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Cloud Brief

Ground Your Workspace Strategy in Cloud-Based Virtual Desktops

This cloud brief explores the reasons for changing traditional desktop computing strategies, why cloud-hosted virtual desktops and applications are a compelling solution for many businesses and the important questions to ask to aid you with your decisions.

Overview

People who worked with data, once had a uniform way of accessing it—on a desktop, in an office, at certain hours of the day, on a single device. Now there's no such thing as a "typical" workday. Today, there's an expectation that workers have the ability to connect to information and business applications anytime, anywhere, on any device – without hiccups or delays. That expectation rests squarely on the shoulders of IT.

While IT organizations have long relied on outfitting employees with static, hardware-based desktops, they now need better options. A legacy approach to desktops doesn't provide the flexibility, speed and security that modern-day businesses need in order to stay competitive. It's time to turn toward the cloud for a better solution. With cloud-based desktops, you can get all the benefits of hardware-based desktops, while stripping away their restrictions.

Hardware-Based Workspaces Are No Match For the Modern Workplace

The way people work is changing across every industry—and tr ditional desktops aren't equipped to meet their new needs and requirements.

THE 7 ROADBLOCKS IT MUST OVERCOME

Hardware-based endpoints are aging. As endpoints age, it's a good time to think about investing in thin clients for simplified management, extending longer hardware refresh cycles and reducing operational and capital expenses.

Disaster recovery is critical. Having a comprehensive contingency plan can help you protect business-critical information and mitigate risk, while also eliminating end-user downtime and providing easy, 24/7 access to workspaces from any device.

Productivity is at risk. Employees are most productive when they can easily access information and use tools that feel familiar—and hardware-dependent desktops don't deliver on either. It benefits the business to remove barriers and frustrations that can slow them down.

Data centers are running out of space. Physical space comes at a premium. Staying on budget often means eliminating or migrating away from data center infrastructure.

Operational overhead at remote and branch offices is high. Hardware-centric systems require IT infrastructure and staff to be on hand for manual intervention and problem-solving and the costs add up fast.

IT infrastructure is becoming more complex. While virtual desktop integration (VDI) can be part of a good on-premises solution, IT is also navigating a complex infrastructure that is difficult to manage and maintain.

Diverse devices demand flexibility. Not only do workers expect the ability to use a broad range of devices and applications, but it's also neither practical, nor beneficial to tie many job functions to a single physical location.

Why Move to Cloud-Hosted Desktops?

Cloud-hosted desktops make it easier to implement a virtual desk top and app solution. They can help improve performance and provide a unified control plane for seamless provisioning and management. They also enable increased agility, allowing you to spin up virtual desktops quickly to meet changing needs. With a cloud-hosted desktop solution, you can support and empower employees by allowing them to do their best work, wherever they are.

WITH VIRTUAL, CLOUD-HOSTED DESKTOPS, YOU CAN:

Give employees the freedom of choice. With cloud-hosted desktops, you can deliver applications to any computing device, including desktop computers, laptops, tablets and smart phones.

Spin up new desktops faster. Save time with the ability to spin up virtual desktops in a matter of hours. Users quickly get access to

What's a Cloud-based Desktop?

Cloud-hosted virtual desktops are an evolved form of remote access, with far greater levels of choice and flexibility. A cloud-based desktop executes desktop images, applications and data on a cloud provider's hosting infrastructure. The image can be managed and maintained by IT or the provider, then projected out to the employees on their corporate-issued and/or personal devices.

desktops and apps when they need them, making users more efficient. This can be particularly valuable for hyper-growth organizations.

Improve performance for remote workers and branch offices. In the cloud, you can improve performance for remote workers by hosting desktops much closer to where your users are based.

Enable automatic OS and app updates. Users don't need to perform local OS and application updates since they're delivered from the cloud. This translates to fewer security risks, compared to relying on end users to apply the latest patches.

Become more agile. A cloud-based workspace allows you to respond much more quickly to changing demands. You can deliver services faster and move users between clouds and managed infrastructure as needed.

Keep track of data more easily. With cloud desktops, data does not reside on the device. Lost, stolen or broken devices are an inconvenience, but users will find their data right where they left it when they sign in from another device.

Use any kind of hardware. IT no longer has to worry about which virtual desktop-related technologies to select, implementing technologies that may become obsolete or being restricted to particular vendor roadmaps.

No Cloud Journey is the Same

Every business is different—and so is every journey to the cloud. To get the most out of cloud-based desktops, you'll need to evaluate your needs, decide on your goals and then map out the best way to get there.

Here are several important questions you can ask to get started:

What's your deployment strategy?
Some organizations want to have their entire deployment in the cloud. Other organizations have on-premises deployments that they want to move into the cloud. And some companies would prefer to keep desktops and applications on-premises, but plan to use the cloud when they need to quickly add capacity.

Where do you want to host your desktops and apps?
Where you want to host your desktops and applications determines which solution you'll need. If you want desktops and apps in the cloud with cloud management, consider a purpose-built cloud solution. If you want to keep desktops and applications on-premises, a solution that integrates familiar tools and leverages the hardware you already have may be a better fit.

Do you have a preferred cloud services provider (CSP)?
If you already have a preferred CSP, check to see which desktop and application virtualization solutions they support and if applicable, confirm their ability to support critical compliance standards.

Are you looking for a DaaS experience, or do you want greater control over your virtual desktops?
Run your solution on-premises like you have in the past, with full control of every layer of the stack. Or, leave hardware and SDDC to your virtualization platform provider and simply control applications from your end. Alternatively, you could subscribe to Desktop as a Service, where every layer is offered as a service.

Conclusion

As the digital perimeter dissolves, it's more important than ever to have an infrastructure that gives employees everything they need while still protecting the business. Evolve IP has empowered organizations across industries to navigate the fundamental changes brought about by digital transformation, allowing them to quickly realize the benefits of cloud-based desktops and better position their IT staff for the future.

Evolve IP's Desktop Services

Evolve IP's Desktop Services make it easy to take advantage of cloud-hosted desktops and applications. Our Desktop Services meet the diverse needs of any organization by providing a unified desktop management solution for physical and virtual desktops alike – enabling IT departments to deliver the most appropriate desktop solution for each end user, while maintaining control through the cloud and improving end-user support.

One of just 10 Gartner-noted DaaS Market Guide providers in the world, Evolve IP delivers associates an "always-on - always there" personal desktop that can be accessed from virtually any internet-enabled device. Evolve IP services DaaS across a multi-host platform, ensuring that workloads can scale and move as issues arise. Evolve IP is one of the only vendors in the country that is able to legally support Microsoft Office 365 licensing in a multi-tenant cloud desktop offering and support is delivered 24/7/365 by US-based certified professionals.

For tools and resources to support your workspace strategy, visit:
https://www.evolveip.net/virtual-desktop