

The Top 5+ Do's, Don'ts & How's of Azure Virtual Desktop

(to be continued)



MC2MC
—CONNECT—

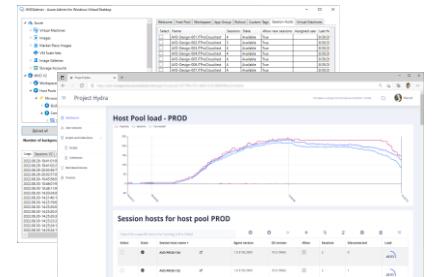


Focus:

Azure Virtual Desktop & Log Analytics
WVDAdmin & Hydra for AVD



Working @ Login VSI



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blog.itprocloud.de

2Pint



robopack

wortell

INGRAM^{MICRO}®



The Collective



lebon.IT



VirtualMetric

veeam

eVri

Upgrading from Windows 10 -> 11



- Why
 - Windows 10 is EOL on October 14th, 2025
- Challenges
 - Older hosts / Golden Master on V1 disks (vTPM, Trusted Launch)
 - Windows update doesn't show an update path
 - How to run an in-place update
 - Site-node: Strange BitLocker behaviours on some updates (also Windows 11 23H2 -> 24H2)

V1 vs. V2 VM Sizes – Trusted Launch



- To upgrade from Windows 10 to Windows 11, we need a vTPM
- Usually, V1 VM sizes have no vTPM*
- Differences

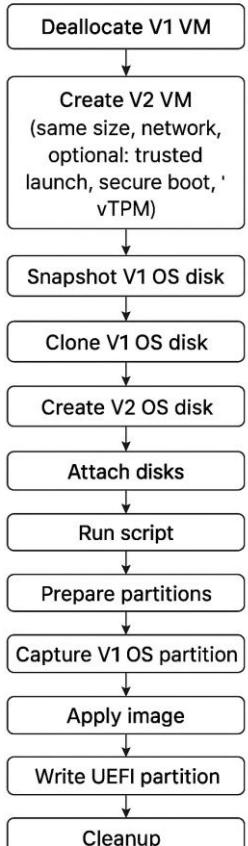
	v1	v2
Boot	PCAT / BIOS	UEFI
Disk Controller	IDE	SCSI (v6: NVME)
Advanced Security Feature	X	Yes, like vTPM, trusted launch*

- Action
 - Migrate the VM sizes (or at least the Golden Master)
 - * <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-machines/trusted-launch-existing-vm-gen-1>

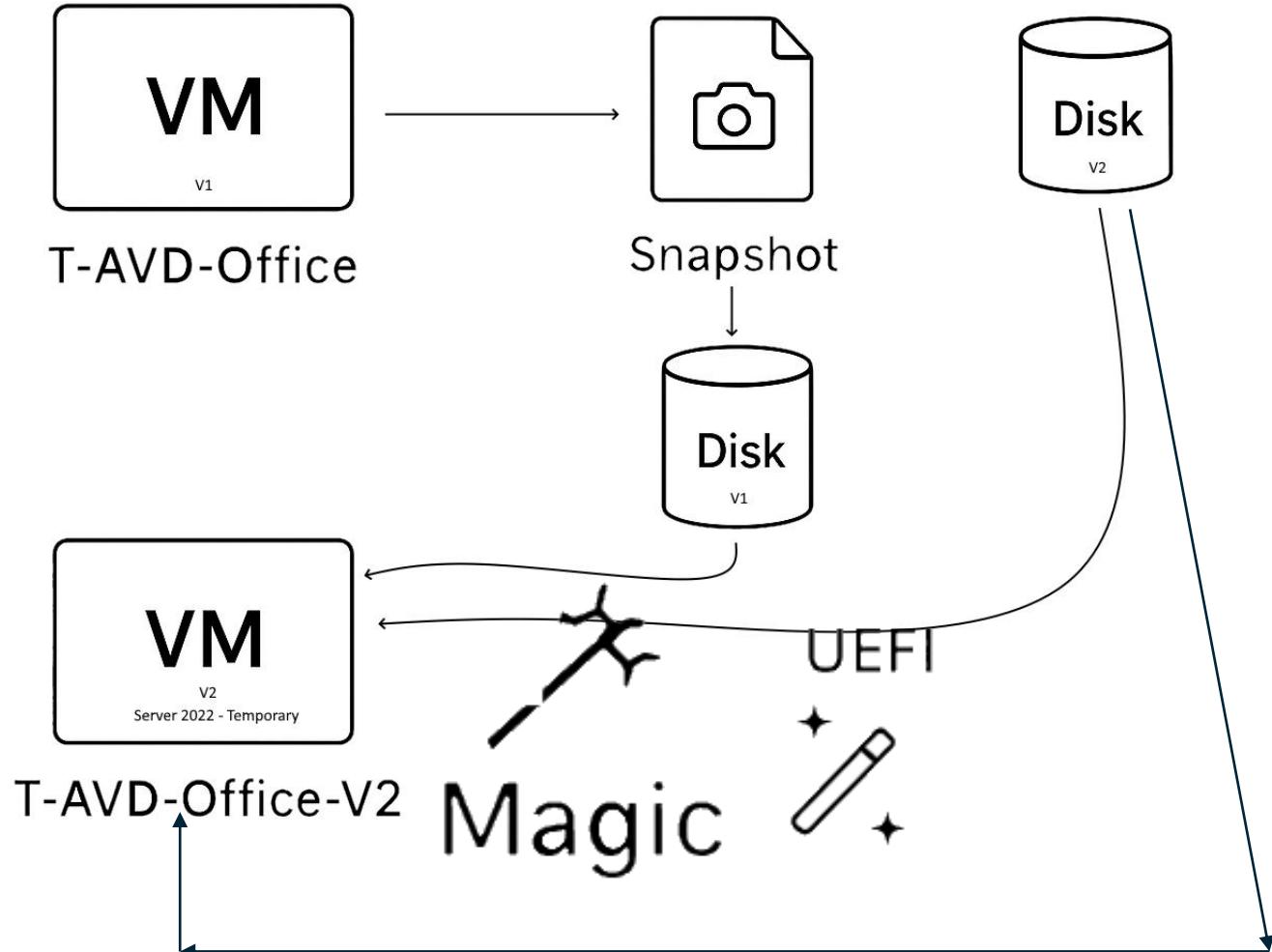
V1 vs. V2 VM Sizes – Trusted Launch



- Challenge
 - That is not directly possible!
- Solution
 - Create a V2 VM with Windows Server 2022 and a larger OS disk (256 GB+)
 - Create a copy of the V1 OS Disk (V1-disk)
 - Create a new V2 managed disk (V2-disk)
 - Attach both to the server VM
 - Capture the content of the V1-disk with Dism.exe
 - Write image to the V2-disk
 - Modify partitions, write UEFI BIOS
 - We have a V2-disk with the content of the V1-disk and can create a VM



V1 vs. V2 VM Sizes – Trusted Launch



Windows – Updating



- Challenge:
 - Windows Update is not showing an update
- Two options
 - Forcing the new V2 Windows 10 client to search for a specific Windows update
 - Inplace upgrade

Windows – Updating 1



- Configuring a local policy

Select the target Feature Update version

Select the target Feature Update version

Not Configured Comment:

Enabled

Disabled

Supported on: At least Windows Server 2016 or Windows 10

Options: Help:

Which Windows product version would you like to receive feature updates for? e.g., Windows 10
Windows 11

Target Version for Feature Updates
24h2

Enter the product and version as listed on the Windows Update target version page:
aka.ms/WindowsTargetVersioninfo

The device will request that Windows Update product and version in subsequent scans.

Entering a target product and clicking OK or Apply means I accept the Microsoft Software License Terms for it found at aka.ms/WindowsTargetVersioninfo. If an organization is licensing the software, I am authorized to bind the organization.

If you enter an invalid value, you will remain on your current version until you correct the values to a supported product and version.

OK Cancel Apply

Windows – Updating 2



- Download multi-ISO to do an in-place upgrade
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/software-download/windows11>

Download Windows 11 Disk Image (ISO) for x64 devices

This option is for users that want to create a bootable installation media (USB flash drive, DVD) or create a virtual machine (.ISO file) to install Windows 11. This download is a multi-edition ISO which uses your product key to unlock the correct edition.

Windows 11 ISOs for Arm64 devices are available [here](#).

Windows 11 (multi-edition ISO for x64 devices) ▾

Before you begin downloading an ISO

Confirm

- Note: “Rumors” say that in-place upgrade is not supported in Azure and Hyper-V should be used

Windows – Ready



- We hopefully migrated our Golden Master to Windows 11
- Does this work always?
- Automate the process with PowerShell:
 - <https://blog.itprocloud.de/Migrate-Azure-V1-VM-to-Azure-V2-VM-In-A-Safe-Way/>
 - <https://blog.itprocloud.de/Update-Windows-10-Multi-user-to-Windows-11-Multi-user/>

Azure Boost: NVMe, Ephemeral on v6



The new start in town “boost VMs”

- Advantages of boost with NVMe:
 - Higher input/output operations per second (IOPS)
 - Higher throughput (MBps)
 - Faster network connection
 - Modern CPU
 - Offloading of virtualisation tasks

Azure Boost: NVMe, Ephemeral on v6

The new start in town “boost VMs”

OS disk
Premium Disk

Disk name	Storage type	Size (GiB)	Max IOPS	Max throughput (...)	Encryption
AVD-Design-001_disk1_def52e63fb	Premium SSD LRS	128	500	100	SSE with PM

← Swap OS disk →

OS disk
Ephemeral Disk

Disk name	Storage type	Size (GiB)	Max IOPS	Max throughput (...)	Encryption
AVD-Design-003_OsDisk_1_c2dc69f	Standard HDD LRS	128	36000	477	SSE with PM

← Swap OS disk →

Azure Boost: NVMe, Ephemeral on v6



Challenges

- No migration path for Windows
- Images are not compatible (custom, gallery)
- Pagefile on C:\ instead of D: \, if present

Azure Boost: Images



- Microsoft Marketplace images are working (scsi, nvme)
- Custom images are not working
- If we have no way to migrate a Golden Master, we have to create a new v6 Golden Master – with all the effort
- But ...

Azure Boost: Images



We can use a specific Azure Compute Gallery Definition

- Create a new definition
- Enable NVME
- Security type “trusted launch” (recommend)
- Capture the image from your old Golden Master into the definition (WVDAdmin, Hydra, PowerShell, ...)

The screenshot shows the 'Create a VM image definition' page in the Microsoft Azure portal. The 'Subscription' dropdown is set to 'Microsoft MVP Subscription 12k' and the 'Resource group' dropdown is set to 'WVD_Templates'. In the 'Instance details' section, the 'Region' is '(Europe) West Europe', the 'Target Azure compute gallery' is 'ITProCloud/Images', the 'VM image definition name' is 'Test', and the 'OS type' is 'Windows'. Under 'Security type', 'Trusted launch' is selected. The 'VM generation' dropdown shows 'Gen 2' is selected, with a note indicating 'Gen 1' is not supported. The 'Higher storage performance with NVMe' checkbox is checked and highlighted with a red arrow. Other options like 'Accelerated networking', 'VM architecture (x64)', 'Hibernation supported', and 'OS state (Generalized)' are also visible.

Azure Boost: Images



You can now deploy session hosts with that image from the Gallery Definition

Add virtual machines to a host pool ...

Basics Virtual Machines Tags Review + create

Add virtual machines Yes

Host pools are a collection of one or more identical virtual machines within Azure Virtual Desktop environments. Here you provide a common set of properties to update the Session hosts within your host pool.

Resource group

Name prefix * Session host name must be unique within the Resource Group.

Virtual machine type Azure virtual machine Azure Local virtual machine

Security type *

Enable secure boot

Enable vTPM

Integrity monitoring

Image * See all images

Virtual machine size * 8 vCPU's, 32 GiB memory Change size

Hints:

- The operating system must support NVMe

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Compute Gallery Definition for NVMe

Azure Boost: Migration



One step back

If the OS supports NVMe, we can migrate existing VMs:

- Capture a specialized image into a prepared Gallery Definition
- Create a new v6 VM based on that image
- Done

Azure Boost: Pagefile



Do you know the “Don’t store data on D: drive” drive?

- E.g.: D8ads_v6
 - d stands for a local drive on the hypervisor
 - Perfect for the pagefile, because no network in between

And?

Hint: Check out <https://cloudprice.net/>

Azure Boost: Pagefile

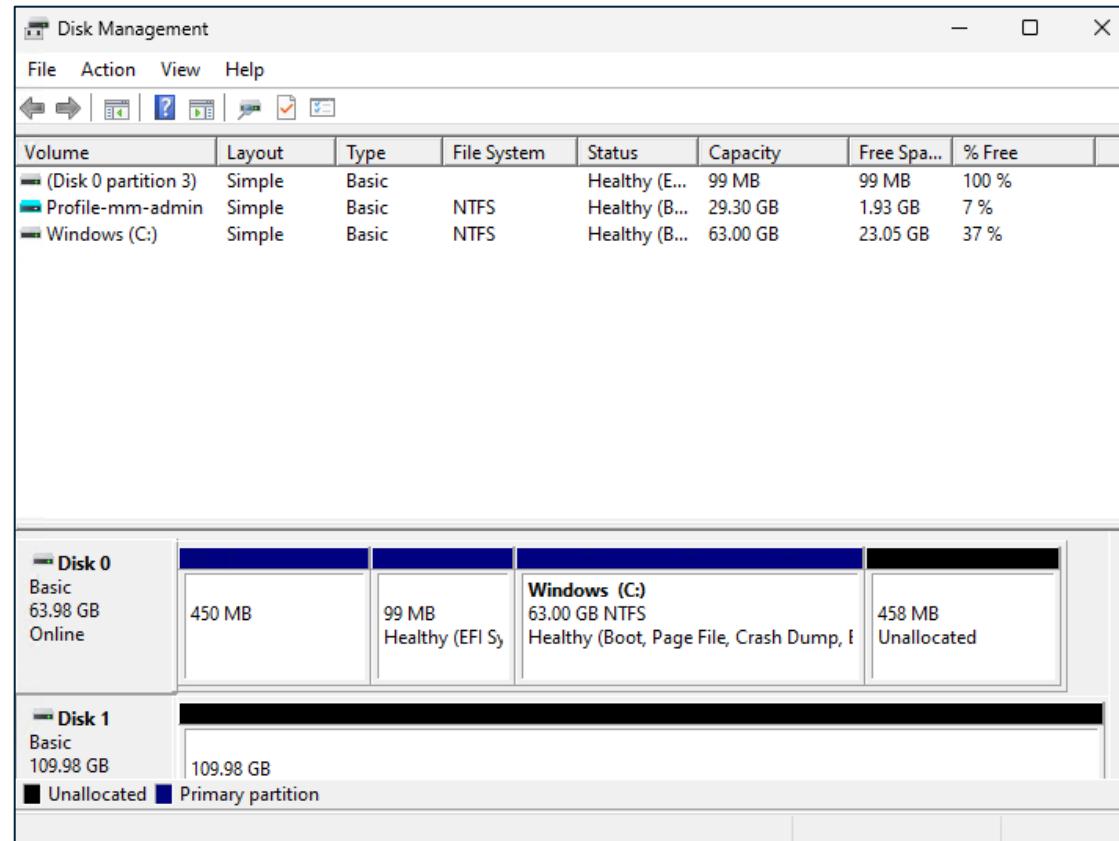


Do you know the “Don’t store data on D: drive” drive?

The D: drive is not automatically mounted

Challenge:

- Mount D:
- Format D:
- Reconfigure the pagefile
- Reboot



Azure Boost: Pagefile

But:

```
C:\Windows\system32\diskpart.exe

DISKPART> select disk 1
Disk 1 is now the selected disk.

DISKPART> detail disk

Microsoft NVMe Direct Disk v2
Disk ID: {99F71161-C07A-48E2-A6AD-3B07C20AD2EB}
Type : NVMe
Status : Online
Path : 0
Target : 0
LUN ID : 0
Location Path : ACPI(_SB_)\#ACPI(VMOD)\#ACPI(VMBS)\#VMBUS({44c4f61d-4444-4400-9d52-802e27ede19f}\#{6f26848a-48d5-4f1e-8ca0-a
\c31d72aeee})\#VPCI(0000)\#NVME(P00T00L00)
Current Read-only State : No
Read-only : No
Boot Disk : No
Pagefile Disk : No
Hibernation File Disk : No
Crashdump Disk : No
Clustered Disk : No

There are no volumes.

DISKPART>
```

Azure Boost: Pagefile



- How to handle the pagefile:
- Each time the host is allocated, the id changed
- Therefore:
 - Detect if the NVMe disk exists but is not mounted/formatted
 - Mount and format the disk
 - Reconfigure pagefile
 - Do a reboot (a reboot will not change the device id)
 - Do that very early before the AVD agent starts
- The upcoming Hydra version will do that automatically if you want.

Azure Boost: Finally - but now solved!



Microsoft Azure

Home > AVD-Design-003

AVD-Design-003 | Boot diagnostics ☆ ...

Virtual machine

Search Refresh Settings Troubleshoot

Overview Activity log Access control (IAM) Tags Diagnose and solve problems Resource visualizer

Connect

Connect Bastion

Networking

Network settings Load balancing Application security groups Network manager

Settings

Disks Extensions + applications Operating system

Screenshot Serial log

Updated: Friday, August 29, 2025 at 8:11:00 AM UTC [Download screenshot](#)

:(
Your device ran into a problem and needs to restart. We'll restart for you.

For more information about this issue and possible fixes, visit <https://www.windows.com/stopcode>

If you call a support person, give them this info:
Stop code: DRIVER_IUQL_NOT_LESS_OR_EQUAL
What failed: storport.sys

Orphan resources



- Did you know?

```
"Name": "Design/AVD-Design-002.ITProCloud.test",
"Id": "/subscriptions/0cacezee-c9c0-4765-acd5-197126d21978/resourcegroups/WVD.Design2/providers/Microsoft.DesktopVirtualization/hostpools/Design/sessionhosts/AVD-Design-002",
>Type": "Microsoft.DesktopVirtualization/hostpools/sessionhosts",
"Properties": {
    "LastHeartBeat": "2025-09-03T06:47:28.62Z",
    "Sessions": 0,
    "AgentVersion": "1.0.11802.2200",
    "AllowNewSession": true,
    "AssignedUser": null,
    "FriendlyName": null,
    "Status": 2,
    "StatusTimestamp": null,
    "OsVersion": "10.0.22621.5768",
    "SxSStackVersion": "rdp-sxs250508650",
    "UpdateState": 3,
    "LastUpdateTime": "2025-09-01T08:18:35.25Z",
    "UpdateErrorMessage": "",
    "SessionHostHealthCheckResultObject": [],
    "ResourceId": "/subscriptions/dcdce2ee-c9c0-4765-acd5-197126d21978/resourceGroups/WVD.Design2/providers/Microsoft.Compute/virtualMachines/AVD-Design-002",
    "VirtualMachineId": "e2330658-aeee-46d6-8906-24cb9e14fb63"
```

Orphan resources



While a host is only linked to a VM, the following can happen:

- Orphan Host: The VM is deleted, but not the host -> Issues in autoscaling
- Orphan VM: The session host is deleted (in the Azure Portal), but the VM still exists:
 - If the VM is running, you pay for the full VM – Autoscale will not shut down the VM
 - You may run out of IP addresses
 - Storage costs
- Different and similar: If a host/VM is offline for 90+ days, the AVD Agent cannot connect to the backend the next time
 - The hosts show up as unavailable/shutdown -> See orphan host

Orphan resources - Investigate

Hydra



Message

Orphan session hosts detected (Demo Tenant): We detected some session hosts without a linked virtual machine (or offline for longer than 90 days). That is expected during a rollout or deletion. Please validate the listed Session Hosts / VMs to avoid issues with auto scaling: AVD-AAD-GPU-002, AVD-Crazy2-0.ITProCloud.test, AVD-Crazy2-1.ITProCloud.test, AVD-Crazy2-2.ITProCloud.test, AVD-Crazy2-3.ITProCloud.test, AVD-SPLIT-S01.ITProCloud.test, AVD-SPLIT-S02.ITProCloud.test, AVD-SPLIT-S03.ITProCloud.test, VDI-11-MXE-001.ITProCloud.test

Orphan session hosts detected (Azure Local Tenant): We detected some session hosts without a linked virtual machine (or offline for longer than 90 days). That is expected during a rollout or deletion. Please validate the listed Session Hosts / VMs to avoid issues with auto scaling: AVD-PROD-M-302.FRA0204-AVD-LAB.local

Orphan AVD Agents detected (Demo Tenant): We detected some running Virtual Machines that are not listed as available on Azure Virtual Desktop. That is expected during a rollout or a longer operation, like Windows Update. Please validate the listed VMs/Session Hosts to avoid additional costs and issues: AVD-LAB-001 (VM running)

Warning	VMM/VM	VM NAME WITH ITPROCLOUD.TEST	1	124	VM TIME OUT	WESTEUROPE	VM TIME OUT
⚠ Warning	SPLIT-POOL	AVD-SPLIT-S03.ITProCloud.test	0	29		avd-split-s03	
⚠ Warning	SPLIT-POOL	AVD-SPLIT-S02.ITProCloud.test	0	29		avd-split-s02	
⚠ Warning	SPLIT-POOL	AVD-SPLIT-S01.ITProCloud.test	0	29		avd-split-s01	
⚠ Warning	Demo-GPU	AVD-AAD-GPU-002	1	127	AVD-AAD-GPU-002	northeurope	avd-aad-gpu-002
⚠ Warning	Crazy-II	AVD-Crazy2-3.ITProCloud.test	0	283		avd-crazy2-3	
⚠ Warning	Crazy-II	AVD-Crazy2-2.ITProCloud.test	0	283		avd-crazy2-2	
⚠ Warning	Crazy-II	AVD-Crazy2-1.ITProCloud.test	0	283		avd-crazy2-1	
⚠ Warning	Crazy-II	AVD-Crazy2-0.ITProCloud.test	0	283		avd-crazy2-0	

- Link: <https://blog.itprocloud.de/AVD-Azure-Virtual-Desktop-Error-Drill-Down-Workbook/>

Orphan resources



We will see it in my don't does....

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Orphan resources

Imaging Strategies



“Isn't using templates so 90s?”

I don't think so...

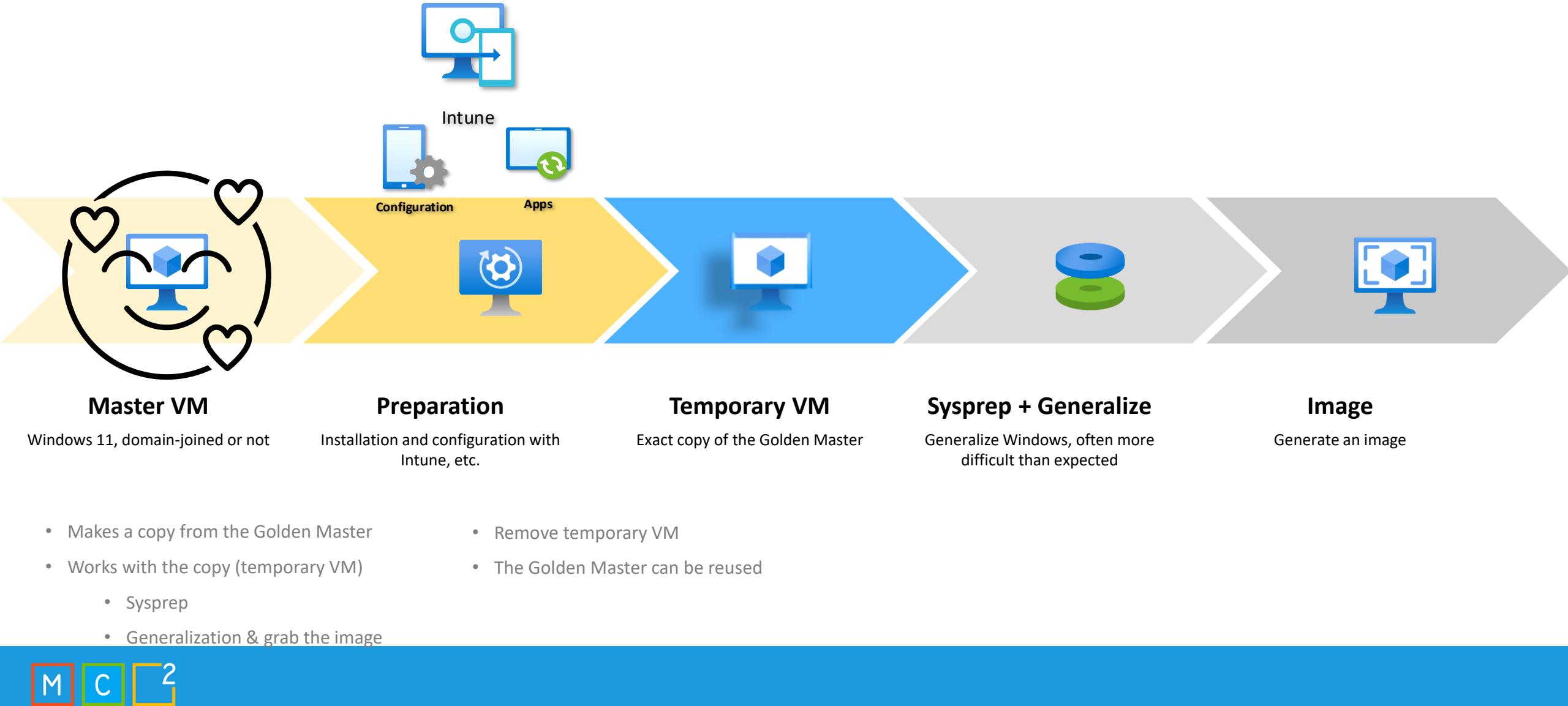
Imaging Strategies



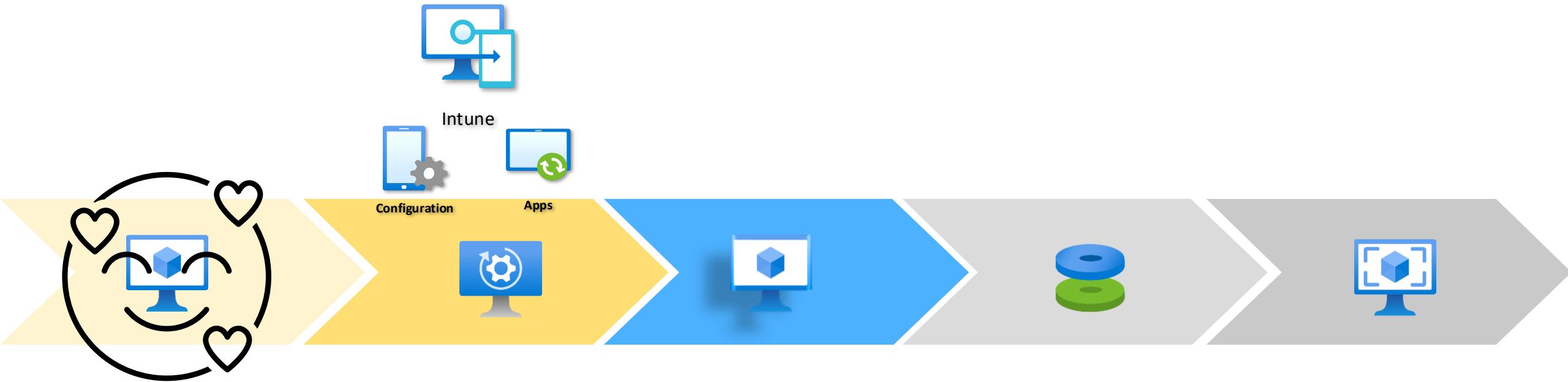
Why imaging still matters for most cases:

- **Fast deployment**
Deployment of session hosts with all apps and configuration in minutes
- **Ready-to-use**
Users can connect directly and work with the apps
- **Simple**
No complex installation process with all challenges regarding autoscaling, processes are in use, ...
- **Repeatable**
All hosts in a shared pool are equal
- **Management**
So easy – with the right tools
- ...

Imaging Strategies - Native



Imaging Strategies – With tools



Master VM

Windows 11, domain-joined or not

- Makes a copy from the Golden Master
- Works with the copy (temporary VM)
 - Sysprep
 - Generalization & grab the image

Preparation

Installation and configuration with Intune, etc.

Temporary VM

Exact copy of the Golden Master

- Remove temporary VM
- The Golden Master can be reused

Sysprep + Generalize

Generalize Windows, often more difficult than expected

Image

Generate an image

Imaging Strategies - Challenges



What do we have to care about:

- Image types:
 - Custom/compute images
 - Gallery Images
 - Azure local images
- VM types:
 - Security type standard
 - Security type trusted launch
 - Confidential
- Specific settings:
 - Accelerated NIC
 - NVMe vs. SCSI
 - Plan-based (not plant-based)
 - Hibernation
 - ...
- Sysprep 😞

Imaging Strategies – Gallery Definition



Example:

A correct gallery definition is needed for a deployment of:

- Hibernation enabled
- Trusted Launch
- Accelerated NIC

Create a VM image definition ...

Instance details

Region * ⓘ (US) West US

VM image definition details

Target Azure compute gallery ⓘ ITProCloud/Images

VM image definition name * ⓘ Windows-11-Office-TrustedLaunch.Hib.AccNic ✓

OS type * ⓘ Windows Linux

Security type ⓘ Trusted launch

VM generation ⓘ Gen 1 Gen 2
VM generation has been automatically switched to Gen 2 because Gen 1 virtual machines are not supported with Trusted and Confidential security type.

Higher storage performance with NVMe ⓘ

Accelerated networking ⓘ

VM architecture ⓘ x64 Arm64

Hibernation supported ⓘ

My top 5



Does and don't do:

“Never delete a host in the Azure Portal without reading the small letters”

Don't forget to delete the VM – or use fancy tools to do that.
Don't forget the disk and nic

My top 5



Does and don't do:

“Separate FSLogix profiles and don’t mix them up (usually)”

Keep a folder for each host pool to store the profiles. Use the same name as the pool and configure NTFS permissions correctly

Does and don't do:

“Choose the right storage for FSLogix”

Huge differences between performance, provisioned and used capacity, pay-as-you-go, and the “Provisioned price model”

E.g., Pay-as-you-go, standard storage: Tier and transactions matters

Does and don't do:

“Always configure diagnostic settings on the pools”

This gives you so many insights into what happens on the backend.

<https://blog.itprocloud.de/AVD-Azure-Virtual-Desktop-Error-Drill-Down-Workbook/>

My top 5



Does and don't do:

“Check for orphan resources”

Stop paying for VM of “unavailable” session hosts.

<https://blog.itprocloud.de/AVD-Azure-Virtual-Desktop-Error-Drill-Down-Workbook/>

My top 5



Does and don't do:

**“Don’t put a half-installed
Windows Update in an Image”**

Stop slow deployments.

**Session feedback
available in home feed
of the app after the
session**





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