

AVD Explained

Why is the modern desktop environment so critical?

The world of work and business has changed, with around **40% of employees working away from the office at least once a week** - and desktop environments have to evolve to keep pace. Those that don't will pose increased risks to organisations across:



Compromised security and compliance

UK Cybercrime costs rose by almost 400% in 2023.



Difficulty integrating new platforms

39% of organisations cite integrations as the most important factor when selecting a software provider.



Lack of innovation and functionality

94% of CEOs consider business innovation as a top-three business strategy priority.



Inability to support agile workforces

93% of agile organisations reported better operational performance.

Making **essential change** requires a holistic approach, and a **centralised management strategy** that incorporates everything that today's business operations need:

Remote management tools that ease the process of deploying, configuring and maintaining virtual desktops from a single console.

Automation of routine tasks such as software updates and security patches, keeping virtual desktops constantly secure and up-to-date.

Cloud-based services for on-demand scalability and flexible access controls that maximise adaptability.

Security incident monitoring and response solutions that enable IT teams to quickly identify and address threats and issues.

How to choose the right virtual desktop solution

Virtual desktops have emerged as the best answer to these challenges, but still **only 4 out of 10 organisations use them**. With so many options in a crowded marketplace, how can you find the best solution for your specific business needs? Ideally, you should consider:

01



Employee experience

Where can improvements be made in ease of use, and do employees have access to the resources and applications they need to be productive?

02



Workforce requirements

Is your workforce elastic, distributed, frontline or a combination of all three - and how does it impact their day-to-day desktop requirements and technology needs?

03



Security

Do you need to improve security best practice, through education on phishing attacks and due diligence, and technology like multi-factor authentication, endpoint detection and access controls?

04



Budget implications

Are there efficiencies to be found in your IT budget, in terms of cost as well as availability and utilisation of in-house resource and personnel?

05



Access to expertise

Do you need a wider and stronger skills base in order to fully implement and manage a virtual desktop infrastructure (including leveraging external help if required)?

06



Tech stack integration

How easily will virtual desktop technology integrate into your existing infrastructure, essential applications, and current toolsets without causing disruptions and compatibility issues?

Drive efficiencies with Azure Virtual Desktop

Microsoft Azure enables fully managed virtual desktop infrastructure to be run in the cloud, allowing users to securely access their desktop and applications anywhere, any time, using any device. This is based on a four-layered approach, with every layer configured correctly to ensure it's fit for purpose:

AVD build layer

The operating system built and sent out to every device organisation-wide, compliant with policies and delivering reliable service.

Microsoft 365 layer

Delivering the correct provision of features and benefits to each user and device, in accordance with their role requirements and relevant M365 licensing.

Infrastructure layer

Infrastructure layer: management and control across the OS, patching and policies, ensuring that the infrastructure is consistent in performance, security and compute power.

Foundational layer

The correct settings and policies to build a solid posture for compliance and security, which every AVD-enabled device can be aligned with.

Why AVD?

01

Provides improved infrastructure, user and image management

02

Offers better security features and robust solution monitoring

03

Ensures stronger availability and comprehensive monitoring

04

Enables greater accessibility to the end-user portal

05

Optimises and enhances the overall end-user experience

What is an SCC Pathfinder?

No cost, high impact engagements designed to provide you with a clear vision, resources and information on how to execute your digital innovation strategies. We'll help you to understand your current capability, what direction you need to go in and how to get there to deliver your long-term strategic vision. Pathfinders extend across our cyber, cloud, and digital workplace services, offering strategic advice aligned with your IT roadmap and enable you to realise value in a matter of weeks.

[Learn more](#)

How SCC can help

We will support you on the journey towards your ideal Azure Virtual Desktop infrastructure. As part of our AVD Pathfinder engagement, our highly trained experts will collaborate and consult with you to understand what you need from your virtual desktop solution, and provide you with the information and technical roadmap to reach your target solution. Our Advanced Specialisations for Azure, Modern Work and Security means we can access Microsoft funding to support your objectives.