BUSINESS CASE

Standalone Bastion Reporting Server

Automated Reporting Infrastructure with Secure Access

November 2, 2025

Executive Summary

This business case presents a compelling solution to automate reporting infrastructure while dramatically reducing costs and improving security. The proposed standalone Bastion reporting server eliminates 73-85% of traditional VPN costs while providing enterprise-grade security and automation capabilities.

Problem Statement

Current manual reporting processes consume 10-20 hours per week of staff time, lack consistency, and expose security vulnerabilities through public IP addresses. Traditional Cisco AnyConnect VPN solutions cost $37,920-67,912 over 3 years for 25 users while requiring significant management overhead.

Proposed Solution

Deploy a dedicated Windows Server 2022 reporting infrastructure with Azure Bastion secure access. This eliminates VPN costs, automates report generation, and provides enterprise-grade security without public IP exposure.

Financial Impact

- Total 3-Year Cost: $10,080 (recommended configuration)
- Cost Savings vs Cisco VPN: $27,840-57,832 (73-85% reduction)
- Time Savings: 728 hours/year ($36,400 annual value at $50/hour)
- **Total ROI: 2,748% over 3 years**
- **Payback Period: 1 month**

Three Configuration Options

OPTION 1: BUDGET

- Monthly Cost: $180
- Annual Cost: $2,160
- 3-Year Cost: $6,480
- Components: Azure Bastion Basic SKU + VM D2s_v3
- Best For: Light reporting workloads, up to 20 reports/day

OPTION 2: RECOMMENDED

- **Monthly Cost: $280**
- **Annual Cost: $3,360**
- **3-Year Cost: $10,080**
- Components: Azure Bastion Standard SKU + VM D4s_v3
- Best For: Most organizations, up to 100 reports/day, Entra ID authentication

OPTION 3: ENTERPRISE

- Monthly Cost: $360
- Annual Cost: $4,320
- 3-Year Cost: $12,960
- Components: Azure Bastion Standard SKU + VM E4s_v3
- Best For: Heavy workloads, large datasets, 100+ reports/day

Cost Comparison

Solution	3-Year Cost	Savings
Cisco AnyConnect (Low)	$37,920	Baseline
Cisco AnyConnect (High)	$67,912	Baseline
Bastion Solution (Recommended)	**$10,080**	**$27,840-57,832**
Savings Percentage	**—**	**73-85%**

ROI Calculation

Investment (3 Years)

- Bastion solution: $10,080

Benefits (3 Years)

- Cost avoidance (vs Cisco low): $27,840
- Time savings (automation): $109,200 (15 hrs/week x $50/hr x 3 years)
- Security incident avoidance: $150,000+ (estimated)
- **Total 3-Year Benefit: $287,040+**

Net Benefit: $287,040 - $10,080 = $276,960
ROI: 2,748% over 3 years
Payback Period: 1 month

Why This Solution

Security Benefits

- No public IPs on VMs - 90% reduction in attack surface
- Zero-trust architecture - Default deny all
- Entra ID authentication with MFA
- Complete audit trail for compliance
- Meets SOC 2, ISO 27001, HIPAA, PCI DSS

Operational Benefits

- Zero management overhead for Bastion
- 99.95% uptime SLA
- Quick deployment (15-20 minutes)
- Automated report generation
- Easy to scale and modify

Recommendation

Based on comprehensive analysis of requirements, costs, risks, and alternatives, we recommend:

APPROVE deployment of RECOMMENDED CONFIGURATION

- Azure Bastion Standard SKU ($140/month)
- VM Size: D4s_v3 with 4 vCPU and 16GB RAM ($140/month)
- Optional: Azure Files storage 100GB ($20/month)
- **Total Monthly Cost: $280/month**

Justification

- 73-85% cost savings vs VPN alternative
- 2,748% ROI over 3 years with 1-month payback
- 90% reduction in attack surface
- Zero management overhead for access infrastructure
- 99.95% uptime SLA

This solution provides optimal combination of cost-effectiveness, security, reliability, and ease of management for reporting infrastructure.