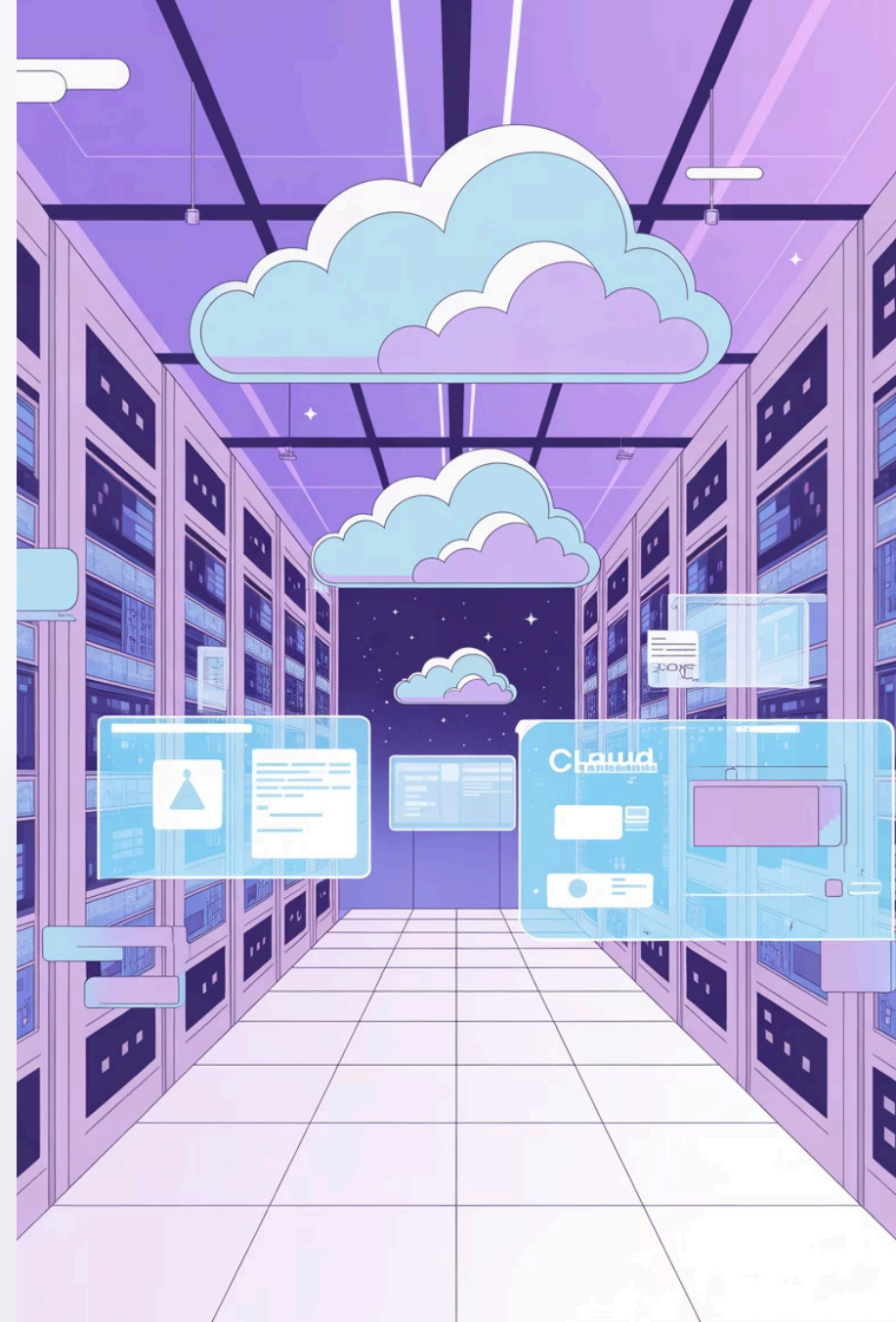# Enterprise-Scale Digital Workspaces with Microsoft

Best Practices & Architecture for Azure Virtual Desktop and Windows 365 Cloud PCs

The New Era of Digital Workspaces

Remote & Hybrid Transformation

Today's workforce demands secure, scalable, and flexible desktop solutions that enable productivity from anywhere, at any time.

Microsoft Leadership

Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) and Windows 365 Cloud PC represent the gold standard in enterprise cloud desktop delivery.

Universal Access

Empower your enterprise to deliver seamless Windows experiences across any device, location, or working environment.

Azure Virtual Desktop: Flexible, Multi-Session Powerhouse

01

Broad OS Support

Windows 10/11 Enterprise single & multi-session capabilities, plus Windows Server OS for maximum flexibility.

02

Customisable VDI

Perfect for complex, highly customisable virtual desktop infrastructure with pooled resources and granular control.
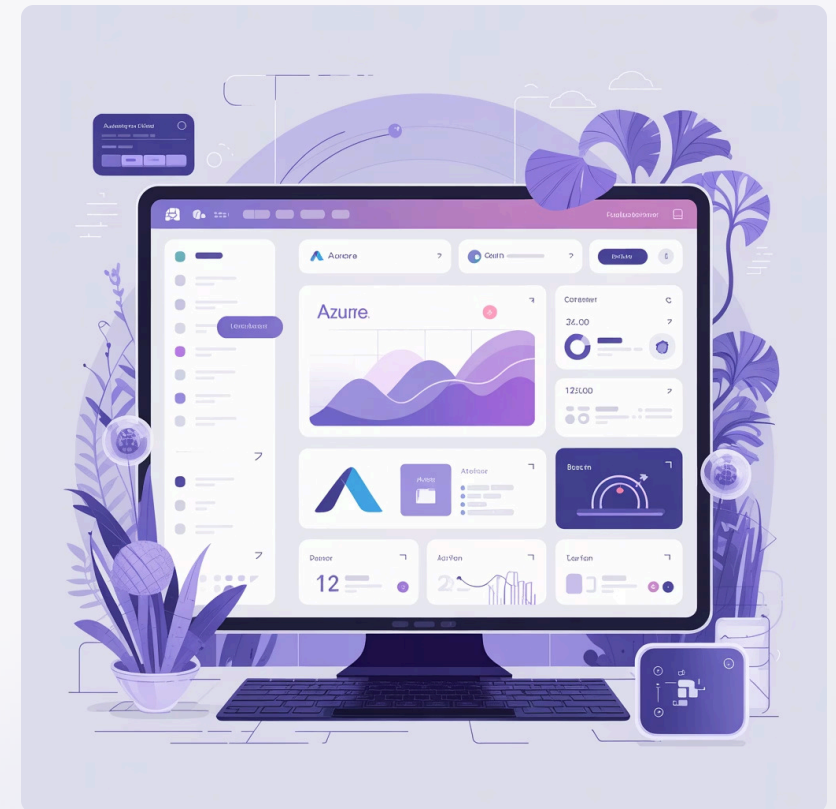
03

Azure Integration

Managed directly through Azure Portal; requires Azure subscription and Microsoft 365 E3/E5 or Windows Enterprise licences.

04

Cost Efficiency

Significant cost savings through multi-session desktop capabilities and application streaming technologies.

Key Advantage: Multi-session capabilities allow multiple users to share the same virtual machine, dramatically reducing infrastructure costs whilst maintaining performance.

Windows 365 Cloud PC: Simplified, Fixed-Cost Cloud Desktops

Dedicated Experience

Single-session Windows 10/11 Enterprise desktops providing each user with their own personal Cloud PC environment.

Two Editions

Business: SMB-focused, user-managed setup
Enterprise: Intune-managed with Azure AD integration for large organisations.

Predictable Pricing

Fixed monthly per-user cost simplifies budgeting and financial planning compared to AVD's consumption-based model.

Rapid Deployment

Seamless integration with Microsoft Endpoint Manager enables swift provisioning and streamlined management.

Enterprise-Scale Architecture & Governance for Azure Virtual Desktop

Azure Landing Zones

Establish consistent identity, security, and networking controls across your entire AVD deployment infrastructure.

Infrastructure as Code

Deploy using Bicep or ARM templates via the Azure Virtual Desktop accelerator for repeatable, consistent environments.
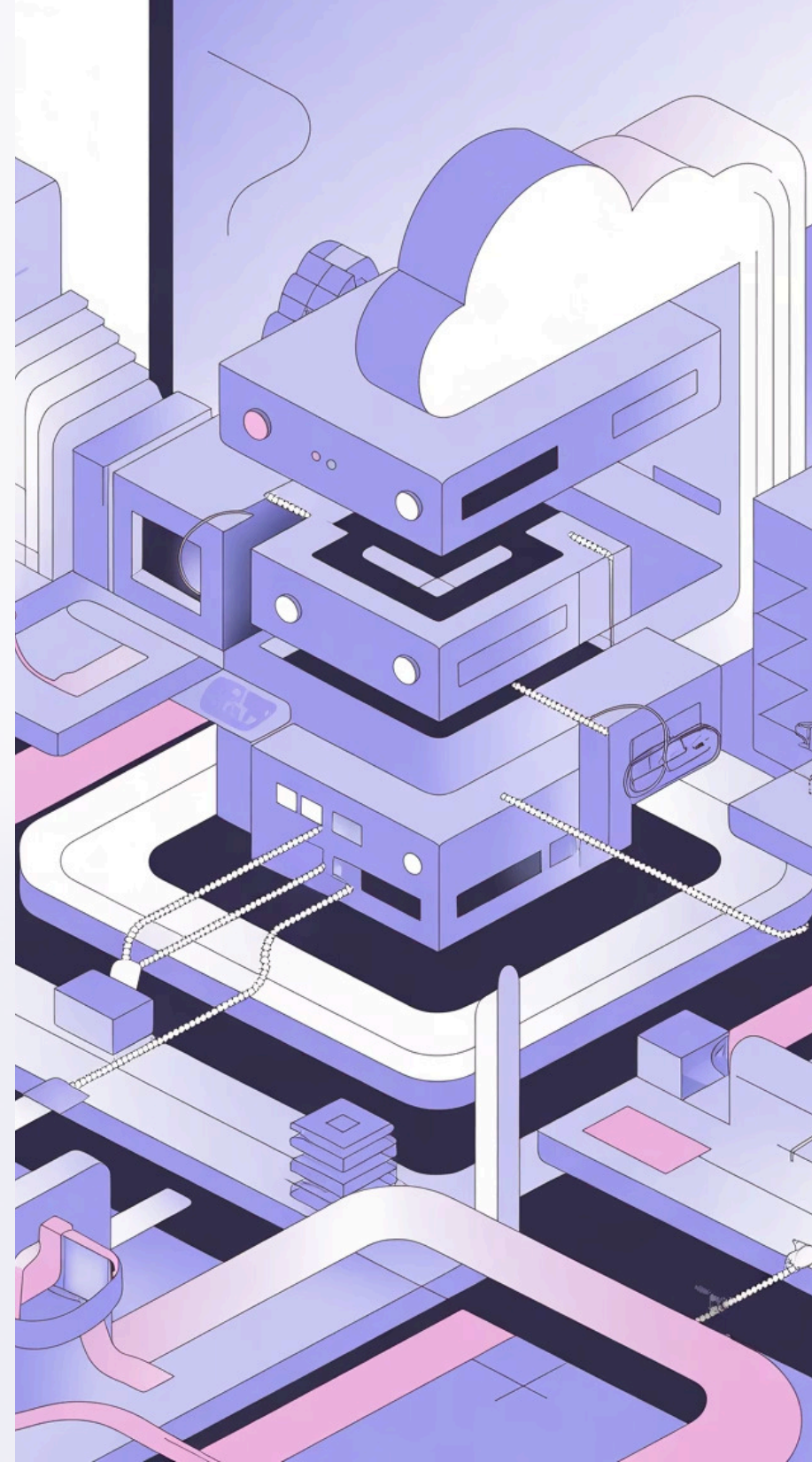
CI/CD Pipelines

Automate deployments, updates, and configuration management through PowerShell and Azure CLI integration.

Image Standardisation

Leverage Azure Compute Gallery to maintain compliant, pre-configured VM images for faster, consistent provisioning.

Scaling & Resilience: Multi-Region Expansion & Auto-Scaling

Multi-Region Strategy

Expand AVD across Azure regions to improve user proximity, reduce latency, and overcome capacity limits.

Dynamic Auto-Scaling

Implement solutions like Nerdio to intelligently adjust session hosts based on real-time demand patterns.

55%
Cost Reduction

Auto-scaling reduces wasted compute costs by intelligently powering hosts on and off based on usage.

24/7
Always Available

Pre-stage session hosts to ensure seamless login experiences during peak demand hours.

99.9%
High Availability

Multi-region deployment ensures business continuity and disaster recovery capabilities.

Windows 365 Reserve: Business Continuity for Device Disruptions

Device Failure

Primary device fails, lost, or stolen

Instant Access

Immediate connection to pre-configured Cloud PC

Unified Management

Managed alongside physical devices via Microsoft Intune

Uninterrupted Work

Productivity continues from any available device

Windows 365 Reserve mitigates risks of downtime, data breaches, and regulatory penalties by providing secure, cloud-hosted desktops accessible from any device—ensuring business continuity when it matters most.

Licensing & Cost Considerations

Azure Virtual Desktop

Pay-As-You-Go Model

Consumption-based pricing for Azure compute, storage, and networking resources.

Licensing Requirements

Requires Windows Enterprise and RDS CAL licences in addition to Azure costs.

Best For

Granular control, multi-session efficiency, and organisations with variable workloads.

Windows 365 Cloud PC

Fixed Monthly Fee

Predictable per-user pricing includes Cloud PC, management, and infrastructure costs.
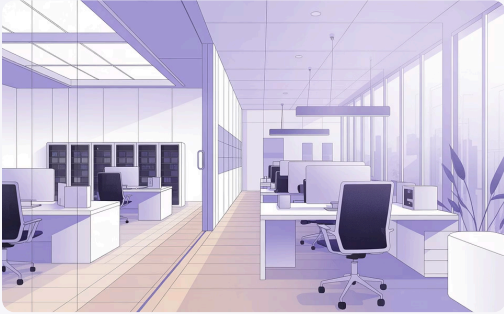
All-Inclusive Licensing

Simplified licensing model with everything bundled into a single monthly charge.

Best For

Simplicity, predictable budgeting, and organisations seeking fixed-cost solutions.

Decision Factors: Consider management overhead, scale requirements, user profiles, and financial planning preferences when selecting between AVD and Windows 365—or deploying both strategically.

Real-World Success & Best Practice Highlights

Global Enterprise Deployment

Leading multinational organisations leverage AVD with Azure Landing Zones to deploy thousands of secure, compliant desktops across continents.
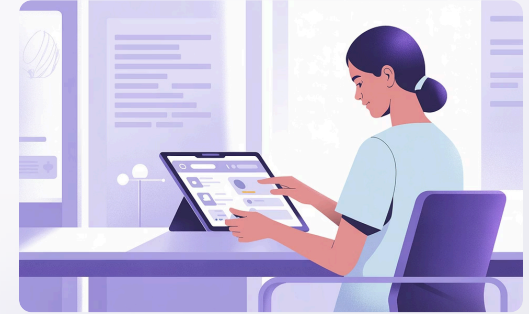
SMB Rapid Enablement

Small and medium businesses utilise Windows 365 Business for swift onboarding and empowering remote workforce capabilities.

Cost Optimisation Success

Auto-scaling implementations have reduced Azure infrastructure costs by over 50% whilst simultaneously improving user experience quality.

Business Continuity Excellence

Windows 365 Reserve minimises downtime risk, supporting frontline, hybrid, and remote workers with seamless failover capabilities.

Unlock Your Enterprise Digital Workspace Future

🎯 Hybrid Approach

Combine Azure Virtual Desktop and Windows 365 strategically to meet diverse workforce needs and use cases.

🏗️ Enterprise Architecture

Adopt enterprise-scale architecture principles for security, compliance, and operational excellence.

⚡ Optimise & Automate

Leverage automation and auto-scaling technologies to maximise cost efficiency and performance.

🚀 Begin Today

Start your cloud desktop journey with Microsoft's proven solutions—secure, scalable, and future-ready.

Explore Azure Virtual Desktop   **Discover Windows 365**