

EBOOK

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Your Guide to Microsoft Windows Virtual Desktop

Modern, remote working made easy
and secure with desktop virtualisation
powered by Microsoft Azure.

professional
advantage

Many organisations have had to grapple with the challenges of remote desktop solutions to ensure business users can stay productive when working from home. Whilst the trend towards remote working has been on the rise, recent events have highlighted how critical virtual desktops are in helping organisations meet compliance and security requirements for their corporate data.

For those not yet familiar with the concept of desktop virtualisation, in simple terms, it is where a desktop environment is separated from the physical device you are accessing it from, and is then run on a remote server. Alternatively, you can describe it as moving your entire desktop environment into the cloud, and it can be achieved through Microsoft Windows Virtual Desktop (WVD).

In this guide, we will introduce Microsoft Windows Virtual Desktop to help you understand what it can do and why it matters. Read this guide to discover:

1. What is Windows Virtual Desktop?
2. Who is it for?
3. Top Features and Benefits.
4. How to evaluate WVD's suitability for your organisation?





What is Windows Virtual Desktop?

Remote Desktop solutions have been around for quite some time now, and Microsoft has been a key player in this space with its Remote Desktop Services (RDS, also previously known as Terminal Services), which is used by a large number of businesses. Microsoft has recently taken it to the next level with the new Windows Virtual Desktop.

Windows Virtual Desktop is a comprehensive cloud-based desktop and app virtualisation solution that runs in Microsoft Azure. It provides business users the freedom of having the same level of Windows 10 user experience to critical apps or data in Azure as they would have on their regular office desktops. In addition, it offers IT the ease of manageability, scalability, and security that they always crave for. It is also much more cost effective from a licensing perspective and does not require a separate CAL. The access license is included with your existing Windows 10 license.

Who needs Windows Virtual Desktop?

Organisations large or small will benefit from Windows Virtual Desktop, but we see it being more highly applicable to the following scenarios:

- Organisations with teams working from home that need to access legacy or on-premise applications from their personal devices.
- Companies who require a more flexible and Windows 10 based Virtual Desktop experience not currently delivered via their existing Citrix and RDS solutions.
- Companies using other remote access solutions that can benefit from a single and simple desktop management experience.
- Highly regulated industries such as finance and insurance, healthcare, and public sector that require enterprise grade data security and compliance.
- Companies with seasonal demand for their products or services, hence the need for flexibility to scale up or down depending on their current business needs.

Top Benefits of Windows Virtual Desktop

Virtualising your desktops with Windows Virtual Desktop has several benefits that companies can take advantage of. There are four key areas that we have identified as its top benefits:

1. ACCESS FROM ANYWHERE

Allow your people to stay productive wherever they are by providing them easy access to their much-needed files and data anytime, anywhere, on any device. This capability for any business size is crucial, especially in the current climate where remote work styles and bring your own device (BYOD) are now preferred. This is highly beneficial in unprecedented situations such as a pandemic or cases of flood, earthquake, or fire. With Windows Virtual Desktop, your staff's virtual workstation remains intact in Azure.

2. REDUCE IT SPEND

Every few years, companies typically need to undergo hardware and software refresh, and even more so when onboarding new staff and a new PC is needed. Windows Virtual Desktop empowers companies to reduce its IT spend by allowing apps to be accessible even on less sophisticated or low-priced desktop machines.

With Windows Virtual Desktop enabling multi-session Windows 10 experience for users, it allows companies to use its existing Windows licenses instead of having to purchase separate RDS Client Access Licenses (CALs) just to be able to virtualise desktops and apps. Concurrent users can utilise the same Windows 10 environment, allowing IT to save on software costs.

3. INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY

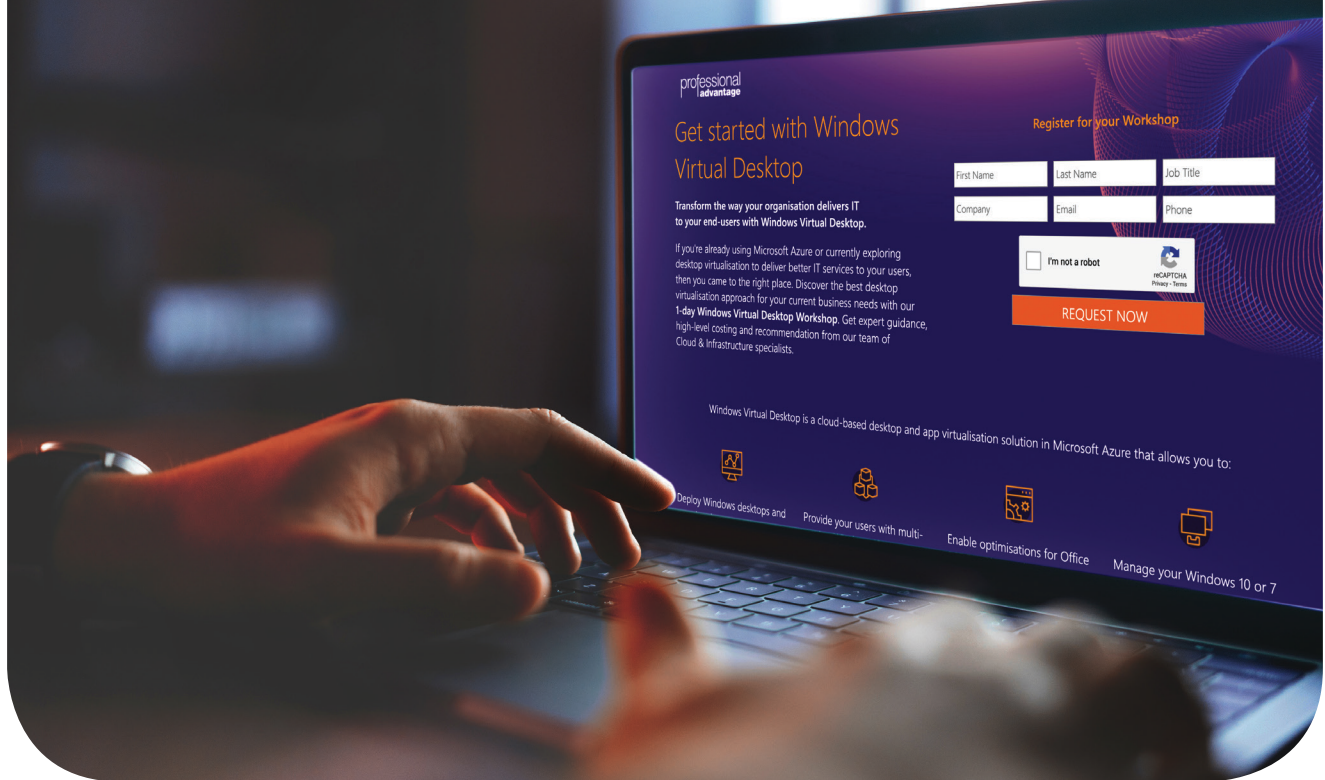
Users get to experience the same Windows 10 environment and can access the same Office 365 apps that they are familiar with using Windows Virtual Desktop, regardless of whether they are using a Mac, iPad, iPhone, Android phone, or a browser.

Windows Virtual Desktop enables your IT to deploy desktops and virtualise apps rapidly instead of having to install various software applications per device. With Azure's unified management experience, IT can manage these in a single portal.

4. ENHANCED SECURITY

With Windows Virtual Desktop, your operating system, data, and apps are separate from your employee's local hardware. If their personal device gets lost or stolen, Windows Virtual Desktop removes the risk of your corporate data getting taken along with the device since your data resides in Azure's remote servers. You can rest easy knowing that your virtual desktops are running on the world's most robust and compliant cloud platform instead of relying on your own security tools and firewalls.





The Professional Advantage Difference

By working with Professional Advantage, you will benefit from working with a Microsoft partner with one of the most extensive experiences in the Azure cloud arena.

1. We have a team of Cloud & Infrastructure consultants, solution architects, and change managers with a demonstrated history of working with complex Microsoft Azure projects.
2. We have worked with a wide range of industries across small to large enterprises, allowing us to have a deeper understanding of the intricacies that go with any cloud migration projects.
3. We use proven implementation, deployment, and change management strategies to ensure a rapid return on your IT project investment.
4. We are a recognised Microsoft Gold Certified Partner for Cloud Platform (Azure), proof of our technical capability and commitment to deliver valuable Azure projects.
5. We have Managed Services that can be combined with scheduled strategic consulting to ensure your Azure environment is optimised and maintained efficiently.

Evaluate the suitability of Windows Virtual Desktop

Are you transforming your IT environment from the ground up or planning to migrate your existing RDS and Citrix environments to Windows Virtual Desktop? Wherever you are in your IT planning process, we can help you determine if Windows Virtual Desktop is right for your organisation.

Sign up for our complimentary **1-day WVD Discovery Workshop** to help you evaluate its suitability for your organisation. This workshop will help you answer questions around:

1. Which workloads can I migrate from Windows 7 to a Windows 10 multi-user experience?
2. What pre-requisites do I need to prepare in order to make the transition to WVD?
3. What is the best approach for migrating my existing RDS or Citrix environments?
4. What is the estimated cost to virtualise my current desktop environment and apps?
5. Any other questions you would like to ask our Cloud & Infrastructure consultants.

At the end of the workshop, we will provide you with a high-level solution design, subscription, and implementation cost estimate, as well as a summary of recommendations and next steps.

Click here to learn more.



Let's Talk.

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About Professional Advantage

Professional Advantage is an international IT consulting and solutions company with 30 years of experience in helping organisations achieve more by improving their business systems through industry leading software solutions. Originating in Australia, it is one of the country's most awarded solutions providers. Their 250-strong team covers seven offices across three continents and has successfully worked with over 1,000 organisations.