

# Azure Virtual Desktop

Enable a secure, remote desktop, experience from anywhere

Joke Feije-Edelman & Bogdan Grozoiu  
Cloud Solution Architects

8 Nov 2023

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Password: FortdeGagel

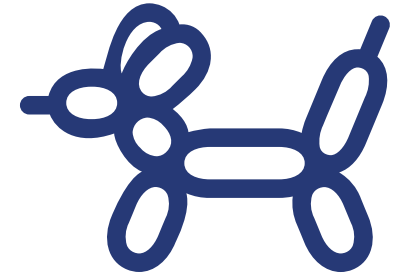
# Workshops Agenda

Times are approximate and will be fluid with the class.

Duration	Content
60-90 minutes	Presentation on Azure Virtual Desktop
Till lunch	Hands-on Lab: Deploying Azure Virtual Desktop
	Break: for lunch
Afternoon	Remainder of the presentation on Azure Virtual Desktop Hands-on Lab: Deploying Azure Virtual Desktop

# Customer case

## Tailspin toys



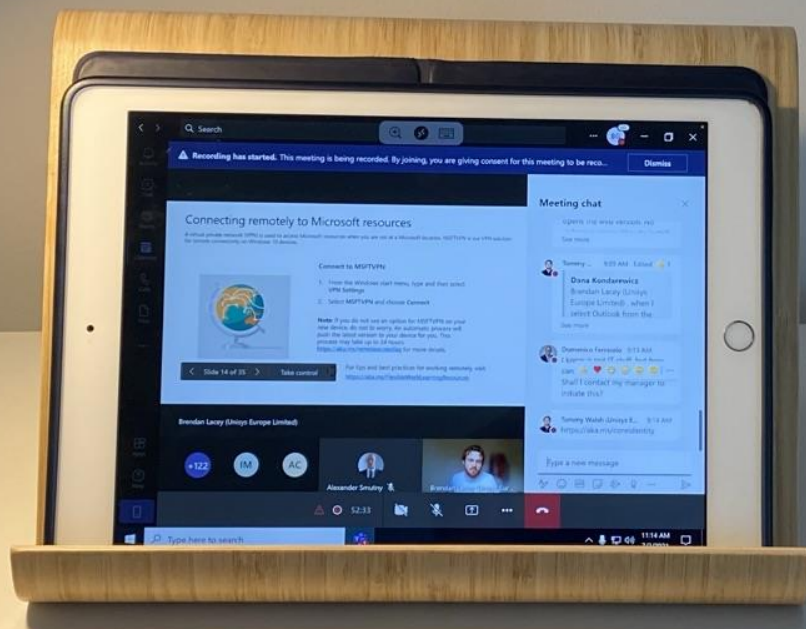
- Design manufacture and sell toys for dogs
- Currently responsible for a toy, a combination between a boomerang and a frisbee which hypes among dog owner, business is growing
- Currently 35 employees
- Need to work from anywhere
- Already have Office 365
- Looking for a Workplace solution

1

# Introduction to Azure Virtual Desktop







# Cloud VDI can provide a flexible, cost-effective way to address current IT challenges and unlock new use cases

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## Data security

Improve regulatory compliance and IP protection via data centralization and a reduced threat surface.



## High-capacity computing

Cloud-scale compute and storage to support specialized workloads like design and development.



## BYOPC programs

Enable secure Cloud PCs, even on personal devices.



## Disaster recovery

Help ensure continuity and access for your workforce and company data even in the most challenging circumstances.



## Temporary workforces

Simplify and accelerate the onboarding and offboarding process for elastic workforces.



## Mergers & Acquisitions

Provide seamless transitions and access for growing businesses.

# Azure Virtual Desktop is a cloud VDI solution designed to meet the challenges of hybrid work

Enable a secure,  
remote desktop  
experience from  
virtually anywhere



Access Windows 11 and Windows 10 from virtually anywhere



Maintain full control over configuration and management



Get the security and reliability of Azure



Optimize cost with multi-session and pay for only what you use

# Access Windows 11 and 10 from virtually anywhere

Boost productivity inside and  
outside of the office



Provide access to Windows 11 and Windows 10 on a variety of devices



Deliver a seamless experience on Microsoft Office and Teams



Allow users to personalize their Windows 11 and Windows 10 virtual experiences with roaming user profiles



# Maintain full control over configuration and management

Customize and optimize your virtualization infrastructure in the cloud



Enable GPU accelerated app rendering and encoding on Azure Virtual Desktop session hosts



Empower IT to specify how desktops are distributed across VM's



Simplify the delivery of company specific apps to employees with capabilities for external users

# Get the security and reliability of Azure

Unlock the powerful security, scalability, and flexibility of Microsoft Azure



Deploy your **virtual infrastructure** in Azure Datacenters around the world



Use **Azure Active Directory** and Multi-Factor Authentication to secure your virtual desktops



Provide **management and customization options** for IT by leveraging Azure services like Azure Monitor

# Optimize cost with multi- session and pay for only what you use

Make your virtualization  
infrastructure cost-efficient



**Deliver multiple desktop sessions** on a single VM with Windows 11 and Windows 10 multi-session



**Optimize deployment costs** and scale session host VMs with Autoscale











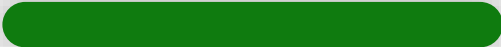
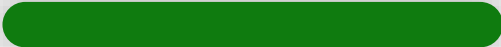
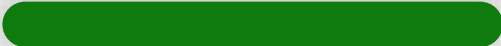









**Use existing Windows and Microsoft 365 licenses** to access Windows 11 and Microsoft Office

# Shared responsibility

CUSTOMER

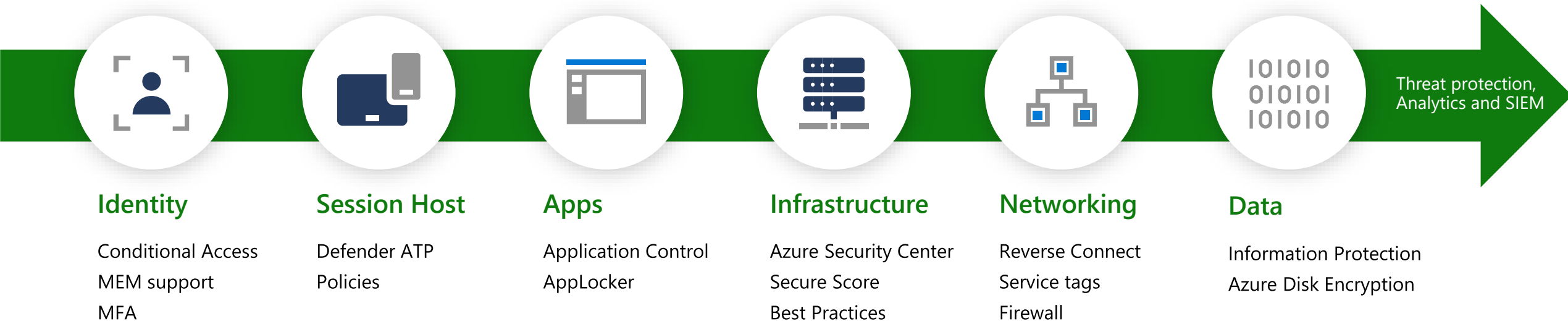
MICROSOFT

Responsibility	Traditional on-prem VDI	Azure Virtual Desktop
Identity		
End user devices (mobile and PCs)		
Application security		
Operating systems		
Deployment configuration		
Network controls		
Virtualization control plane		
Physical hosts		
Physical network		
Physical datacenter		

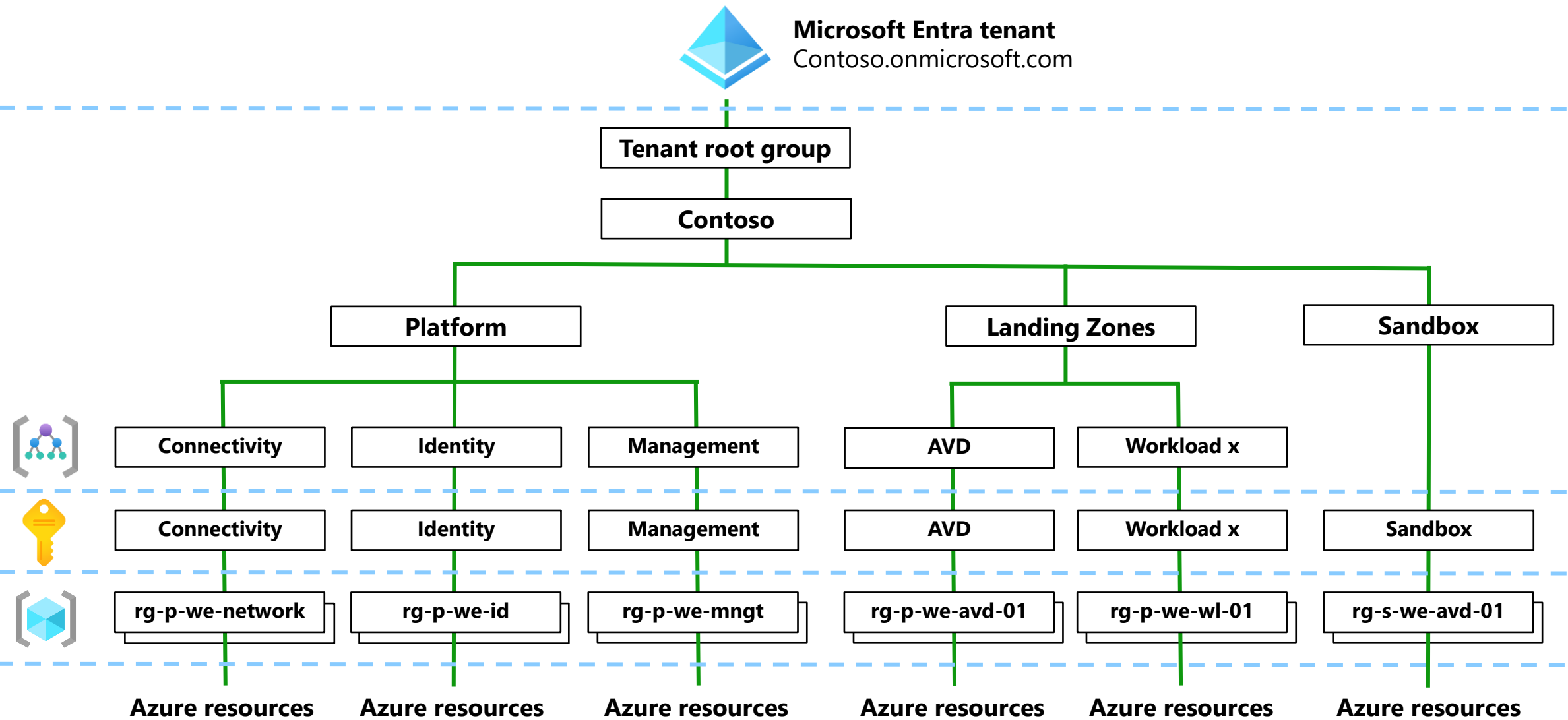


# End to end security for your virtual desktops

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# Azure resources organization

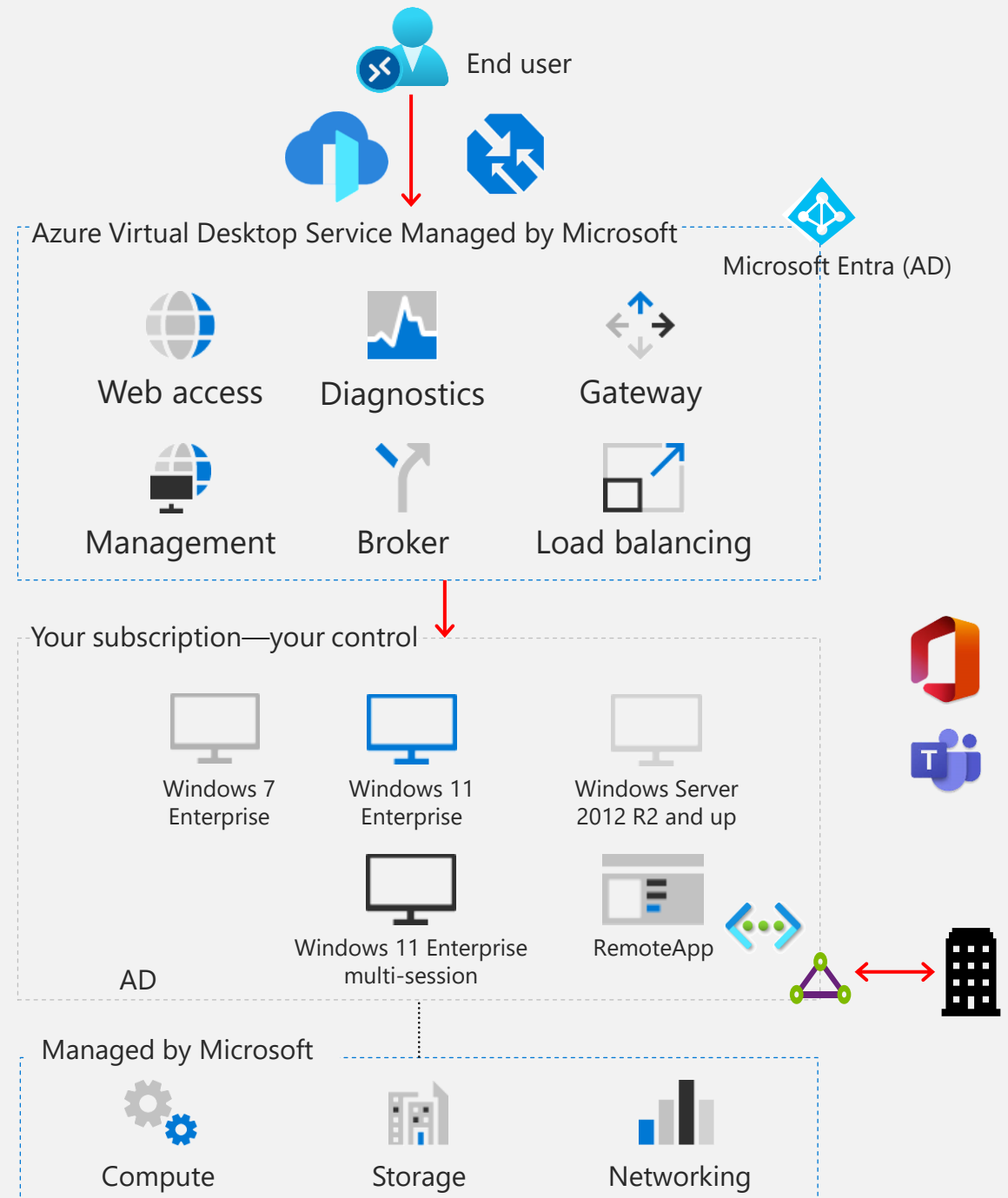


# Azure Virtual Desktop architecture

Provide your employees full desktop and access to remote apps

Connect from virtually any device of your choice

Focus on right policies and controls rather than managing infrastructure



# Cloud VDI on Azure

**Azure provides 3 different solutions depending on your preference**

## Azure Virtual Desktop

Azure Virtual Desktop provides a secure Cloud VDI platform to help companies solve business problems and address new working models and effectively do more with less.

## Citrix with Azure Virtual Desktop

Citrix DaaS customers can benefit from the reliability, resilience and security of Azure Virtual Desktop while still benefitting from Citrix's image management, provisioning, session recording and HDX multimedia technology.

## VMware Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure

With this combination of platforms, customers can begin using their AVD benefit more quickly by taking advantage of hybrid support and a common management interface across all platforms



# Gartner Magic Quadrant for Desktop as a Service

Figure 1: Magic Quadrant for Desktop as a Service



Source: [Gartner report](#)

2

## Deployment options for Azure Virtual Desktop



# Deployment options for Azure Virtual Desktop – IdP configuration

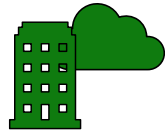
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Choose the appropriate IdP configuration based on your user requirements



## Active Directory Domain Services

- Run AD DS on any Virtual Machine in Azure in your region
- You are in control, but also responsible for management, availability, security etcetera.



## Microsoft Entra Domain Services

- Fast deployment compared to the AD DS solution
- Less infrastructure and management burden
- Pay as you go



## Microsoft Entra Joined

- No additional infrastructure components necessary
- Works with Virtual Machine extensions
- Single-Sign-On possible

# Deployment options for Azure Virtual Desktop – Key components

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Choose the appropriate **compute**, **user profile**, and **apps** solutions based on your user requirements



## Compute

- You can choose any VM in Azure in your region
- Lift and shift or establish new VDI infrastructure with any compute option
- Support for personal and pooled virtual machines



## User profile

- Faster login and application launch times with FSLogix
- Support for Azure Files, NetApp Files and File server cluster



## Apps

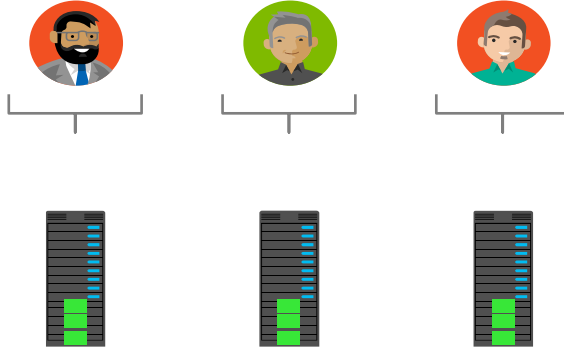
- Create a single image with all applications for all users
- Use App Masking to ensure the right applications are visible to the right users



# Compute

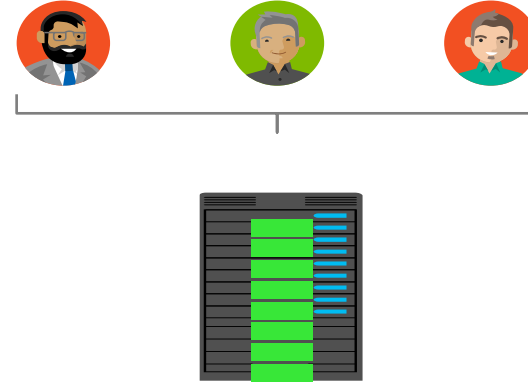
Choose the right configuration to meet your user requirements

## Personal desktops



- Ideal for **single-session** users with **heavy performance** requirements
- Choose the right VM to run robust biz. apps like CAD, SAP and others
- Always-on experience and single state retention

## Pooled desktops



- Ideal for **multi-session** users and certain **single-session** with **light – medium** workloads with basic business requirements
- Choose the right VM to run most business apps

**Azure automation** - automate your Azure management tasks and orchestrate actions across external systems from right within Azure

# User profile management with FSLogix

For more advanced configuration and/or larger customers



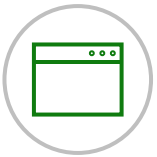
## Optimize profile containers

Faster login and application launch times than roaming profiles and folder redirection.



## Pick from multiple storage options

Store profile containers in Azure files/NetApp Files/File server clusters



## Migrate existing user profiles

Perform mass conversions of user profiles from various types to FSLogix based profile containers at scale

# Apps with FSLogix and MSIX

Minimize number of master images by creating a single image with all applications

## Why App Masking with FSLogix?

- Excellent app compatibility with no packaging, sequencing, backend infrastructure, or virtualization.
- Control app licensing costs by limiting access to specific users
- Reduce the amount of host pools

## Why MSIX?

- Single format for physical and virtual environments
- Doesn't require packaging to be delivered
- Clean install/ uninstall
- Secured by default
- Optimized storage and network bandwidth

## Why MSIX app attach?

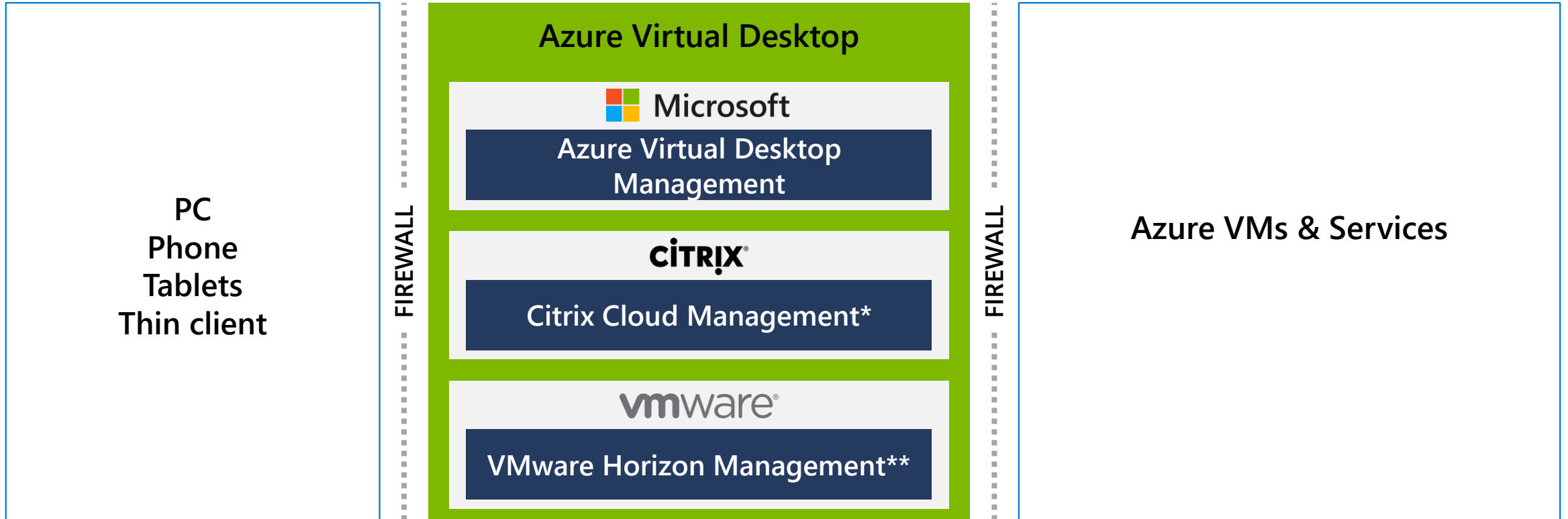
- Dynamic application delivery
- Only authorized users can see or access apps running on multiple user instances
- MSIX apps behave like natively installed apps

# Management options



# Azure Virtual Desktop + Citrix and VMware

Engage with your partner to deploy Azure Virtual Desktop with Citrix and VMware account teams



\*Requires Citrix Cloud service management plane that runs on Azure. Agent installed must be the 1909 or later release to be eligible for Azure Virtual Desktop

\*\*Requires VMware Horizon Cloud on Azure

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Tools

# Azure Virtual Desktop ISV partner environment

Rich ISV partner ecosystem allows you to further enhance your Azure Virtual Desktop experience

Category	Description
<b>Customer Environment Assessment</b>	Assess resource utilization of apps/users/OS, baseline user experiences and recommend sizing for Azure Virtual Desktop. <i>Example - Lakeside</i>
<b>Diagnostics &amp; End User Experience Monitoring</b>	Assess, monitor, and manage end user experiences with GUI enabling reactive troubleshooting as well as predictive troubleshooting leveraging AI/ML <i>Example – Sepago</i>
<b>Application Layering</b>	Enable dynamic provisioning of apps during boot/log on time based on user profile <i>Example – Liquidware</i>
<b>Management</b>	Deployment and configuration <i>Example– Nerdio, NetApp (CloudJumper)</i>
<b>Printing</b>	Remove the need for print server infrastructure <i>Example – PrinterLogic</i>
<b>App Compatibility Assessment / Remediation</b>	Assess app compatibility for layering new packaging <i>Example – PolicyPak</i>

Please explore our rich partner environment - <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-desktop/partners>

# Licensing and Pricing

# Many customers are already eligible for Azure Virtual Desktop

Azure Virtual Desktop Licensing Requirements



## Client

Customers are eligible to access Windows 11 and Windows 10 single and multi session and Windows 7 with Azure Virtual Desktop if they have one of the following licenses\*:

- *Microsoft 365 Business Premium*
- Microsoft 365 E3/E5
- Microsoft 365 A3/A5/Student Use Benefits
- Microsoft 365 F3
- Windows 11 and Windows 10 Enterprise E3/E5
- Windows 11 and Windows 10 Education A3/A5
- Windows 11 and Windows 10 VDA E3/E5



## Server

Customers are eligible to access Server workloads with Azure Virtual Desktop if they have one of the following licenses:

- **RDS CAL license with active Software Assurance (SA) or RDS User Subscription Licenses**

Customers pay for the virtual machines (VMs), storage, and networking consumed when the users are using the service

\*Customers can access Azure Virtual Desktop from their non-Windows Pro endpoints if they have a Microsoft 365 E3/E5/F3, Microsoft 365 A3/A5 or Windows 11 and Windows 10 VDA per user license. Source: [Azure Virtual Desktop Prerequisites](#)



# Pricing for Azure Virtual Desktop

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## Calculate your user cost

- No charge for users with eligible Microsoft/Windows licenses
- Monthly per user price to access Azure Virtual Desktop for external users\*

\*Windows Server not supported



## Calculating your infrastructure costs

An Azure user account and subscription are required to deploy and manage a virtual machine. Pricing factors include:

- Virtual machines and operating system (OS) storage
- Data disk (personal desktop only)
- User profile storage
- Networking



### Per user cost –

- **License** – purchased by the organization
- **Monthly price** – purchased by the organization/ISV offering the desktop/app to their customers

**Pay only for the virtual machines (VMs), storage, and networking consumed when the service is in use.**

[Azure Virtual Desktop Pricing page on Azure.com](#)

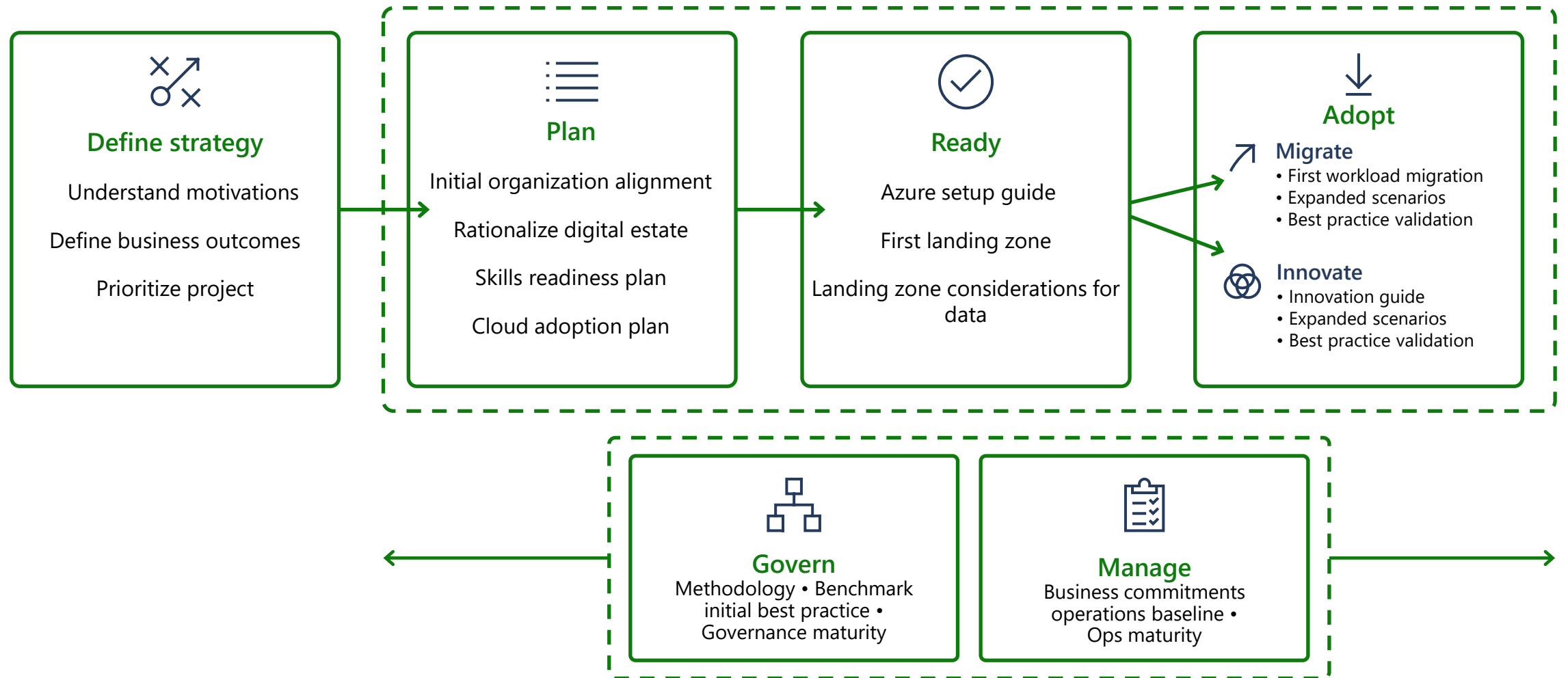
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## Pre-requisites, Design and Architecture, Best Practices



Pre-requisites

# Microsoft Cloud Adoption Framework for Azure



# Azure Infrastructure Prerequisites to Deploy Azure Virtual Desktop

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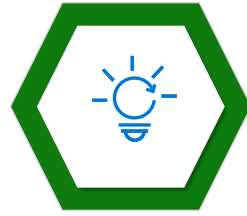
## Azure subscription

- Create your [Azure free account](#) today if you don't have one
- For information on Azure administrative roles, see [Azure roles, Microsoft Entra roles, and classic subscription administrator roles](#).



## Microsoft Entra ID (f.k.a. Azure AD)

- Learn how to [create a new tenant in Microsoft Entra ID](#).
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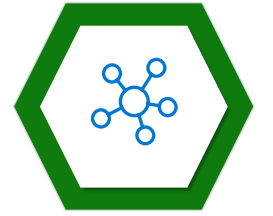
## Determine your identity strategy

- [AD DS](#)
- [Microsoft Entra DS](#) (f.k.a. AAD DS)
- [Microsoft Entra joined](#) (f.k.a. AAD Domain Joined)



## Required credentials

- [Microsoft Entra ID](#)
- AD Domain join account
- [Subscription Contributor](#)

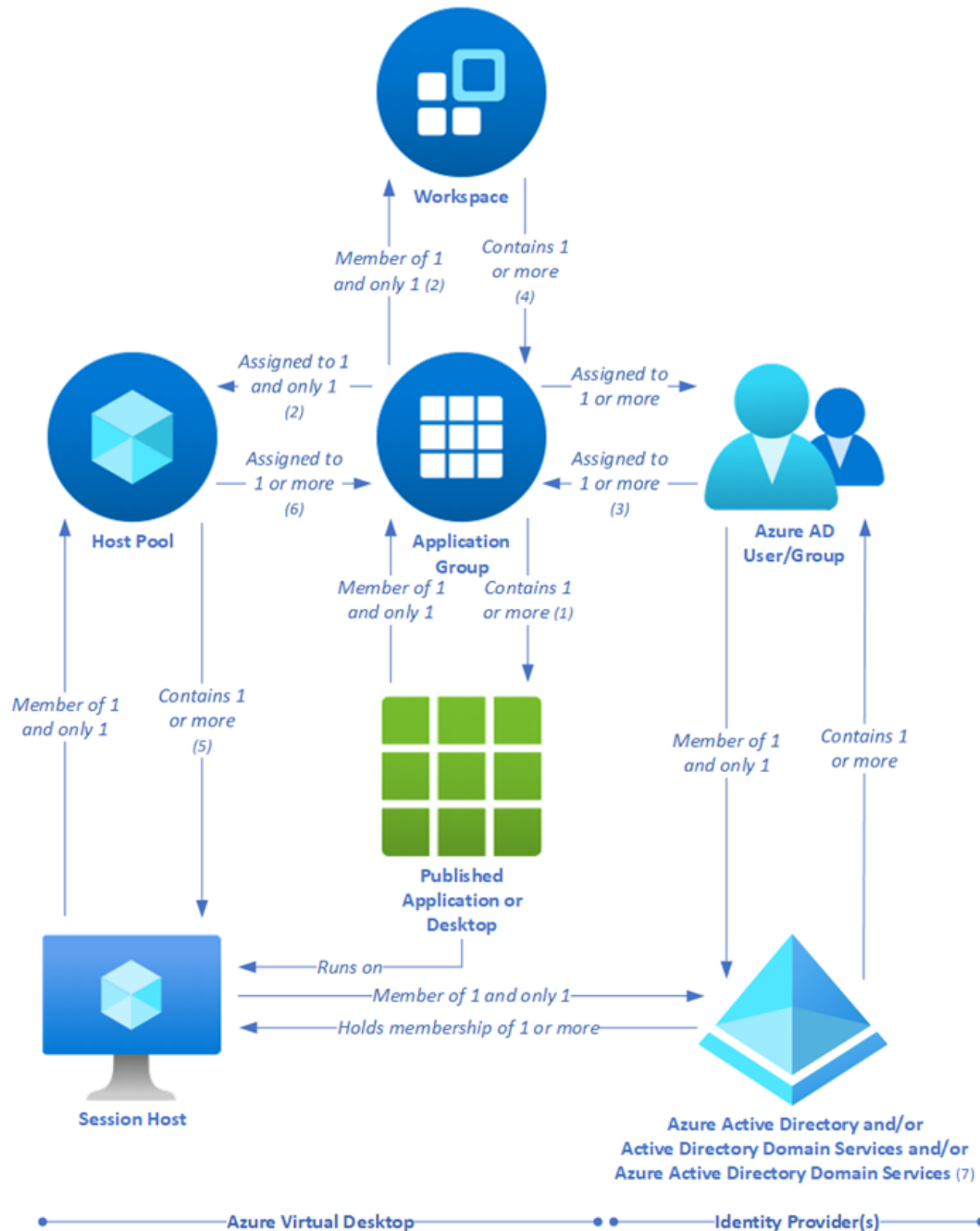


## All associated Azure resources in one region

- [Image](#)
- [Virtual Network](#)
- [Storage](#)

More resources available for you:  
[Get started at aka.ms/startAVD](#)  
[AVD documentation on Azure.com](#)  
[Microsoft Cloud Adoption Framework for Azure](#)

# Design and Architecture



Resource	Purpose
Published desktop	A Windows desktop environment that runs on Azure Virtual Desktop session hosts and is delivered to users over the network
Published application	A Windows application that runs on Azure Virtual Desktop session hosts and is delivered to users over the network
Application group	A logical grouping of published applications or a published desktop
Microsoft Entra user account/group	Identifies the users who are permitted to launch published desktops or applications
Microsoft Entra ID (7)	Identity provider
AD DS (7)	Identity and directory services provider
Microsoft Entra Domain Services (7)	Platform as a service (PaaS)-based identity and directory services provider
Workspace	A logical grouping of application groups
Host pool	A group of identical session hosts that serve a common purpose
Session host	A virtual machine that hosts published desktops or applications

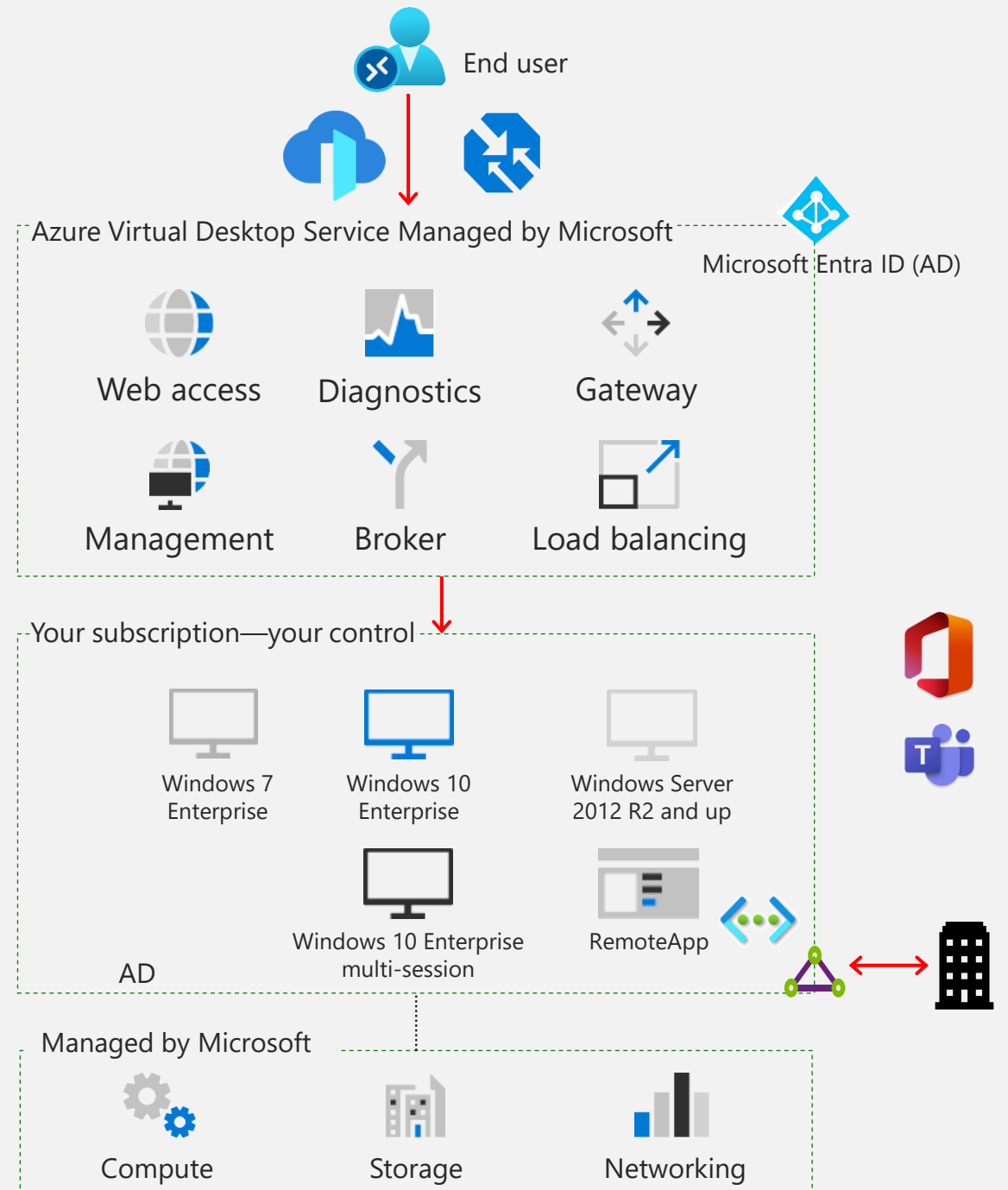


# Azure Virtual Desktop architecture – Part 2

Provide your employees full desktop and access to remote apps

Connect from virtually any device of your choice

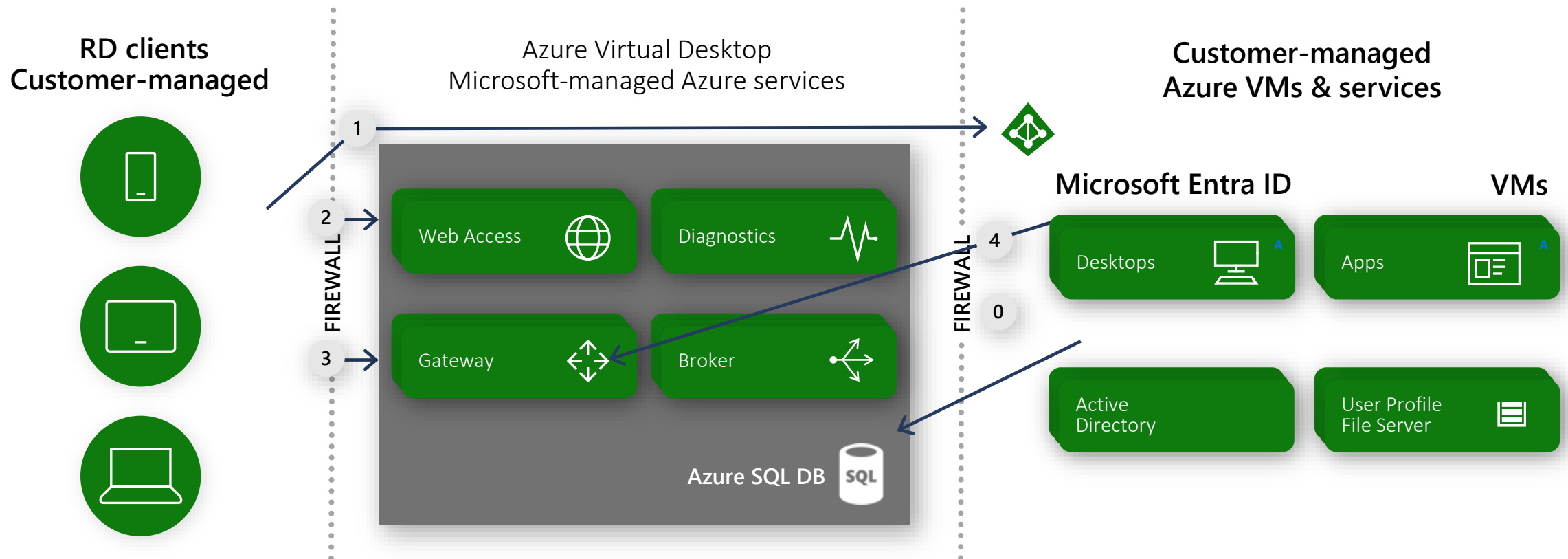
Focus on right policies and controls rather than managing infrastructure



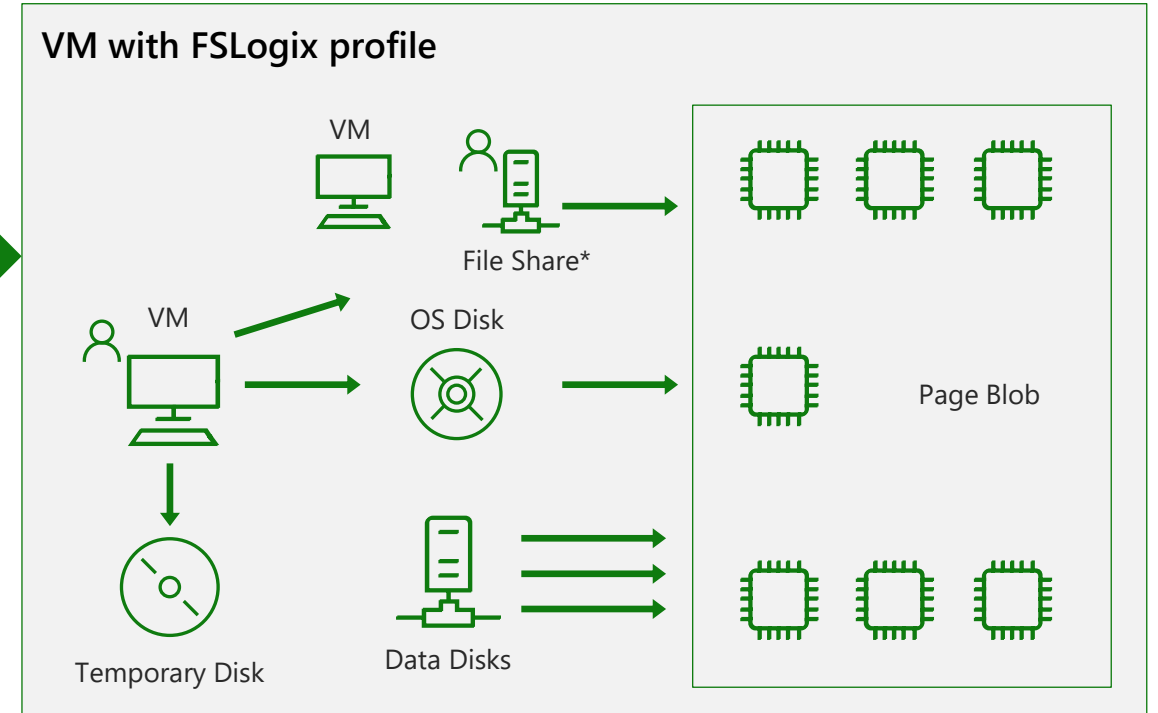
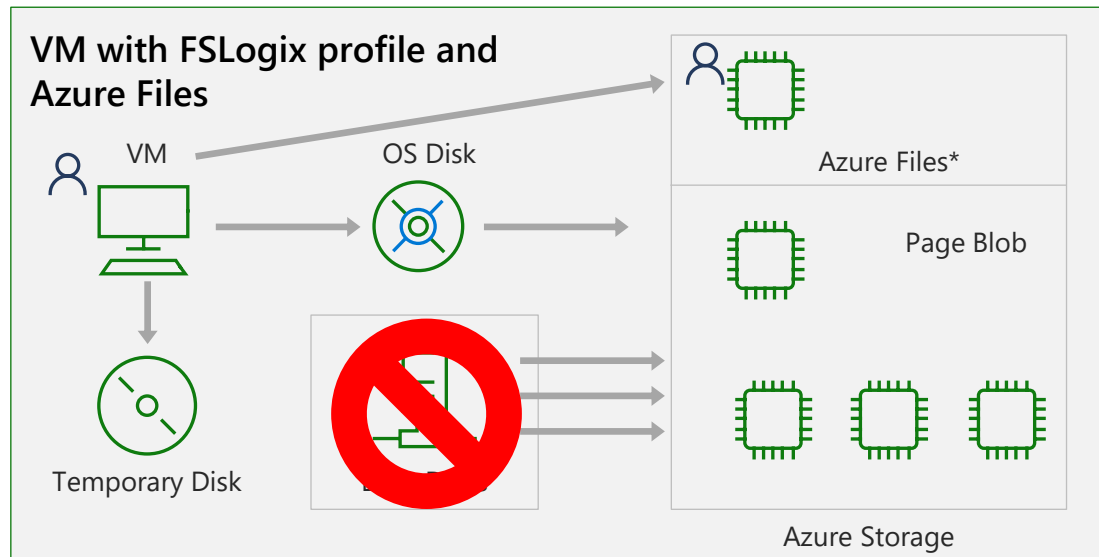
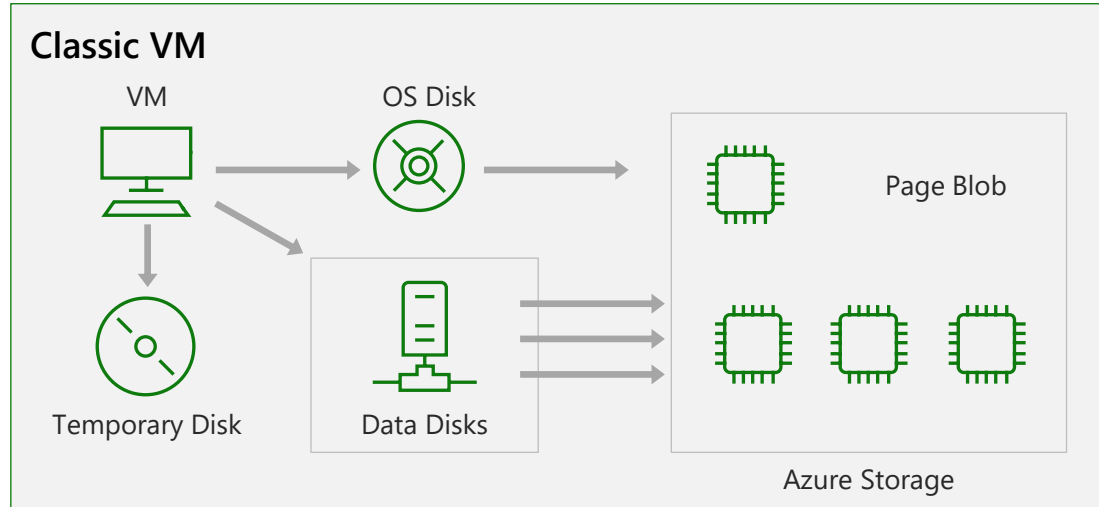
# User Connection Flow

- 0 Agents within the VM interact the Azure Virtual Desktop managed service that it's active
- 1 User launches RD client which connects to Microsoft Entra ID, user signs in, and Microsoft Entra ID returns token
- 2 RD client presents token to Web Access, Broker queries DB to determine resources authorized for user
- 3 User selects resource, RD client connects to Gateway
- 4 Broker orchestrates connection from host agent to Gateway

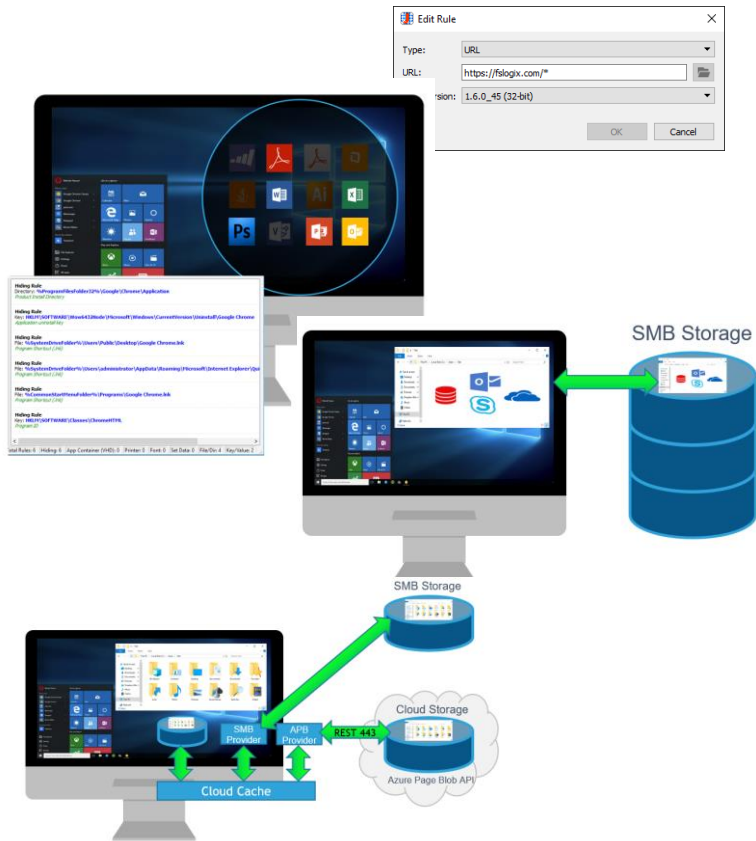
RDP traffic now flows between RD client and session host VM over connections 3 and 4



# Extend your storage options with Azure Virtual Desktop



# FSLogix profiles



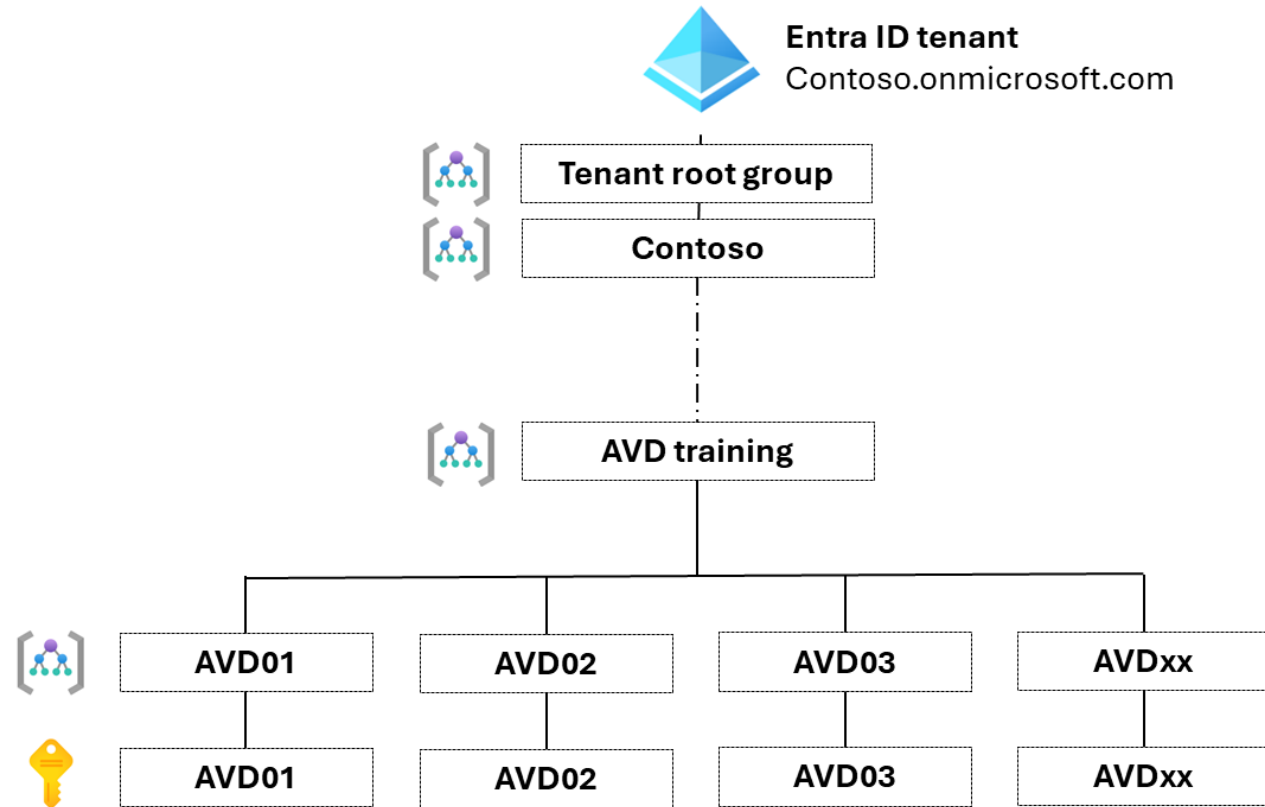
- Profile is stored in VHD/VHD(X)
- Same approach used by User Profile Disk (UPD)
- Mounted at Login – faster login and no target storage requirement
- Size of Profile doesn't impact logon time
- VHD(X) = Block Transfer decreases network utilization
- Caching from Windows Cache Manager
- Profile Container redirects everything from the user profile.
- Filter driver causes profile to appear local – broader application support

4

## Set-up for Hands-On Lab



# Logical architecture - Training tenant



# What do I have to do?

1. Logon to the Azure portal using your own Microsoft account. Switch directories to tenant provided by your distri for this training.
2. Use region **UK South**.
3. Follow the instructions available at:

[aka.ms/avdlab](https://aka.ms/avdlab)

→ NL-AVD for SMB.docx\* ←

Wifi: VDV-TIEL-GUEST-PSK

Password: XMDJrmii



# Roles available

During this training you have 3 roles to your availability:

1. Global reader role
2. User administrator role
3. Owner role on your Management group/subscription



## Extra work

- Create an auto-scaling plan
- Create personal desktops
- Enable VMs auto-start



# Best Practices

# Azure Virtual Desktop Host Location Considerations

Choose the right Azure region/geography for you



**Compliance &  
data residency**



**Service availability**



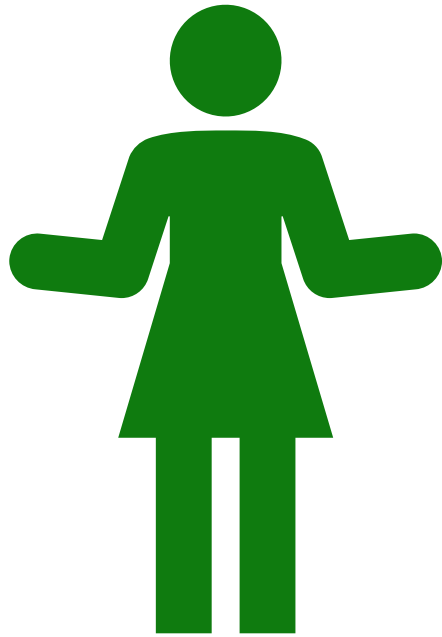
**Pricing**



**User location**

# Cheat sheet ;-)

Difference between scale up and out



**Scale up**



**Scale out**

# Azure Virtual Desktop Host Sizing Recommendations

## Multi-Session Recommendations

The following table lists the maximum suggested number of users per virtual central processing unit (vCPU) and the minimum VM configuration for each workload. These recommendations are based on [Remote Desktop workloads](#)

Workload type	Maximum users per vCPU	vCPU/RAM/OS storage minimum	Example Azure instances	Profile container storage minimum
Light	6	2 vCPUs, 8 GB RAM, 16 GB storage	D2s_v3, F2s_v2	30 GB
Medium	4	4 vCPUs, 16 GB RAM, 32 GB storage	D4s_v3, F4s_v2	30 GB
Heavy	2	4 vCPUs, 16 GB RAM, 32 GB storage	D4s_v3, F4s_v2	30 GB
Power	1	6 vCPUs, 56 GB RAM, 340 GB storage	D4s_v3, F4s_v2, NV6	30 GB

## Single Session / Personal Desktop Recommendations

- Sizing largely dependent on the workload, apps deployed, and user type.
- We recommend at least two physical CPU cores per VM (typically four vCPUs with hyperthreading).
- If you need more specific VM sizing recommendations for single-session scenarios, check with your software vendors specific to your workload.
- VM sizing for single-session VMs will likely align with physical device guidelines.
- Use other tools to get granular level sizing and scaling recommendations.

# Rely on multi-layered security controls across hybrid environments



## Identity & access

Unify identity management and secure identities to implement zero trust



## App and data security

Encrypt data, and protect keys and secrets used by apps



## Network security

Enhance the protection of your virtual networks



## Threat protection

Access cloud-native SIEM and AI-driven security analytics



## Security management

Manage security state of hybrid workloads with a single view

Azure Sentinel

Azure Security Center

Microsoft Entra ID

Azure Key Vault

Azure Firewall & DDoS



# Patch management



Use one host pool as a pilot group before updating all host pools



Update VMs with existing Azure management solutions and all VMs in a host pool



Updates can be staged in a maintenance window to keep systems available after logon

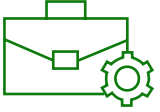


All VMs must be at the same update level after maintenance window is completed



Use SCCM to manage your images

# Master image management



The master image can be managed by already existing processes and technologies, including:

- Azure Update Management
- System Center Configuration Manager
- Third-party



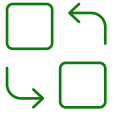
Write your own “best practices” automations to configure a golden image for Azure Virtual Desktop



Application-masking technology helps to minimize the number of golden images and simplify app image management

[Preparing a Master Image](#)

# Profile Management



## Profile Container

- The user profile is placed into a VHD container that is stored in a central location on the network or in the cloud
- This VHD is dynamically attached at user login
- Content appears to be in its native location

### Benefits

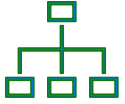
- Extremely fast login times
- Helps to eliminate profile corruption
- Uses native Windows VHD capabilities
- Easy to deploy and manage
- Seamless end-user experience



## Cloud Cache

- Cloud Cache absorbs reads and optimizes writes into cost-effective payloads
- Adds a local cache component
- Applications communicate with the local cache and the cache connects with the remote container
- If the connection to the remote container is interrupted, the apps still work because they're connected to the cache
- If the interruption is short, or data that isn't in the cache is requested during the outage, everything behaves normally
- When the connection comes back online, the system reconnects and re-syncs if necessary

# Host management – things to remember



- Current host management processes will continue
- Admins still need to keep the methodology updated in the cloud
- Still required
  - Master image management
  - OS Patching & updates - Security, Monthly patching, Semi-annual channel OS
  - Application updates

# 5

## Next Steps



# Review Azure Infrastructure Prerequisites to Deploy Azure Virtual Desktop

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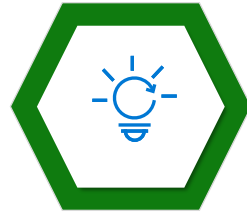
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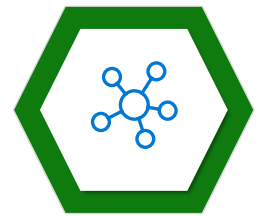
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[AVD documentation on Azure.com](#)  
[Microsoft Cloud Adoption Framework for Azure](#)

Engage with your partner to start your journey to Azure Virtual Desktop

# Begin your journey to Azure Virtual Desktop

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- **Step 1:** Participate in a demo to understand the performance and cost benefits of Azure Virtual Desktop
- **Step 2:** Assess dependencies, readiness, costs, and sizing for your Azure Virtual Desktop solution
- **Step 3:** Test and migrate workloads to Azure Virtual Desktop



# Resources

- Learn more about [Azure Virtual Desktop and remote app streaming](#)
- Assess Azure Virtual Desktop [end user experience quality](#)
- [Get started with Azure Virtual Desktop](#)
- [Azure Virtual Desktop learning path](#)
- [Cloud Adoption Framework](#)
- [Azure Virtual Desktop Partner Community](#)
- [Azure Migration and Modernization Program](#)
- [BIO Compliance](#)

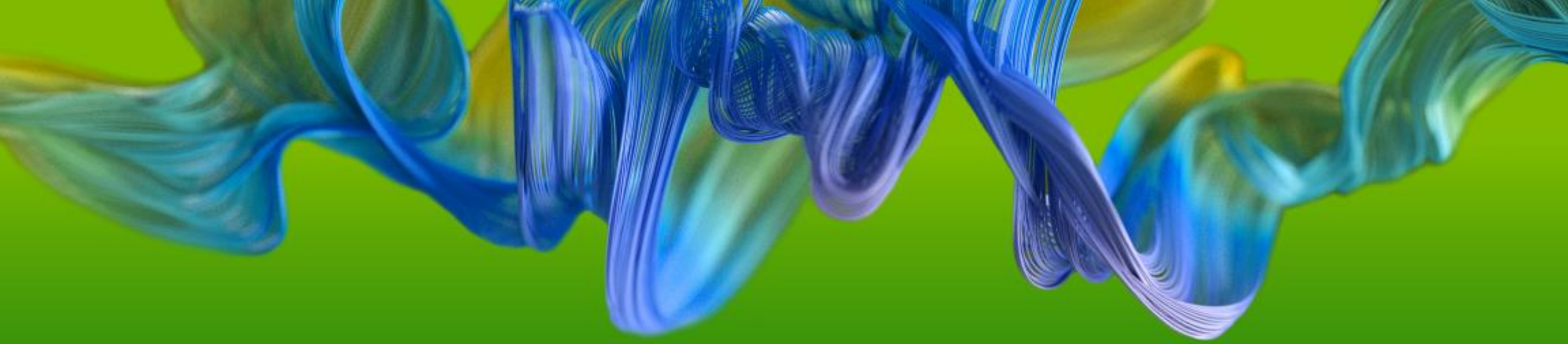


# Azure Bootcamp Evaluation



Thank You

An abstract graphic on the right side of the slide featuring a thick, flowing ribbon in shades of blue and yellow. The ribbon is twisted and looped, creating a sense of movement and depth against a solid green background.



# Appendix

# The right technology for all your needs

<b>Cloud PC – Windows 365</b> Optimized for simplicity	<b>Cloud VDI – Azure Virtual Desktop</b> Optimized for flexibility
Windows 10 or Windows 11 personalized desktop	Windows 10, Windows 11, or Windows Server multi-session desktops
Complete end-to-end Microsoft service	Remote app streaming
One-stop administration in Microsoft Endpoint Manager (Enterprise edition)	Full control over configuration and management
Direct self-service model (Business edition)	Citrix and VMware support
Predictable per user pricing	Flexible consumption-based pricing

# Main advantages of Azure Virtual Desktop

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## Windows 11 Enterprise multi-session:

AVD enables multiple concurrent users to use the same session host, saving cost.

## Pooled host pools:

AVD pooled host pools can accept connections from any user authorized to an app group within the host pool increasing overall utilization and cost savings.

## Choice of VMs:

AVD lets you choose any Azure Windows VM as session hosts with all OS disk sizes available.

## Built-in AAD integration\*:

AVD built-in integration makes it easy to domain-join VMs and onboard existing AD-enabled users without creating new accounts.

## SCCM support:

SCCM can manage AVD VMs (including Windows 11\* multi-session) to automate patching and app updates.

## Intune support:

Intune supports AVD VMs. Intune treats AVD personal VMs the same as Windows 11 Enterprise physical desktops.

## Single service:

AVD is a single service for both virtual desktops and apps.

## Reverse connect:

AVD securely establish users through reverse connections to the service, so you never have to leave any inbound ports open.

## Multi-monitors:

AVD supports up to 16 monitors with up to 8k.

## Windows Server 2019 support:

AVD supports WS 2019

## Local drive redirection:

AVD supports local drive redirection

## Choice of storage solutions:

AVD offers a choice of storage solutions File Server, Azure NetApp Files and Azure Files.

## VMware and Citrix:

AVD gives the choice of using AVD or Citrix or VMware management planes.

## Microsoft Teams Optimizations, Zoom, WebEx:

Microsoft Teams on AVD supports chat and collaboration. With media optimizations, it also supports calling and meeting functionality; the Windows Desktop client handles audio and video locally for Teams calls and meetings. Supported by Zoom and WebEx desktop applications.



# Main advantages of Windows 365 Cloud PC

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## Get started fast

Quickly and effortlessly set up Cloud PCs for your employees or customers

## Quickly onboard temporary employees

Get limited-term team members up and running quickly with secure access to company resources, apps, and computing power

## Work from anywhere

Pick up where you left off with your secure, personalized Windows experience on any device.

## Simplify management

Conveniently access and manage Cloud PCs anytime through [windows365.microsoft.com](https://windows365.microsoft.com)

## Access all your resources

Use popular business apps, custom and line-of-business apps, and all your data and content.

## Streamline IT

Enjoy all the benefits of desktop virtualization without the typical costs or required IT expertise.

## Scale for your needs

Choose from a variety of performance options to suit businesses of any size.

## Support remote and distributed workforces

Work from anywhere with secure access to apps, tools, and company resources

## Bring your own PC

Easily enable employee-owned computers without the risk of unmanaged devices

## Increase productivity

Allow employees to work when and where they choose with Windows in the cloud streamed to any device

## Minimize risk

Reduce security risks by storing and securing information in the cloud, not on devices.

## Manage costs

Stay within budget without compromising your business with fixed per-user pricing.