting on-prem waiting to be deployed.

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Based on our experience and discussions with existing customers, PCmover® Enterprise will save an organization a minimum of $300 per desktop deployed, but can save as much as $2,000 depending on the organizational structure and IT policies in place.

File-Based through BLOB/Object cloud storage

Clients also have the ability to leverage the File-Based Transfer process via BLOB/Object storage in the cloud (through Azure, Google or AWS), instead of needing dedicated DFS or external volumes. This is especially valuable to clients who do not have both devices on premise at the time of the migration. An old PC can be captured and saved to cloud storage regardless of where it is physically located, and the new PC can be restored via cloud storage regardless of where it is physically located. Leveraging the cloud option empowers our clients to migrate effectively and efficiently — a very clear benefit to those who want to keep their migrations off the company WAN.

PCmover Enterprise: Benefits at a glance

- Migration of the complete user personality including applications, application and user profile settings, and user data files and folders, wherever they may reside, by default.
- Easy-to-use migration wizard to guide you through the migration process.
- No local installation required.
- Support for local, domain, and Azure Active Directory accounts.
- Extensive customizable reporting and email alert capability for project management, auditing, or billback.
- Live, synchronous transfer process between two PCs connected by LAN or direct cable (Ethernet, Thunderbolt, or Laplink USB).
- Asynchronous file-based export/import transfer process for same-PC-reuse and large-scale automation.
- Full support for virtualized environments including P2V, V2P, and V2V migrations.
- Migration from an offline Windows environment (physical disk or
- mountable image).
- Same-PC migration between accounts.
- Policy Manager module to create highly granular migration configurations for your specific needs.
- Onboarding and training available.
- Premium support available.
- Software maintenance available.
- Custom development available for specific features and corporate branding.

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PCmover Enterprise Features; Continued

Features	PCmover Enterprise	USMT
Transfers selected applications	✓	
Transfers user profiles	✓	✓
Transfers application settings	✓	Limited
Transfers user data	✓	Manually specified locations and extensions
Synchronous "live" transfer	✓	
Asynchronous export/import transfer	✓	
Direct cable connectivity support	✓	✓
GUI interface, no coding required	✓	
Interactive transfer support	✓	
Policy-defined transfer support	✓	
P2V, V2P, V2V support	✓	
Migration from offline Windows disk or image	✓	
Migration alerts and reports	✓	
Support available	✓	
Onboarding and training available	✓	
Custom development and branding available	✓	

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