GROUND YOUR WORKSPACE STRATEGY IN CLOUD-BASED VIRTUAL DESKTOPS

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THE FUTURE OF WORK HAS NO BOUNDARIES

People who worked with data once had a uniform way of accessing it—on a desktop, in an office, at certain hours of the day, on a single device. Now there's no such thing as a "typical" workday. Today's workers expect to connect to information and business applications anytime, anywhere, on any device—without hiccups or delays.

That expectation rests squarely on the shoulders of IT.

While IT organizations previously outfitted employees with static, hardware-based desktops, they now need better options. A legacy approach to desktops doesn't provide the flexibility, speed, and security modern-day businesses need to stay competitive.

It's time to turn toward the cloud for a better solution. With cloud-based desktops, you can get all the benefits of hardware-based desktops, while stripping away their restrictions.

What's a cloud-based desktop?
Cloud-hosted virtual desktops are an evolved form of remote access, with far greater levels of choice and flexibility. A cloud-based desktop executes desktop images, applications, and data on a cloud provider's hosting infrastructure. The image can be managed and maintained by IT or the provider, then projected out to the employees on their corporate-issued and/or personal devices.

Hardware-Based Workspaces Are No Match for the Modern Workplace

The way people work is changing across every industry—and traditional desktops aren't equipped to meet their new needs and requirements.

7 Roadblocks IT Must Overcome:

Hardware-based endpoints are aging. As endpoints age, it's a good time to think about investing in thin clients for simplified management, extending longer hardware refresh cycles, and reducing operational and capital expenses.

Disaster recovery is critical. Having a comprehensive contingency plan can help you protect business-critical information and mitigate risk, while also eliminating end-user downtime and providing easy, 24/7 access to workspaces from any device.

Productivity is at risk. Employees are most productive when they can easily access information and use tools that feel familiar—and hardware-dependent desktops don't deliver on either. It benefits the business to remove barriers and frustrations that can slow them down.

Data centers are running out of space. Physical space comes at a premium. Staying on budget often means eliminating or migrating away from data center infrastructure.

Operational overhead at remote and branch offices is high. Hardware-centric systems require IT infrastructure and staff to be on hand for manual intervention, and problem-solving and costs add up fast.

IT infrastructure is becoming more complex. While virtual desktop integration (VDI) can be part of a good on-premises solution, IT is also navigating a complex infrastructure that is difficult to manage and maintain.

Diverse devices demand flexibility. Not only do workers expect the ability to use a broad range of devices and applications, but it's also neither practical, nor beneficial to tie many job functions to a single physical location.

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Why Move to Cloud-Hosted Desktops?

Cloud-hosted desktops make it easier to implement a virtual desktop and app solution. They can help improve performance and provide a unified control plane for seamless provisioning and management. They also enable increased agility, allowing you to spin up virtual desktops quickly to meet changing needs. With a cloud-hosted desktop solution, you can support and empower employees by allowing them to do their best work, wherever they are.

With virtual, cloud-hosted desktops, you can:

- Give employees the freedom of choice. With cloud-hosted desktops, you can deliver applications to any computing device, including desktop computers, laptops, tablets, and smart phones.
- Spin up new desktops faster. Save time with the ability to spin up virtual desktops in a matter of hours. Users quickly get access to desktops and apps when they need them, making users more efficient.
- Improve performance for remote workers and branch offices. In the cloud, you can improve performance for remote workers by hosting desktops much closer to where your users are located. This can be especially helpful for global companies and branch offices.
- Enable automatic OS and app updates. Users don't need to perform local OS and application updates since they're delivered from the cloud. This translates to fewer security risks, compared to relying on end users to apply the latest patches.
- Become more agile. A cloud-based workspace allows you to respond much more quickly to changing demands. You can deliver services faster, and move users between clouds and managed infrastructure as needed.
- Keep track of data more easily. With cloud desktops, data does not reside on the device. Lost, stolen, or broken devices are an inconvenience, but users will find their data right where they left it when they sign in from another device.
- Use any kind of hardware. IT no longer has to worry about which virtual desktop-related technologies to select, implementing technologies that may become obsolete, or being restricted to particular vendor roadmaps.

No Cloud Journey Is the Same

Every business is different—and so is every journey to the cloud. To get the most out of cloud-based desktops, you'll need to evaluate your needs, decide on your goals, and then map out the best way to get there.

Here are several important questions you can ask to get started:

1

What's your deployment strategy?

Some organizations want to have their entire deployment in the cloud. Other organizations have on-premises deployments that they want to move into the cloud. And some companies would prefer to keep desktops and applications on-premises, but plan to use the cloud when they need to quickly add capacity.

2

Where do you want to host your desktops and apps?

Where you want to host your desktops and applications determines which solution you'll need. If you want desktops and apps in the cloud with cloud management, consider a purpose-built cloud solution. If you want to keep desktops and applications on-premises, a solution that integrates familiar tools and leverages the hardware you already have may be a better fit.

3

Do you have a preferred cloud provider?

If you already have a preferred cloud provider, check to see which desktop and application virtualization solutions they support.

4

Are you looking for a DaaS experience, or do you want greater control over your virtual desktops?

Run your solution on-premises like you have in the past, with full control of every layer of the stack. Or, leave hardware and SDDC to your virtualization platform provider, and simply control applications from your end. Alternatively, you could subscribe to Desktop-as-a-Service, where every layer is offered as a service.

Your Cloud Journey Begins Here

As the leader in virtualization technology, VMware is a knowledgeable partner as you make your journey to the cloud. The VMware approach is designed around giving you choices. Whatever your specific needs are, VMware has a solution that will meet your goals, budget, and management style.

You can choose from:

1. **VMware Horizon® 7**

   A single VDI platform for delivering virtual desktops and apps, Horizon provides an integrated digital workspace where users can securely access everything they need, from any device, anywhere.

2. **VMware Horizon® Cloud Service™**

   A service that delivers feature-rich virtual desktops and applications using a purpose-built cloud platform that is scalable across multiple deployment options, including fully managed infrastructure from VMware and public cloud infrastructure from Microsoft Azure.

3. **VMware Horizon 7 on VMware Cloud on AWS**

   A seamlessly integrated hybrid cloud for virtual desktops and applications, this solution combines the enterprise capabilities of VMware's Software-Defined Data Center (delivered as a service on AWS) with the market-leading capabilities of VMware Horizon.

Take the Next Step

As the digital perimeter dissolves, it's more important than ever to have an infrastructure that gives employees everything they need while still protecting the business. VMware has empowered organizations around the world to navigate the fundamental changes brought about by digital transformation and help them achieve their goals—and it can do the same for you.

VMware solutions for cloud-hosted desktops also integrate with VMware Workspace ONE,™ allowing you to build a digital workspace that gives workers a single place to access their cloud desktops as well as all native, web, cloud and legacy applications. With Workspace ONE you can improve productivity and satisfaction with consistent app discovery and simple single-sign-on access across platforms, including Windows 10, macOS, iOS, Android and Chrome.

Whatever choice you make, VMware allows you to quickly realize the benefits of cloud-based desktops and better position your IT team for the future.

GET STARTED

Learn more about digital workspace solutions from VMware >

Take a test drive in a Hands-on Lab >

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