CISILION

APPLICATIONS & INFRASTRUCTURE

EFFECTIVE REMOTE PRODUCTIVITY

Facilitating secure, meaningful work—from anywhere enabled
by Cisilion and powered by Windows Virtual Desktop

Microsoft Azure

DEPLOY VIRTUAL DESKTOPS AND APPLICATIONS TO ENABLE SECURE, COLLABORATIVE REMOTE WORK—FAST—WITH CISILION AND MICROSOFT.

For businesses of every size, daily operations are radically changing. Fewer employees are working in traditional office spaces and the volume of tasks being completed remotely has grown exponentially. The world is more distributed than ever, with offices, employees and devices all forcing additional IT demands on businesses.

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THE FUTURE OF WORK IS REMOTE—BUT COLLABORATIVE

Mobile working abilities influence everything from employee satisfaction and retention to revenue growth and profitability. At the same time, against the current backdrop of a physically distanced work environment, the rise of the remote workforce and **the gig economy,** the expectations set by flexible consumer technology and the increased need for IT security and manageability, it's essential that digital business solutions unite the modern workplace. They must deliver deep connection and collaboration to dispersed team members by enabling secure remote access to desktop files and apps, from anywhere, on any device.

In order to meet the desires of their remote workers for secure, any-data-anywhere-from-any-device access, IT organisations are seeking a new generation of virtualised apps and desktop workspaces: integrated yet flexible, accessible yet secure, individualised yet collaborative solutions that leverage cloud, hybrid cloud and virtualised capabilities to securely mobilise desktop data and apps.

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THE WORKPLACE IS CHANGING—IS YOUR BUSINESS KEEPING UP?

2020 has marked a new era in so many ways, and despite the fact that many of its changes will be temporary, there's no denying that we're experiencing a permanent, fundamental shift in the way people work and businesses operate. By necessity, workers have been forced to rethink their approaches to work and to seek new modes of efficiency. Many workers see no reason or benefit in returning to their prior workflow models.

But are smaller businesses ready to handle this sudden shift? Do they have the infrastructure in place to achieve optimal levels of employee productivity in a distributed environment where internal and external teams are dispersed, and physical offices are no longer places of meeting and collaboration?

51% of global infrastructure technology decision makers have plans to implement or expand implementation of cloud desktops in the coming year
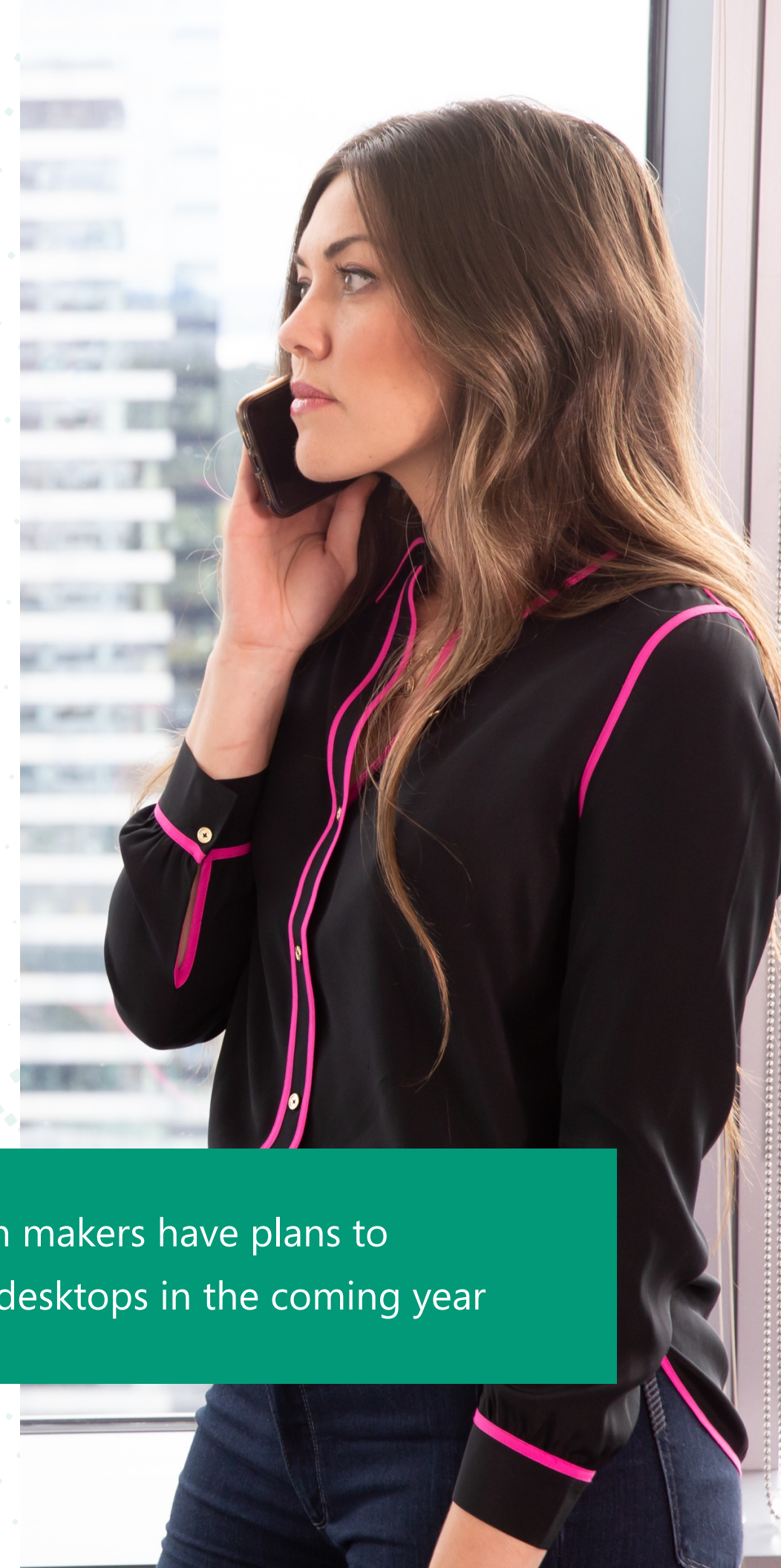
MAKE "REMOTE" WORK—FOR YOUR BUSINESS

It's essential that these business leaders harness technology that can overcome:

Lack of worldwide access to data and apps for their employees

Unprotected, sensitive user groups and workloads in a virtual space

Vulnerability to data attacks

High levels of management resulting in inefficiencies

This new operational landscape requires new IT solutions. The imperatives that these solutions must address include:

Secure, global access to employees from anywhere, anytime, on any device

Versatile desktop connectivity and network systems

Data security and regulatory compliance

Employee empowerment and enhanced workflows

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DISTANCE DOESN'T HAVE TO PREVENT MEANINGFUL WORK

In a workplace that's so highly distributed, employees can still achieve maximum productivity with secure access to their data and apps, no matter where in the world they are or what devices they're using. All they need are the right digital tools: reliable, simple and secure IT solutions.

And it's all possible through desktop virtualisation. Virtualisation addresses the full spectrum of today's business needs, across all industry verticals, management tiers and business approaches:

- **Security and regulation:** Financial services, healthcare, government

- **Elastic workforce:** Mergers and acquisitions, short-term employees, contractor and partner access

- **Distributed employees:** BYOD and mobile, call centres, branch workers

- **Specialised workloads:** Design and engineering, legacy apps, software dev and test

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CISILION + MICROSOFT: BRIDGING THE REMOTE WORK DIVIDE

Simplify and optimise your distributed employee base's workflows and connectivity using Windows Virtual Desktop to leverage the power of a modern cloud. Windows Virtual Desktop is designed to provide rapid deployment, the best user experience, enhanced data security, efficient and simplified management and valuable resource savings whatever your business needs.

Windows Virtual Desktop licensing is free—included with your existing Microsoft 365 or Windows 10 per-user licences and is proven to drive down the operational cost of managing on-premise virtual desktop infrastructure through our support and managed services.

Combined with our Azure optimisation services, we help ensure VMs are right- sized, resources-scaled and load-balanced dynamically and licensing is optimised, whilst ensuring you avoid upfront costs and better align operational resources and expenses to drive cost and operational efficiency.

Cisilion can provide advice, proof of value workshops and proof of concepts through to complete design, migration and ongoing support services with pricing starting from less than £4 per desktop per month*

Not just change—intelligent change

Through thought-provoking and interactive discussions with key stakeholders, following Microsoft's Well-Architected framework, Cisilions' best-in-breed "Cloud Smart Architecture" workshops will help shape and support your digital transformation strategy to stay relevant, agile and competitive by leveraging Microsoft technologies.

Cisilion has a reputation as one of the leading Microsoft partners in the UK. This reputation comes from working in partnership with our customers to showcase, plan, migrate, integrate, adapt, optimise and innovate their workloads across Azure and Microsoft 365.

Above all, we focus on ensuring our clients can safeguard sensitive information remotely and help reimagine how their people connect and work remotely whatever the future of work shapes up to be.

*£3.65 pdpm based on average price per desktop based on following Azure Resource Pool "Pooled, 100 Users, 0.9 Peak concurrency, 0.05 Off-peak concurrency, 220 Usage hours/month, multi-session, medium workload, D4s v3 (4 vCPU(s), 16 GB RAM), E10 (128 GiB, 500 IOPS) disks". Pricing based on Azure Cost Calculator Jan 2021. Contact us for more information and to discuss your specific requirements.

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CISILION + MICROSOFT: UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DISPERSED WORKPLACE

1. Cloud only, enterprise grade, secure virtual desktop technology

2. The best virtualised end user experience of any VDI

3. Enhanced security with simplified configuration

4. Efficient and simplified management

5. Built on Azure: standardised, global, resilient and secure cloud

6. Superior economics from significant cost savings

7. Seamlessly integrated with Microsoft 365 and Azure AD

8. Delivers a true competitive advantage for your business

"Cisilion has demonstrated exceptional expertise and guidance that we've never seen in a technology partner. Their knowledge and experience has been consistently displayed across every project and we consider them to be an extension of our IT team"

– Intersoft part of the Royal Mail Group

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1. Cloud only, enterprise grade, secure virtual desktop technology:

Windows Virtual Desktop is a comprehensive desktop and app virtualisation service running in the cloud. It's the only virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) that delivers simplified management, multi-session Windows 10, optimisations for Office 365 ProPlus and support for remote desktop services (RDS) environments. Deploy and scale your Windows desktops and apps on Microsoft Azure in minutes and get built-in security and compliance features.

2. The best virtualised end user experience of any VDI:

Platform of your choice

- Connect from any device of your choice
- WVD experience on Mac and other OS is indistinguishable from native

Windows differentiation

- Like-local Windows experience
- Extensive support for devices

Enhanced protocol

- Support for Windows Hello for Business
- Dynamically adapting bandwidth utilization

Outlook enhancements; OneDrive and Desktop Search improvements

- Containerised user profiles (FSLogix) enable fast VHD load times

Native Office 365 performance

- Uncompromised Office 365 email and calendar performance; real-time Outlook search
- Persistent and nonpersistent environments

Teams enhancements

- Fully supported conferencing and media experience using WVD
- Multimedia redirection capability; high-performance, low-latency audio and video calling

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3. Enhanced security with simplified configuration

Azure AD security services

- Sophisticated security services easily configured through Azure AD

Reduced attack surface

- Reverse connect technology eliminates the need to open inbound ports to the VMs

- The attack surface is reduced, compared to on-premises software

Granular access control

- Multiple admins can be assigned role-based access control, protecting sensitive user groups and workloads

Isolated user sessions

- Isolated user sessions in both single-session and multi-session environments

4. Efficient and simplified management

User experience management

- One service supports both desktop and remote app experience, so admins only need to learn one service

- Flexible user experience through a single host pool, with multiple app groups

- Familiar Azure AD credentials to access WVD resources

VM management

- Multiple tools for automated VM deployment

- Enhanced OS/app update tools

- Disaster recovery with integrated Azure Site Recovery

WVD service management

- Simplified and effective troubleshooting using advanced diagnostic service

- Third-party value-add services enabled by APIs

5. Built on Azure: Standardised, global, resilient and secure cloud

- Largest geographical footprint of any cloud provider, with more than 60 Azure regions

- Windows Virtual Desktop service available worldwide

- Backed by Microsoft cyberdefence operations centre with over 3,500 full-time security professionals

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6. Superior economics from significant cost savings

Pay only for the platform (virtual machines, storage and networking consumed) when your users are using their desktops in Azure.

Infrastructure

- Windows 10 experience at multi-session cost

- Lowest cost-effective compute and storage through Windows Desktop as a Service

- Fast and flexible desktop provisioning and management

- Best value platform costs from less than £3 per user, per month

- OPEX spend aligned to business usage

Licensing

- Windows Virtual Desktop licensing and management service included with the Microsoft 365 or Windows 10 licenses you already own

- Huge savings on RDS CAL with multi-session deployment

- Three-year extended Windows 7 ESU included

Operational Cost

- Reduction in costs because compute and storage has been moved to cloud

- Lower operational cost when you use PaaS services compared to on-premises infrastructure or IaaS

** Windows Virtual Desktop delivers the only multi-session Windows 10 experience.

** The service can support customers who already have an Azure cloud infrastructure or those who are about to embark on their journey with Azure by utilising the existing Azure Cloud Foundation offering.

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7. Seamlessly integrated with Microsoft 365 and Azure AD:

Windows Virtual Desktop:

A comprehensive desktop and app virtualisation service running in the cloud that offers organisations the option to optimise their desktop virtualisation experience and leverage the power of a modern cloud.

Microsoft Azure:

Standardised, global and secure cloud platform service

Windows 10:

In multi-session hosts

Single and Seamless Sign-on:

With the Windows Virtual Desktop, users get the same familiar desktop environment without the need to sign into multiple services or desktops.

Office 365 ProPlus:

Deliver the best Office 365 ProPlus experience with multi-session virtual scenarios to provide the most productive virtualised experience to your users.

- Office 365 containers make Office more performant in a multi-session environment, including Outlook and OneDrive for Business support

- Fully supports users collaboration needs

- Profile containers enable faster and more performant experience in non-persistent environments

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8. Delivers a true competitive advantage for your business

Windows Virtual Desktop is the only all-cloud virtual desktop infrastructure that delivers simplified management, multi-session Windows 10 desktop with optimised user experience across all Microsoft 365 apps including real-time communications in Microsoft Teams. What's more, the rapid deployment and instant scale up, scale out and scale down delivers the ultimate in cost and operational efficiencies with minimal of IT overhead. Windows Virtual Desktop supports the following:

Microsoft Teams:
Windows Virtual Desktop supports the full use of Microsoft Teams including:

- Teams Voice and Meetings

- Multi-window support for chat and apps

SharePoint & OneDrive:
Full support and new virtualisation optimisations

- Fully supports co-authoring and collaborative capabilities

- Supports the latest OneDrive sync technologies including Files On-Demand

- Automatically populates user profile folders for rapid use

Office Apps including Outlook:
- Full background mail and calendar sync for faster startup experience and lower data use

- Flexible admin options to reduce calendar sync window

- Auto folder sync management and cache to improve performance

- Fully supports Windows Desktop Search

Supports your legacy VDI platform:
WVD can work in conjunction with your existing on-premises or cloud VDI services including Citrix and VMware.

- Supports hybrid or cloud-only deployments

- Facilitates side-by-side deployment, hybrid deployment and staged or cut-over migration services from RDS, VMware and Citrix.

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"The ability to spin up desktops quickly in the cloud makes cloud desktops an excellent fit for part-time, contract and seasonal employees who need temporary access to a desktop, especially if the organisation can't manage or provide the employees physical PC"

The Future Of VDI Is Cloud (forrester.com)

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ENABLING FAST TRANSITION TO WINDOWS VIRTUAL DESKTOP TO KEEP THEIR PEOPLE SAFE AND DATA SECURE

Challenge

Our client is a global leader in the recruitment, training and deployment of IT and business professionals. They needed a way to keep their people productive and their data secure as they shifted to an agile, diverse workforce model.

Solution

In a matter of days, Cisilion worked with their IT team to demonstrate and create the core infrastructure that would support their entire 2,500 people working from home. Cisilion rolled out Windows Virtual Desktop, providing a simple, highly secure and scalable desktop experience for the staff. Leveraging Microsoft 365 security solutions allowed Cisilion to ensure the Windows Virtual Desktop environment could safeguard sensitive information remotely and help reimagine how their people connected and securely worked remotely for the long term.

Results

The pilot was a huge success and people immediately found what they needed and were relieved. This enabled rapid deployment to every employee on demand with minimal overhead on their IT resources.

"Working with Cisilion and Windows Virtual Desktop, we were able to spin up desktops for everyone with Windows Virtual Desktop with minimal effort and without a lot of person hours."

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START YOUR JOURNEY TO WINDOWS VIRTUAL DESKTOP TODAY

From just £4 per user per month* for a managed virtual desktop infrastructure in Azure, your business can rapidly, affordably and intelligently transform the remote working environment for your users, partners and contractors.

Contact us for a free proof of value workshop and to find our more the ways we can help your business.

CONTACT US

Microsoft Azure