Microsoft Surface

Open the doors to the hybrid workplace with Microsoft secure remote desktops

Connect people onsite and offsite with flexibility, simplicity, and security using Windows 365 and Microsoft Azure Virtual Desktop on Surface.

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Estimated reading time:

15 minutes

What you will learn:

How Microsoft Surface devices, Windows 365, and Azure Virtual Desktop enable a hybrid workforce with flexibility, simplicity, and security.

01.

New ways of connecting are driving the future of work

In an unprecedented shift, soon millions of people will be working from home or a remote site, not a central office. Or they will work in the office on some days, remotely on others. More than 70 percent of workers want more flexible, remote-work options.[1] This has pushed employers to set up remote connectivity, security, and management capabilities with technology, making IT's role in organizations more important than ever.

Flexibility defines the post-pandemic workplace

Although many organizations are already accustomed remote workers, traditional virtual private network (VPN) and virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) technologies can be complex to manage and difficult to scale. Microsoft helps businesses overcome these challenges with powerful cloud-based services that provide both employees and IT organizations with greater flexibility and resilience in meeting a diverse range of hybrid work needs.

Windows 365 and Microsoft Azure Virtual Desktop both operate on any device to enhance remote work while helping increase productivity and collaboration. **When paired with business-ready Microsoft Surface devices, Windows 365 and Azure Virtual Desktop take hybrid workforce flexibility, simplicity, and security to the next level.**

Cloud-delivered Windows on any device

Windows 365 and Azure Virtual Desktop (formerly Windows Virtual Desktop) provide full-time employees, part-time employees, contractors, and interns with a highly flexible, simple, secure, and familiar Windows operating system interface, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Overview of Windows 365, Azure Virtual Desktop, and Microsoft Surface benefits

	Windows 365	Azure Virtual Desktop	+ Microsoft Surface
One platform to manage	Complete, simple to deploy and manage Microsoft software as a service.	Hosted desktops and apps allow maximum flexibility.	Work the full day with a premium PC experience from Surface. Enhance productivity with integrated Microsoft 365 apps,[2] multitouch high-resolution displays, and many other robust features.
Familiar desktop and apps experience	Provides a consistent Windows 10 or Windows 11 (soon) personalized desktop and apps experience.	Delivers Windows 10, Windows 11 (soon), or Windows Server multisession desktops and apps.	Integrates Microsoft 365 apps like Microsoft Teams, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and more on a variety of form factors, including laptops and 2-in-1s.
Cloud-based IT tools	One-stop administration in Microsoft Endpoint Manager (Enterprise edition). Connect to the full Windows desktop from any device, including iOS and Android smartphones.[3]	Full IT control over configuration and management. Connect to the full Windows desktop from any device, including iOS and Android smartphones.[3]	Includes 4G/Long Term Evolution (LTE) connectivity to enable quick, remote updates.
Secure cloud-based work sessions	No data is saved locally to the device; it all resides in the Microsoft Cloud. Works seamlessly with Azure Active Directory Identity and Microsoft Defender.	Work in a security-enabled, powerful Azure environment; no files or data are downloaded to the local hard drive. Additional security solutions can be added to achieve the desired state of protection.	Surface devices help secure critical business identities with multifactor authentication, and they use industry standards such as Trusted Platform Module (TPM) and Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI).[4]

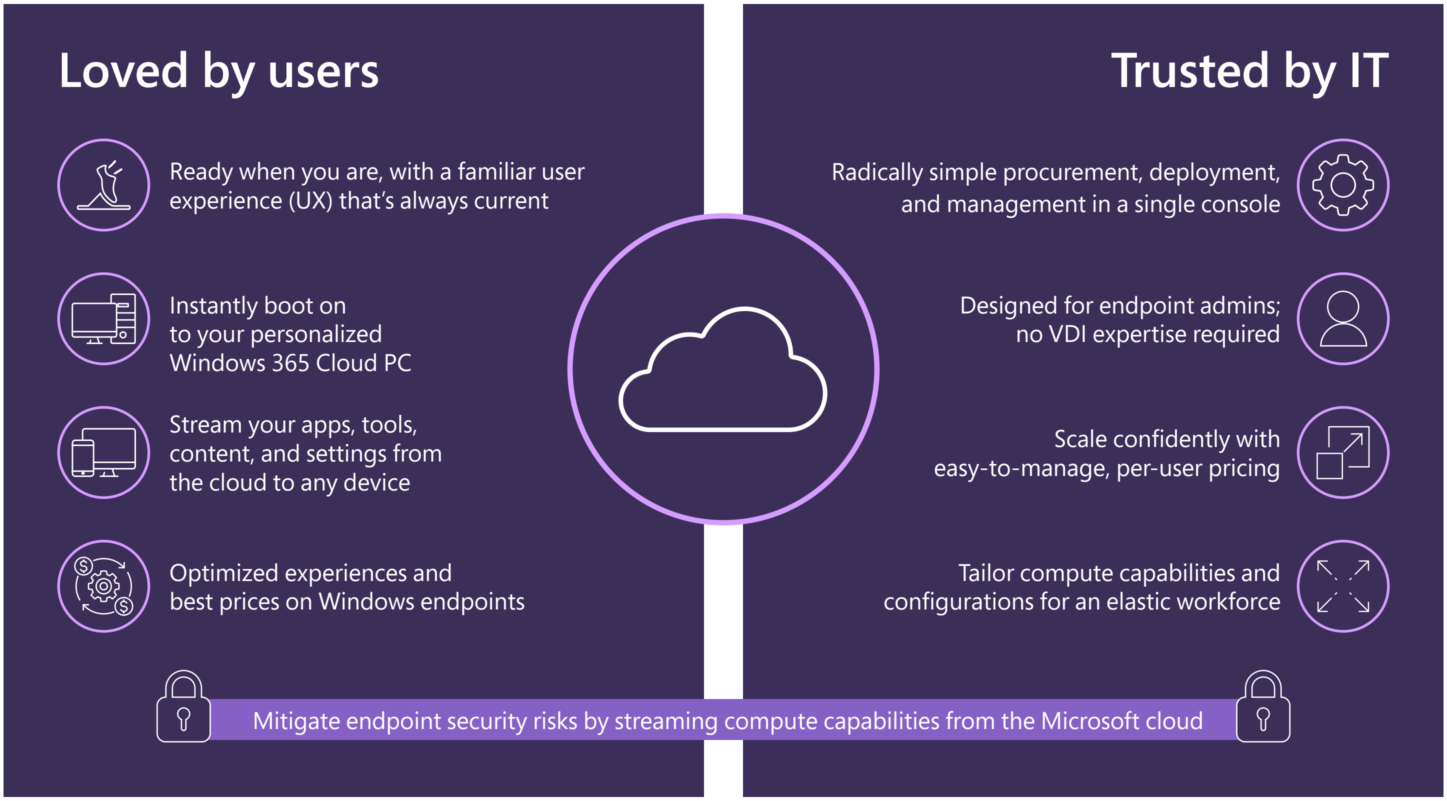
02.

Optimized for simplicity: Windows 365

With the introduction of Windows 365, Microsoft has created a new personal computing category called the "Cloud PC." The concept of a Cloud PC draws on the power of the cloud and the capabilities of the device to provide a powerful, simple, and secure Windows 10 or Windows 11 experience regardless of location or the Surface device being used. Windows 365 enables users to stream all their personalized applications, tools, data, and settings from the cloud across any compatible device,[5] including Surface, Macs, iPads, Linux devices, and Android tablets.

Windows 365 provides an "instant-on boot" experience

Workers using Windows 365 can pick up right where they left off, because the state of the Cloud PC remains the same, even when switching devices. Seasonal workers can also ramp on and off according to the needs of the business, allowing the organization to scale for busy periods without the complicated logistical and security challenges of issuing new hardware. Companies can even be more targeted in how they outfit specialized workers in creative, analytics, engineering, or scientific roles who need greater compute power and access to critical applications.



Loved by users

- Ready when you are, with a familiar user experience (UX) that's always current
- Instantly boot on to your personalized Windows 365 Cloud PC
- Stream your apps, tools, content, and settings from the cloud to any device
- Optimized experiences and best prices on Windows endpoints

Trusted by IT

- Radically simple procurement, deployment, and management in a single console
- Designed for endpoint admins; no VDI expertise required
- Scale confidently with easy-to-manage, per-user pricing
- Tailor compute capabilities and configurations for an elastic workforce

Mitigate endpoint security risks by streaming compute capabilities from the Microsoft cloud

Figure 1. Hybrid Windows for a hybrid world of work

Simplified management

Windows 365 is built to be consistent with how IT admins currently manage devices. Windows 365 Cloud PCs show up right alongside physical devices in Microsoft Endpoint Manager, allowing IT to apply management and security policies to Cloud PCs in much the same way that they manage other devices.[6]

Organizations can scale processing power and monitor the performance of Cloud PCs to make sure users are getting the best experience. Built-in analytics monitor connectivity across networks to make sure your users can access everything they need on the network to stay productive. The Endpoint Analytics dashboard can also make recommendations to improve end-user experiences and allow upgrades at the click of a button.

Cloud security with Zero Trust

Windows 365 is designed to address today's critical security challenges by storing and encrypting information in the cloud, not on the device. All managed disks running Cloud PCs are encrypted, all stored data is encrypted at rest, and all network traffic to and from Cloud PCs is also encrypted. Multifactor authentication (MFA) works to explicitly verify any login or access attempt to a Cloud PC through integration with Microsoft Azure Active Directory (Azure AD). And within Microsoft Endpoint Manager,[6] MFA can be paired with dedicated Windows 365 conditional access policies to assess login risk instantly for each session.

If you use Microsoft Defender for Endpoint to protect your devices, it also works seamlessly with Window 365 Cloud PCs. It not only protects Cloud PCs, but also provides security recommendations to lower risks and helps IT admins quickly discover and investigate any security incidents.

Windows 365 user and admin experiences are designed around the principle of least privileged access, so it's possible to delegate permissions for specific tasks, such as licensing, device management, and Cloud PC management, to various roles across the entire IT team.

03.

Optimized for flexibility: Azure Virtual Desktop

With Azure Virtual Desktop, users get a virtualized Windows experience that can be set up in minutes to enable secure remote work. It's a flexible cloud VDI that delivers multisession Windows 10 or Windows 11 environments, reduces costs with simplified management for every existing eligible Microsoft/Windows license, and provides end-to-end manageability alongside other Azure services within the Azure portal.

Azure Virtual Desktop on Surface eases the way for IT

Azure Virtual Desktop is built to support the need for an evolving set of remote and hybrid work scenarios.
It provides a flexible cloud VDI platform for nearly any use case, accessible from virtually anywhere.

Speed and efficiency

Deploy and scale Windows desktops and apps on Microsoft Azure in minutes. IT administrators can also create a full desktop-virtualization environment in an Azure subscription without having to run any additional gateway servers. Administrators using Citrix or VMware Horizon virtual apps and desktops and VMware Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure can integrate Azure Virtual Desktop into existing desktop- and app-virtualization environments.

Get flexible and customizable device management with Microsoft Intune, which is part of Microsoft Endpoint Manager, for Microsoft Surface and many other modern devices, including those running Windows, Android, iOS, and Mac operating systems. Intune pushes applications, policies, and settings down to the Surface device, eliminating the need to reimage it.

With Windows Autopilot, IT can remotely deploy and configure devices in a zero-touch process right out of the box. Devices registered with Windows Autopilot are identified over the internet at first startup and are automatically enrolled and configured by using modern management solutions such as Azure AD. Azure AD is a critical service used by organizations around the world to manage user access to apps and data and to maintain strong security controls.

Reduced costs

Businesses can save operating expenses using existing eligible licenses and paying only for what they use. With the multisession capability available in the Enterprise edition of Windows 10, which is exclusive to Azure Virtual Desktop, IT staff can also support multiple users on a single virtual machine (VM). That greatly reduces the number of VMs and the amount of operating system overhead while still providing the same resources to end users. And because Windows devices provide both backward and forward compatibility across hardware, software, and services, businesses can count on a long useful life for their IT investments.

Using Microsoft 365 for Enterprise on Surface devices provides an even more productive experience for employees and helps reduce costs, according to a Forrester Consulting study:[7]

- 171-percent return on investment (ROI) within three years
- 14-month payback period within three years
- Reduced application provisioning labor by 3.25 hours per device

Built-in intelligent security

Collaborating on secure endpoint-protection strategies across device types—including desktops, laptops, and tablets—and all phases of the device lifecycle requires advanced security solutions. With Azure Virtual Desktop on Surface, IT can protect company data because employees work in a security-enabled, powerful Azure environment; no files or data are downloaded to the local hard drive. Azure Virtual Desktop VMs connect directly to Azure AD and to VMs from any device with basic credentials.

Surface devices and Azure work seamlessly with Azure Virtual Desktop to help secure critical business identities, data, devices, and connections using industry standards such as TPM for device encryption and UEFI for management of key device components.[4] Other layered security features of Azure Virtual Desktop on Surface devices include the following:

- **Windows Hello** and **Microsoft Passport** help provide secure and easy-to-deploy multifactor credentials.

- **Windows Defender Credential Guard network protection** allows only privileged software access.

- **Azure Advanced Threat Protection** detects attacks that might have made it past all other defenses. Azure has more compliance certifications than any other cloud provider.[8]

- **Windows and Microsoft Enterprise Mobility + Security** help protect organizations from the ever-growing array of online security threats to users, devices, data, and apps.

04.

Achieve more with a simple, secure virtual desktop experience

Windows 365 and Azure Virtual Desktop on Surface combine the power and security of the cloud with the versatility and simplicity of the PC. Both give businesses and other organizations the versatility they need to sustain productivity for a remote workforce, with the ability to react immediately to urgent needs while also driving long-term success.

Empower your employees for the new world of work

Learn how Windows 365 and Azure Virtual Desktop on Microsoft Surface can bring flexibility, simplicity, and security to your organization.

Read more:
Surface for Business

Get started today:
Surface for Business Resellers

[1] Microsoft. “The Next Great Disruption Is Hybrid Work—Are We Ready?” 2021. www.microsoft.com/en-us/worklab/work-trend-index/hybrid-work.

[2] Software license required for some features.

[3] Microsoft. “What is Windows Virtual Desktop?” September 2020. https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-desktop/overview. Windows 365 makes use of Azure Virtual Desktop virtualization technology to enable mobile devices. This article was published prior to the product name change from “Windows Virtual Desktop” to “Windows 365.”

[4] Surface Go and Surface Go 2 use a third-party UEFI and do not support Device Firmware Configuration Interface (DFCI). Find out more about managing Surface UEFI settings.

[5] Most modern devices with an internet connection can provide a satisfactory experience with Windows 365. Devices that support a traditional keyboard and mouse are recommended for an optimal experience. Certain features require specific hardware. Learn more about how to find Windows computer specifications and systems requirements.

[6] Microsoft offers organizations flexible choices for managing Windows 365. For organizations with complex end-user and device requirements, Windows 365 Enterprise uses Microsoft Endpoint Manager. For organizations with less complex user/device circumstances, Microsoft offers Windows 365 Business, which simplifies setup and ongoing administration of Cloud PCs.

[7] Forrester Consulting. “Maximizing Your ROI from Microsoft 365 Enterprise with Microsoft Surface.” Total Economic Impact study commissioned by Microsoft. July 2020. https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/surface/forrester-tei-study.

[8] Microsoft. “Azure Virtual Desktop.” https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/virtual-desktop.

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