Digital Workspaces

Azure Blueprint
For End User Desktop Computing & Collaboration

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Azure Virtual Desktop

The building block of the Digital Workspace is Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD).

AVD offers a flexible virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) platform that securely delivers virtual desktops and remote apps with maximum control.

Organizations like Lloyds Bank and the US Army are deploying AVD to implement agile working programs.

Reimagining the Future of Work

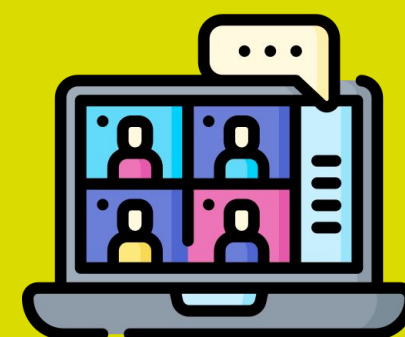It's a different world, with fresh challenges and new opportunity

The Future of Work

Microsoft defines the overall strategic context through their Modern Work practice, which explores the reimaginging of how work and collaboration will evolve, aka '**The Future of Work**'.

VDI provides the foundation for transforming IT, extending productivity to PCs, phones, tablets, or browsers and providing secure access to corporate data and applications for an increasingly distributed workforce.

Virtual Team Collaboration

Blended Teams workplaces that boost productivity and optimize collaboration and efficiency.

End User Computing

Device, OS and desktop application modernization strategy to enable remote working.

AVD Business Case

✅ **Critical Business Events**
An organization often adopts Virtual Desktop to mitigate risks that are related to contracts, regulations, compliance, or sovereignty.

✅ **Scalability and Cost Management**
By using cloud services, an organization can seamlessly scale up and down with infrastructure, and optimize associated costs.

✅ **Agility and Innovation**
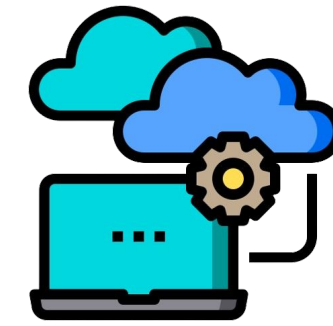Organizations can define and standardize different desktop images to more easily rapidly implement new business models.

The Forrester TEI study defines:
- Time to market benefits exceed $3 million
- Cost avoidance exceeds $7 million
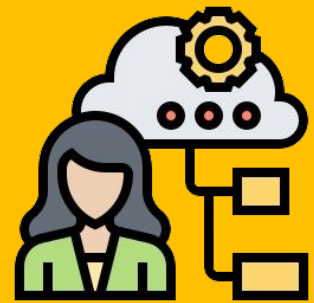- 102 percent return on investment
- Pay back in nine months
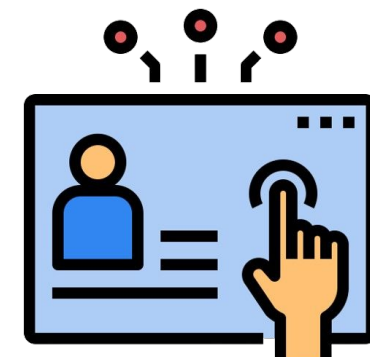
Solution Components

VDI Cloud Migration
Plan, manage and optimize Cloud migration of VDI compute services.

Consulting Services
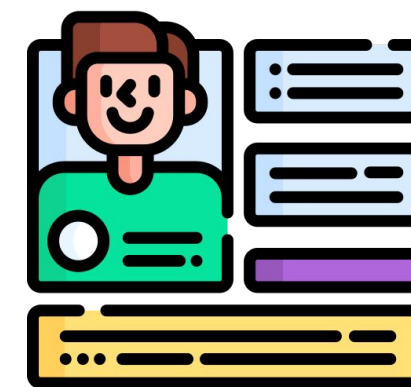Professional services to audit, recommend, design and implement customer solutions.

Identity & Security
Design and configure Identity Access, Firewall and VPN policies, and utilize endpoint protection.
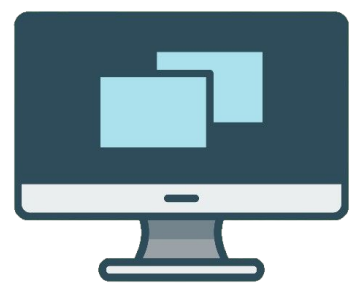
Devices and OS
Device, OS and desktop application modernization strategy to enable virtual desktop access.

Digital Workplace
Sharepoint, Teams and other collaboration applications to enable virtual team collaboration.

BEST PRACTICES

Implementing AVD

An overview of technical architecture and implementation practices, with links to detailed knowledge base resources.

Cloud Architecture Design

Design of VM deployment, Azure regions, session hosts, networking topologies.

Identity & Security

Access control and environment security practices to secure virtual desktops.

Migration & FinOps Optimization

Setting up an Azure Landing Zone, migration strategies for existing desktops and ongoing cost management.

Digital Workplace

A primary motivation for AVD infrastructure is to enable better virtual team collaboration, via a 'Digital Workplace':

- Teams + Sharepoint Intranet.
- Social networking for expert directory and knowledge exchange.
- Features for managing distributed workforce culture and motivation.

[Digital Workplace: Full Guide](#)

DEX Solutions for AVD

ControlUp offers DEX performance monitoring for Virtual Desktops, Unified Communications and SaaS Apps.

Digital Employee Experience

By 2025, Gartner predicts 50 percent of IT organizations will have established a DEX strategy, team, and management tool.

Real-Time Monitoring
Keep a pulse on your EUC environment with thousands of actionable, real-time metrics.

Automation
Built-in automated recommendations and actions for faster troubleshooting.

Testing
Continuously test, receive proactive notifications on the health of virtual desktops.

AVD Solution Design

Entra Identity

Entra is Microsoft's platform for **Managing Digital Identities in a Multi-Cloud World**. A key enterprise use case for the Entra suite is the role it plays in enabling and managing Azure Virtual Desktops.

Entra for AVD
How to configure AVD with enterprise configurations for secure authentication, improved connectivity, and service resiliency.

Remote Working Architecture
Entra Application Proxy and Private Access enable secure remote access between on-premises web apps, the employee's device and the organization's network.
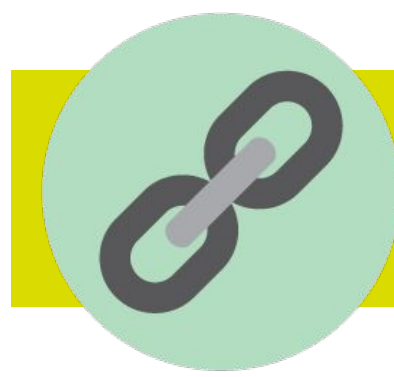
Passkeys
Entra supports 'Passkeys'. Users can sign-in to both web applications and native apps using a YubiKey.

Vendor Profiles
Multiple vendors offer Entra solutions for a variety of Identity & Security use cases.

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AVD Cybersecurity

The scope of security requirements for Azure Virtual Desktop includes:

Cloud Security
Securing the core hosting and network environment, using encryption and firewalls.

Application Security
Identify and secure sensitive data, and regulate application access with Identity controls.

Endpoint Security
Protect user devices from malware and cyber threats, and prevent the unauthorized transfer or sharing of sensitive data.

Application Modernization

Desktop Applications

A key facet of adopting Azure Virtual Desktop is modernizing the legacy applications they are used to access.

Legacy Windows Apps
Developed using older technologies, such as Visual Basic, C++, or .NET Framework, often running on outdated operating systems.

MSIX Replacing App-V
App-V solution is commonly used application virtualization solution, officially will become end of life in 2026. Its successor is 'MSIX'.

MSIX App Attach
App Attach is a feature in Windows Virtual Desktop that allows applications to be dynamically attached to virtual machines.

MSIX
MSIX is a packaging format that offers many features aimed to improve the packaging experience for all Windows apps.

Vendor Profiles
Multiple vendors offer solutions for automated discovery and transformation of legacy Windows apps.

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Azure Virtual Desktop |
Modernizing Applications

Migrate to Intune in 3 Clicks

Rimo3 Cloud leverages Azure Compute so you can perform application migrations to Intune at scale.

MIGRATE TO **INTUNE** IN **3 CLICKS**

Rimo3

Intune Applications

An Microsoft Intune is a Cloud-based endpoint management solution, covering mobile devices, desktop computers, and virtual endpoints.

SCCM Migration
SCCM is reaching end of life in 2024/25, and Intune can be used as the replacement.

Application Security
Enhance application security with Enterprise App Management to streamline deployment.

Simplified Admin
View and control your PCs and Macs, as well as specialized mobile devices, right from the Intune admin center with Remote Help.

AVD Management

Nerdio

Nerdio adds value on top of the powerful capabilities in Azure Virtual Desktop, Windows 365, and Microsoft Intune.

Enterprise Automation
An Azure management portal for automating AVD endpoint and application functions, deployed into the customers Azure subscription.

Application Management
Manage the full scope of desktop applications, including deployment, updates and removal, as well as policy enforcement and licence management.

CASE STUDY

Karbon Homes Reduces Azure Virtual Desktop Costs by over 60%

nerdio   karbon homes

Auto-scaling
Auto-scaling technology is built directly into Nerdio Manager, with far more features than the Microsoft native auto-scaling capabilities.

Security
Nerdio can be configured to harden the AVD environment to protect against the most common forms of security risks.

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Device Strategy

Stratodesk

Thin Client Solution for Azure Virtual Desktop

Reuse existing devices
Avoid significant costs by leverage existing PCs, Laptops, Thin Clients and Raspberry Pis by transforming them into high performing endpoints.

AVD Integration
Stratodesk comes ready to connect to your AVD deployment in Microsoft Azure, and fully supports RemoteApps.

NoTouch Center is available via the Azure Marketplace.

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Azure Solution Services

AVD Readiness Assessment and Design Blueprint

A comprehensive evaluation of your organization's current IT infrastructure and development of an AVD adoption roadmap.

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Readiness Assessment & AVD Roadmap

The AVD Roadmap provides a comprehensive evaluation of your current capabilities and maps a transformation journey to deployed VDI.

✓ Requirements Audit
Analysis of your current IT infrastructure, application & user requirements, & in-house skills.

✓ Architecture Blueprint
Design for the AVD 'To Be' future architecture, migration planning roadmap and end-to-end operational approach.

✓ Use Case Accelerators
Blueprints for specific enterprise scenarios, such as Citrix to AVD migration.

PDF Download Roadmap Template

DIRECTORY

Azure Partners

Listings of **Azure Partners** who specialize in Digital Workspace services and solutions.

Contact the AzureCloud.pro team to arrange engagement workshops and webinars.