

Virtual Desktop (AVD)– Edge (On-Prem) - Planning & Deployment

Description

A managed virtual desktop and Windows workspace solution deployed on a managed AS HCI cluster. Based on Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI), commonly known as Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD), implemented using the Azure ARC-enabled AVD platform.

Capabilities

Deployment and management of the roles and services required to support VDI infrastructure in a highly available Azure Stack HCI system configuration.

The roles configured are:

- ARC resource bridge.
- VDI workstation images – Windows 10 Multi-session, Windows 11 multi-session, Windows Server 2022 Datacentre.
- Creation of AVD virtual machines on the AS HCI cluster.
- User profile storage.
- Configuration of security and access policies.
- Configuration of Defender for Endpoint on user VMs.
- Implementation of Intune-based management and application deployment on AVD hosts.

User access is permitted via any internal or external source, using a supported device (a device that can connect over the RDP protocol using HTTPS-based connections) or via any web browser with support for HTML-5.

Per-user (dedicated, persistent) and shared session user VMs supported. If users are allotted a dedicated VM, they may install additional applications or software (where they are delegated appropriate rights on the VM).

The capacity and performance of the user's virtual desktop may be increased (or decreased) if required to meet application requirements.

Optional support for physical GPU mapping if suitable hardware is installed within all hosts on a supported managed AS HCI platform.

Limitations

- Windows Desktop multi-session is utilised to provide VDI desktops.
- Backup of VDI VMs and infrastructure is the client responsibility.
- Licensing of the Windows client Operating System (OS) is provided as part of the service. Existing Windows client licensing cannot be used.
- Microsoft 365 is the only supported Microsoft productivity suite within the VDI session (legacy versions of MS Office that use product activation via product codes are not supported).

- Windows 365 is not supported as a base OS (Windows 365 is a public cloud-only service). A Windows desktop-compliant experience is available via the Windows desktop multi-session-based OS.
- Live migration is not supported if GPU mapping is used.
- The base AVD and ARC resource bridge capabilities use resources (CPU, RAM and storage) on the AS HCI platform. The amount of resource consumption will vary depending on the number of VDI users the platform supports. Accounting for resource overheads should occur as part of solution planning.
- No configuration of the applications within the VM is provided.
- Connection via HTML-5 browsers is implemented via a Microsoft-hosted HTML RDP client.
- Configuration and deployment of applications within AVD VMs are not included in the service.