

Cloud-based desktop virtualization transforms the future of work



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In the modern era of computing and collaboration, virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) and virtual workspaces transform the way we work. This technology empowers employees to remotely access a fully functional desktop operating system hosted on a server.

By operating desktop environments from centralized servers, VDI establishes a secure platform that's high on efficiency and productivity. Unlike the conventional method of running applications and storing data locally, VDI centralizes these processes. Users gain a seamless desktop experience anytime and from virtually anywhere. Add to that faster software updates and the flexibility to access desktop environments across various devices, and you've got the perfect recipe for meeting the demands of today's digital-age professionals.

This cloud-based ecosystem centralizes resources, significantly elevating the scalability of workspaces while streamlining IT management. Virtual workspaces, closely associated with VDI (cloud-based), extend the concept. Users gain dynamic, personalized environments, no matter their physical location. They also foster collaboration and boost productivity without compromising security.

Organizations are increasingly adopting remote or hybrid work models. As a result, cloud-based workspaces have become instrumental. "Gartner® forecasts that Desktop as a Service [DaaS] spending will grow from \$3.1 billion in 2023 to \$4.6 billion in 2027 with a CAGR of 10%."¹



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Why cloud-based VDI?

Increased usage and spending will bring a transformative shift in working VDI models, from on-premises to cloud-based. On-premises VDI demands hefty upfront investments and faces scalability challenges. In contrast, cloud-based VDI enables flexible resource adjustments. It provides efficient usage and cost-effectiveness in response to changing user demands.

Traditional VDI struggles with seamless remote access. A cloud workspace empowers employees to connect to virtual desktops. It uses a secure virtual private network (VPN) from any location with an internet connection. On-premises disaster recovery is complex and costly. Cloud-based VDI provides a simplified approach with built-in recovery options for swift data and application recovery. It minimizes downtime and provides business continuity in secure environments.



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Microsoft Cloud VDI solutions are leading a cutting-edge evolution in the corporate ecosystem. They bring heightened security with encryption, simplified management and unmatched adaptability in the ever-changing landscape of hybrid work culture.

Windows 365

As a software-as-a-service (SaaS) offering, Windows 365 transforms VDI into an easily accessible and manageable solution:

- Cloud-based platform enables users to access their personalized Windows desktop environment from any location or device in a secure cloud space.
- Machine independence boosts users' productivity and flexibility to operate from a wide range of electronic devices, including PCs, tablets and even smartphones.
- Secure storage provides data security by storing user profiles and configurations in the cloud. Doing so secures sensitive data while providing a frictionless user experience.
- Subscription-based models mean organizations don't have to invest heavily in on-premises infrastructure. This approach promotes cost savings and a predictable expenditure model.
- Quick configuration means it's easy to set up on any device and make adjustments to respond to changing organizational needs.
- Performance management allows organizations and users to customize virtual desktops based on performance and resource requirements. Customization delivers tailored solutions for specific users or business needs.
- Windows Autopilot integration automates business processes, reducing the burden on IT teams and providing a smoother onboarding experience for end users.
- Microsoft Endpoint integration provides centralized management for IT administrators. It delivers efficient monitoring and deployment of updates, as well as greater control of virtual desktop environments.



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Azure Virtual Desktop

A combination of infrastructure as a service (IaaS) and platform as a service (PaaS), Azure Virtual Desktop offers an advanced, scalable and customizable virtual solution:

- Tailored requirements meet unique business needs, whether adjusting computing resources in real time or integrating additional services for diverse scenarios.
- Accommodating scalability, coupled with fast configuration, facilitates seamless adaptation to varying workloads and dynamic business requirements.
- Robust security and safety features, including identity and access management, advanced encryption and compliance certifications for a secure VDI environment, reassure users.
- Integration with Microsoft 365 applications enhances productivity and collaboration within virtual desktop environments.
- Resource usage supports multi-session Windows operation, so multiple users can share the same virtual machine at the same time.
- Hybrid deployment allows organizations to extend their on-premises VDI environments to the cloud.
- Performance reliability leverages service-level agreements (SLAs) for virtual machine availability and performance, providing VDI deployment reliability.



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Windows 365 and Azure Virtual Desktop have several key features that make these Microsoft solutions preferred platforms for delivering virtual desktop experiences. But making the right choice is all about aligning their capabilities and features with your business-specific needs.

	Windows 365	Azure Virtual Desktop
Focus	Designed with end users in mind, Windows 365 provides a dedicated virtual Windows experience.	Azure Virtual Desktop caters to a broader audience, including IT professionals managing diverse services and cloud computing beyond virtual desktops.
Pricing model	It primarily operates on a subscription-based model, simplifying cost management.	It offers a pay-as-you-go pricing model, providing flexibility in resource usage and costs.
Versatility	It streamlines setup and management, particularly for businesses with relatively simple infrastructure needs.	It's best suited for businesses with complex infrastructure requirements and the need for a broader range of cloud services.
Customization	It has a limited scope for customization.	It offers customization services with more features and control over its environment for enterprise deployments.
Infrastructure control	It doesn't support customization or infrastructure control.	With more direct control over infrastructure components, it's suitable for organizations with specific requirements.
Suitability	It's well-suited for small to medium-size enterprises.	It's more flexible and has varied features, making it a perfect fit for larger organizations.
Services	It offers a seamless desktop virtualization solution without extensive infrastructure management.	It offers a wide array of cloud solutions beyond VDI, including computing, storage, networking, databases and artificial intelligence (AI).



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Now is the time for enterprises to embrace virtual work environments and streamline core processes across different dimensions.

Bring your own device (BYOD) is gaining momentum as enterprises shift toward hybrid work models. Windows 365 caters to the purpose of BYOD, offering flexibility while securing crucial enterprise data. Now, professionals can access and operate from any device using Windows 365.

Industry-specific use cases for Windows 365 and Azure Virtual Desktop show both are greatly progressive solutions for industries like healthcare, public sector, IT and financial services. For instance:

- **Manufacturing** leverages remote access to desktop environments to enhance shift flexibility and boost employee productivity for those working across various shifts. The reduction in hardware also aligns with sustainability initiatives. Virtual workspaces facilitate enhanced design and engineering collaboration. Because these applications are centrally hosted, it ultimately reduces time to market for products. They also enable quick scaling during peak manufacturing seasons.

- **Healthcare** seeks secure access to patient data while maintaining error-free records. The aim is to have all the information in one place without privacy hindrances.
- **Financial institutions** require a highly secure and versatile environment that safeguards sensitive data while streamlining operations. Windows 365 and Azure Virtual Desktop address such industry-specific needs, providing better experiences for users and end consumers.

Did you know?

An organization with 10,000 licenses of Windows E3 and Intune and 2,000 licenses of Windows 365 may realize benefits of \$16.5 million over three years, adding up to a net present value of \$13.7 million or \$1,370 per user.³



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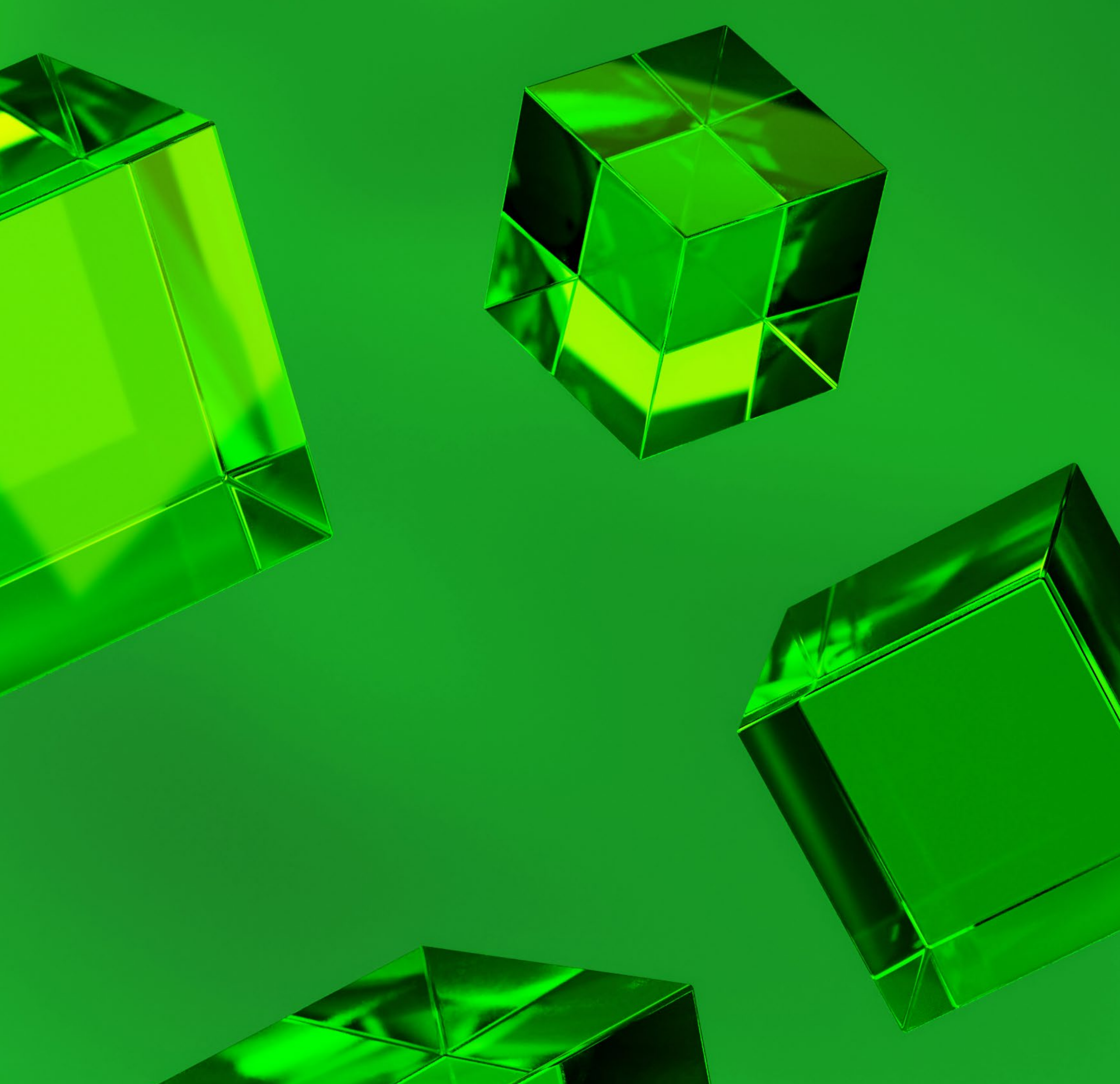
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Varying business models, such as those during mergers and acquisitions, mean businesses often require a streamlined process to integrate disparate IT systems. Windows 365 sets up a standardized virtual workspace that helps smooth a transition for both entities without disrupting operations.

Reducing e-waste is a top priority. According to the World Health Organization, e-waste is the fastest growing solid waste stream in the world today.² As such, it's crucial for enterprises to rethink how they discard electronic devices like telecommunication equipment, old desktops, computer systems and servers. These devices usually contain hazardous materials that are harmful to human health and the environment. With the concept of virtual workspaces on the rise, recycling e-waste is becoming more ubiquitous. Organizations are making strides in reducing their ecological footprint and promoting a circular economy.

The financial impact of virtual workspace adoption has brought about a notable shift in the cost dynamics of the modern workplace. Previously, businesses incurred significant total cost of ownership (TCO) on physical infrastructure. It included office space, utilities and the maintenance of on-premises IT systems. The growing dependence on desktop virtualization has gradually relaxed costs. Now, enterprises lean toward a flexible working model, allowing employees to work remotely and thereby cutting down on office-related expenditures. Additionally, virtual workspaces often involve scalable cloud-based solutions. It enables organizations to pay for the computing resources they need without the burden of upfront infrastructure investments.



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VDI is a forward-looking technology that'll continue to transform how we work in the years to come. The emergence of VDI advancements and SaaS/PaaS/DaaS models are defining a new era of computing. One that's helping shape a more sustainable and responsible technological landscape. Organizations that embrace these innovations will unlock exciting possibilities for productivity and collaboration. They'll also contribute to a better tomorrow, where technology coexists harmoniously with the environment, and leave a positive legacy for future generations.

At NTT DATA, we enable workforce transformation and digital experiences powered by Windows 365 and Azure Virtual Desktop. We empower enterprises to meet and exceed the expectations of today's hybrid work models. Our aim is to scale and optimize business processes on cloud while offering the best digital employee experience with real-time visibility and actionable insights that have a significant impact on business outcomes.



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