

Four things an IT manager needs to know about Azure Virtual Desktop

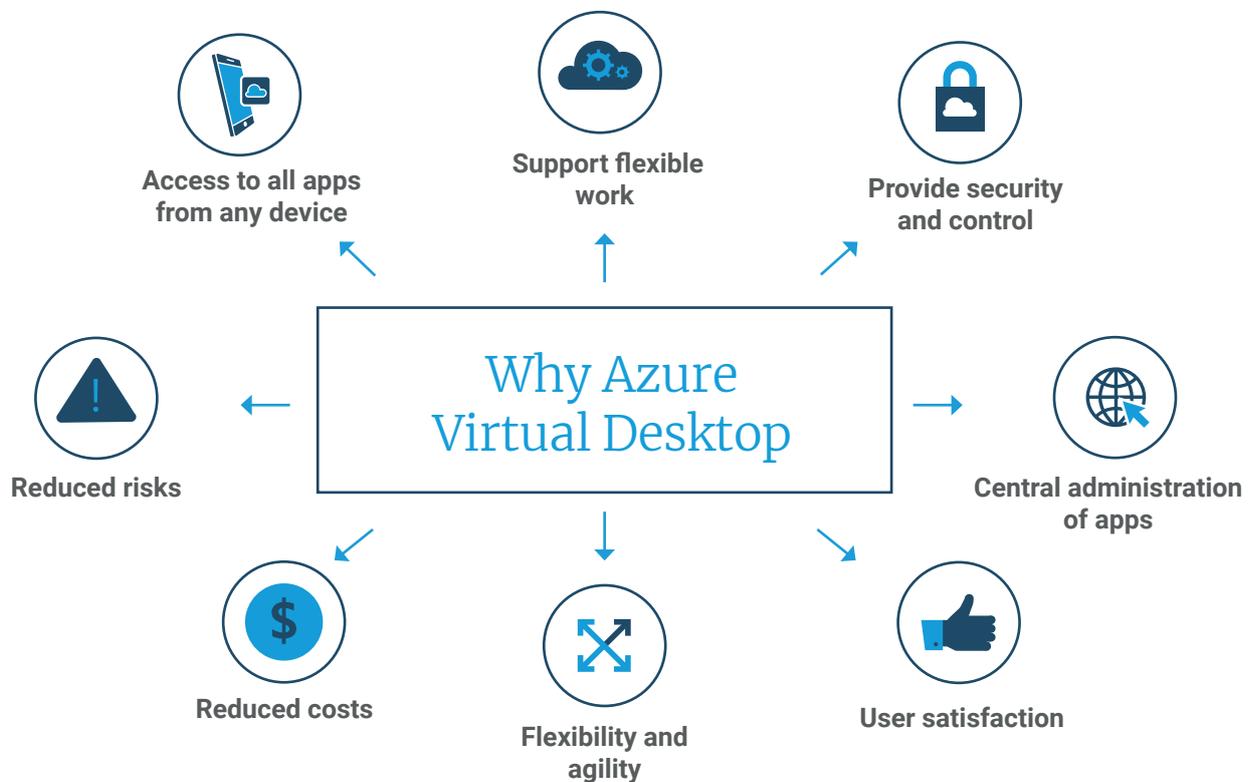


Introduction

In an ever-changing world, the demands on companies are constantly evolving. It requires an ability to adapt and an IT department that can handle demands for improved IT security, the opportunity to work from home/on the go and access to work with solutions in the cloud. Many companies experience a need to provide their employees with secure remote access or to be able to use business-critical legacy applications in the cloud, while at the same time being more cost-effective.

Most companies have taken the first steps to migrate applications to the cloud, but challenges related to legacy applications are not uncommon. With virtual desktops, you get a secure setup, remote access for employees and access to legacy applications – all in a modern setup in the cloud.

In this article, we look at virtual desktops and we present Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) and the challenges it solves. We explain, among other things, the benefits of running legacy applications in Azure, private and secure remote access, centralized management of the application portfolio and lower costs.



Access to legacy applications

Many organizations are eager to take the plunge and migrate to the cloud, but they hesitate because they believe their legacy applications will not work in the cloud. There is a widespread perception that it is incredibly expensive and time consuming to modify and adapt these business-critical applications to the cloud, but the fact is that this is not necessary. You can run legacy applications in the cloud.

Legacy applications are created to run in a “traditional” way in the sense that they are installed on a computer or server at the place where they are used. This creates problems today when you should be able to work from anywhere, at any time and via any device. You can, of course, install the legacy application on a laptop and take it to airports, train stations and cafes. However, this entails a huge security risk when everything is stored locally on the device.

This is where Azure Virtual Desktop comes into play. With AVD, legacy applications are installed on a desktop in the cloud, and here the legacy application works completely in the way the user is used to. The big difference is that the application runs in the cloud instead of on-premise, which also increases security and flexibility. In addition, when the application is in the cloud, users can access it from any device. The security lies in AVD itself, which has several security functions, including multi-factor authentication (MFA).

A private and secure desktop

In a world that is becoming more and more mobile, companies are required to meet the needs of employees to be able to access desktops remotely. From the employer’s point of view, it is about efficiency and control. Although more and more meetings are taking place online, there are still many who need to meet with customers or others outside the office and thus need to be able to work on the train, at the airport or on the other side of the planet.

Azure Virtual Desktop is compatible with all types of devices, allowing anyone to work anywhere in the world as long as the user has Internet access. With the ability to access one’s files at any time, employees have more flexibility than ever before, thereby increasing productivity.

If the device is lost, all the user needs to do is to simply go into the nearest store and buy a new device, install the remote desktop client, and continue with work. Virtual Desktop provides secure remote access through, among other things, multi-factor authentication and conditional access, which enables the company to manage access and secure endpoints, while at the same time helping to identify potential threats.

Did you know that...?

Microsoft invests more than
USD 1 billion annually in
cybersecurity.

Lower costs

Virtual desktops are a beneficial tool from an IT and operational perspective as they reduce desktop management, infrastructure, and support costs. With Azure Virtual Desktop, you have a further possibility to optimize your licensing costs, as you have access to use AVD through a Microsoft 365 license. Since AVD runs in Azure, the organization can start with using virtual desktops without having to pay for additional licenses.

Despite this, many pay for Citrix or VMware licenses, even though they already have a license for Microsoft 365 that allows for AVD. In other words, a completely unnecessary expense. It is smarter and more economical to take advantage of the licenses you already have, thus limiting costs.

Central administration of the application portfolio

It is important to be able to control and manage all desktops and applications so that employees can work productively and the company can maintain security. With Azure Virtual Desktop, your IT department can decide on which applications should be on which desktops. That way, they have control and overview directly in Azure.

For example, if you have consultants on contract for a limited period, they should only have access to selected applications. At the same time, you will not give them too much insight into the organization by giving them access to information that they should not know.

With AVD, they can quickly access the applications and information they need to perform their tasks. Likewise, it is just as easy to shut down access once they are done.

The central administration is also an advantage in the on- and offboarding process, which is often time-consuming, because the IT department must install all applications on the devices of each employee. You can avoid this in AVD, where you can add applications to the employee's desktop depending on their role. In connection with offboarding, you can also ensure that the person who has left the organization no longer has access to the desktop and information. In addition, it significantly simplifies scalability since the process is the same whether you manage 10 or 100 users' desktops at the same time.

“ *With Azure Virtual Desktop, we are able to both save money on licenses and continue to deliver a high performing desktop environment to our employees.*

– Delpro

Choose the right partner for your virtual desktop solution

To get the full value of Azure Virtual Desktop and take advantage of the mentioned benefits, it is crucial that you get the right setup from the beginning. At Automize, we are at the forefront when it comes to AVD, and we have helped several companies get off to a good start with this solution. Our team helps you understand the benefits of Microsoft Azure and AVD, and we can help you both implement the solution optimally and support you with our managed service for continuous optimization. With the right partner, you will also see the great benefits that your company can achieve with AVD, such as applications in the cloud, lower licensing costs and secure remote access, which make your employees more productive.

Our expert advisors have extensive experience in helping both big and small clients with implementation and operation. Do you want to know more about Azure Virtual Desktop and what benefits it can bring to your business? Book a personal meeting with us, where we review your essential requirements and how we can help you.

Do you want to know more?

We have gathered reading material, webinars, workshops, and a demonstration on our AVD page.

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