Types of Clients

Desktop virtualization involves a user interacting with a host server via a keyboard, mouse and monitor over a network connection connected to a hardware client.

The client hardware can be one of several types of devices:

- **Zero Client** - instead of booting an operating system, a zero client instead just has firmware that runs on inexpensive specialized hardware that initializes the network, handles keyboard and mouse input, and handles the decoding of the display output.
- **Thin Client** - a device with a very basic, but secure, operating system such as Windows Embedded or Linux, that boots the hardware device straight into a virtual desktop connection client
- **"Fat" Client** - a standard laptop or desktop computer
- **Mobile Client** device - typically an iPad or Android tablet