

# Using Virtual Desktops in the Cloud to Enable Remote Working at Scale

These unprecedented circumstances mean that businesses need to find new, more flexible ways of enabling their workers.



## Virtual Desktops in the Public Cloud

Major public cloud providers (AWS, Azure, GCP) all offer a virtual desktop solution that allows you to provision workspaces on demand for **all your users**, while staying secure.

### Massive Scalability

Cloud instances scale automatically to meet demand.

### Integrated with Your Apps

Using AWS Direct Connect (or similar) you can connect to your corporate networks and the apps you need such as AD, SAP, Sharepoints, Intranets, Confluence, Jira etc.

### Maintain Identical Security Posture

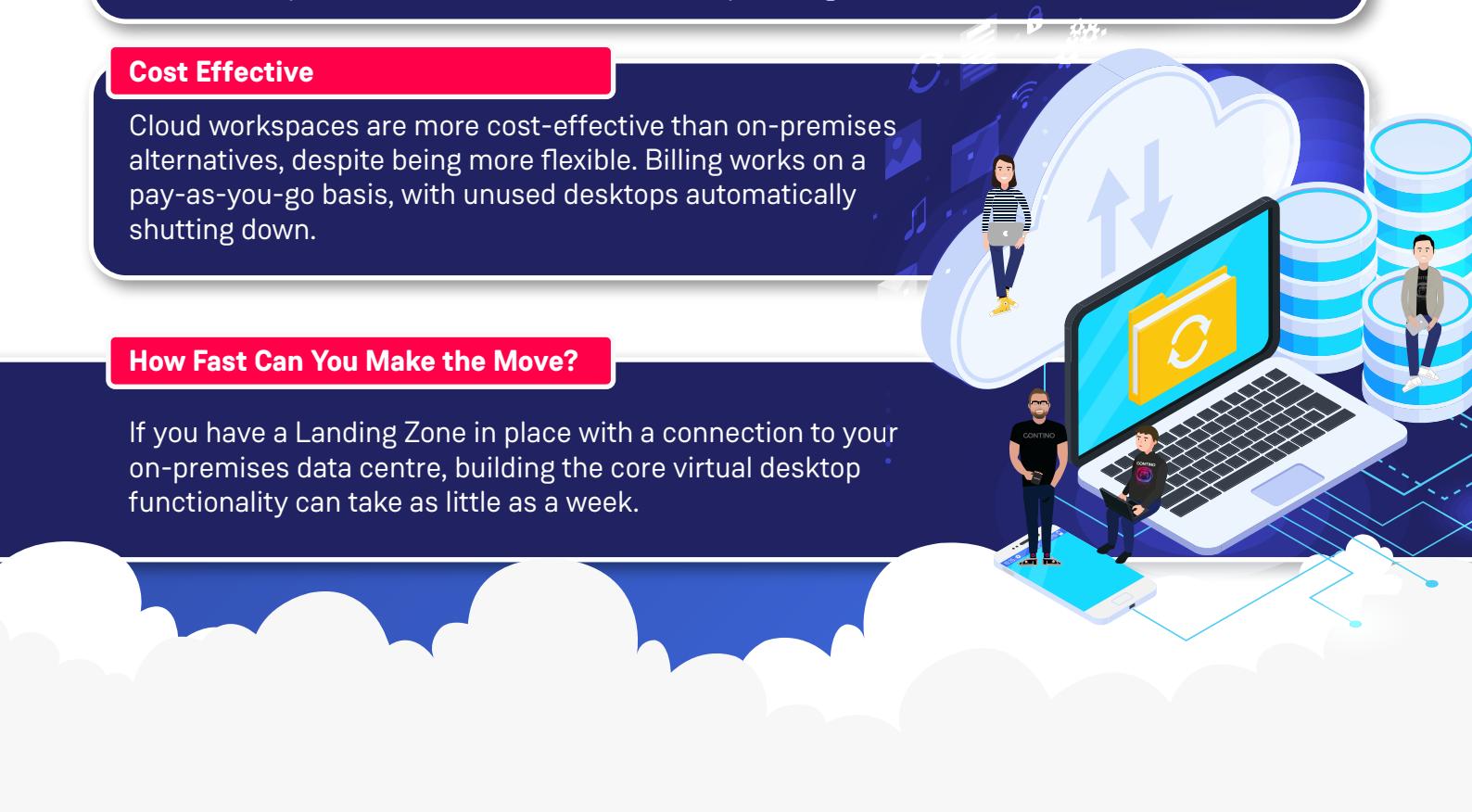
You can enforce log-ins through Active Directory, Multi-Factor Authentication etc. You can control user permissions and access as well as patching.

### Cost Effective

Cloud workspaces are more cost-effective than on-premises alternatives, despite being more flexible. Billing works on a pay-as-you-go basis, with unused desktops automatically shutting down.

### How Fast Can You Make the Move?

If you have a Landing Zone in place with a connection to your on-premises data centre, building the core virtual desktop functionality can take as little as a week.



## CASE STUDY: Contino Helps a Major Energy Company Make an Emergency Switch to AWS WorkSpaces

**The Challenge:** A Contino customer needed to transition thousands of their employees to remote working.

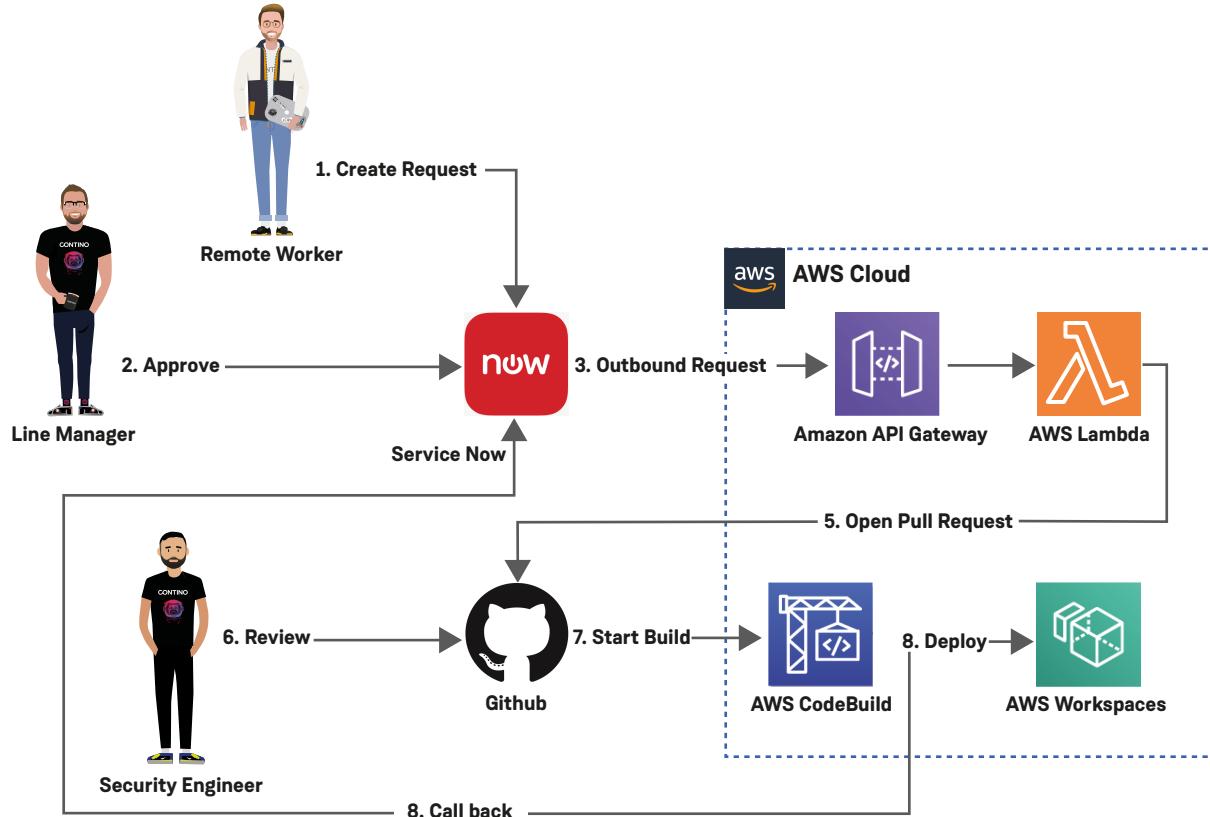
But their VPN would never have been able to handle the strain. Building out their VPN's capacity would have involved provisioning new on-premises hardware - a costly and time-consuming effort. The customer's existing on-premise Citrix estate was also under-provisioned and outdated and would have required significant time and resources to support this critical new use case.

**The Solution:** We are using their existing AWS Landing Zone to set up 2,000 AWS WorkSpaces instances following industry best practice with regards to version control, automated pipelines and infrastructure-as-code.

Fully automated pipelines provision the underlying infrastructure while pipelines triggered by requests in ServiceNow provision individual WorkSpaces in an on-demand fashion.

A line manager can request via ServiceNow that certain users be provisioned with WorkSpaces with certain access controls. ServiceNow makes a REST API call to API Gateway which in turn triggers a Lambda function to automatically start provisioning the WorkSpaces. Finally a callback is triggered to ServiceNow where the ticket is closed and the users are notified that their new WorkSpaces environment is ready to be used.

We can help! Visit [www.contino.io](http://www.contino.io)



Contino is an Enterprise DevOps, Data and Cloud Transformation Consultancy.