

Azure Virtual Desktop Proof of Concept



Providing a secure remote and flexible virtual desktop solution to evaluate the benefits of Azure Virtual Desktop prior to full scale implementation.

Many organisations are now looking to leverage Azure virtual desktop (AVD) given so much of the workforce is now working remotely. Recently, the way we work is rapidly evolving and we are having to adapt to rapid changes and looking to cut costs where possible. Azure Virtual Desktop is one area that could help to support those ambitions.

A virtual desktop is a full desktop that runs on a remote server. This enables your staff to securely access work applications and data from wherever you are and on any device.

Azure Virtual Desktop is the cloud platform service on Azure from Microsoft for virtualising desktops and applications and is broadly viewed as the evolution of Microsoft Remote Desktop Services (RDS). You can access it from anywhere in the world and just by the nature of the service, it is particularly useful for organisations who need their staff to work remotely, use external consultants, or have a varying need for numbers and types of desktops.

AVD is the only virtual desktop service that offers simplified management, multi-session Windows 10 Client, optimisations for Microsoft 365 Apps for Enterprise and support for Session Hosts migrations from existing RDS environments. If you already have an active M365 license, you may not need a license to use Azure Virtual Desktop services.

An AVD solution gives you an opportunity to leverage your existing M365 licensing and provides the following benefits:

- Support the replacement of the existing RDS solution with an improved Azure Virtual Desktop solution.

- Will complement the existing Microsoft 365 desktop solution by providing alternate capability for specific workstyles E.g., Contractors that need temporary secure access, with no risk of data loss.
- Enables the ability to rapidly scale access to corporate systems while keeping costs low by scaling resources up or down as necessary. Automation is a key factor here along with event-driven auto scaling.
- Provides increased capability for home and flexible working.
- Simple to manage, deploy and configure by managing Azure Virtual Desktop from within the Azure Portal. From here, your IT administrators can deploy and manage virtual desktops and applications, assign users and you also have access to Azure monitor for AVD with diagnostics to start building up analytics in useful insights about the services. All of this is available in a single interface.
- Flexibility- like with all Microsoft Cloud Services, there are no contractual commitments with Azure Virtual Desktop - you are not locked into a 5-year contract or anything. The service itself is also more flexible than other available options because it allows you to choose to give your employees the entire desktop experience or only offer specific virtual apps.

Windows 10 Enterprise multi-session which allows you to drive higher utilisation and lower operational costs by trading many small dedicated VMs for fewer, larger, shared VMs with Windows 10 multi-session. This is only available on Azure Virtual Desktop. If you believe that any of these challenges are applicable to your organisation, then we can help you.

We have seen first-hand the benefits that implementing Azure Virtual Desktop has had for customers and have developed designs and implementation methodologies to best meet public sector business requirements.

Azure Virtual Desktop will enable staff to work in a more flexible manner, efficiently and effectively from home, company sites and remote sites and brings the following capabilities:



Delivers the only **multi-session** Windows 10 experience, supporting both persistent and non-persistent configurations, fully integrated with Azure for identity and access management, security and compliance, general service management and monitoring



Uses FSLogix to containerise user profiles (as a virtual HD that attaches at logon) for fast logon times and includes **optimisations** for M365 apps, providing end users with a seamless client experience.



Migrate Windows Server (RDS) desktops and applications to AVD, and run Windows 7 desktops to support legacy applications post EOL through Windows 7 ESU support



AVD supported hardware can **offload** processing to the device to optimise collaboration services through multimedia redirection capabilities



Deploy and **scale** flexibly, efficiently and on demand in a timely manner

In response to the COVID-19 challenge, Agilisys has developed a proven PoC approach that evaluates the minimum safe viable solution within a matter of weeks.

What can Agilisys do?

Think big but start small - Deployment considerations for AVD migrations.

Our recommended approach would be to start with a Proof of concept and provided this meets all the requirements, then look to move this to Production.

Starting small will allow you to assess progress in a controlled manner and easily identify and remediate any project issues as the service develops to ensure the end users keep having a good user experience. Starting small does not mean that the service will be any less effective as Azure hosted services are easy to manage and scalable as per your requirements.

Conducting early scoping is another critical task because there are a lot of moving parts within Azure that need to be factored in when implementing an AVD service, for example, what is currently in place on your Azure tenant, what line of business applications are causing the most problems for your end users, how is your licensing and subscription currently set, what is the current network performance and latency on the services and what is needed for the AVD service to have connectivity to active directory and other necessary resources (e.g. applications, line of sight to on-prem resources (if applicable such as domain controller, storage and so on). Agilisys will work closely with you to establish a clear criteria for success to avoid scope creep and make sure that the project stays on course.

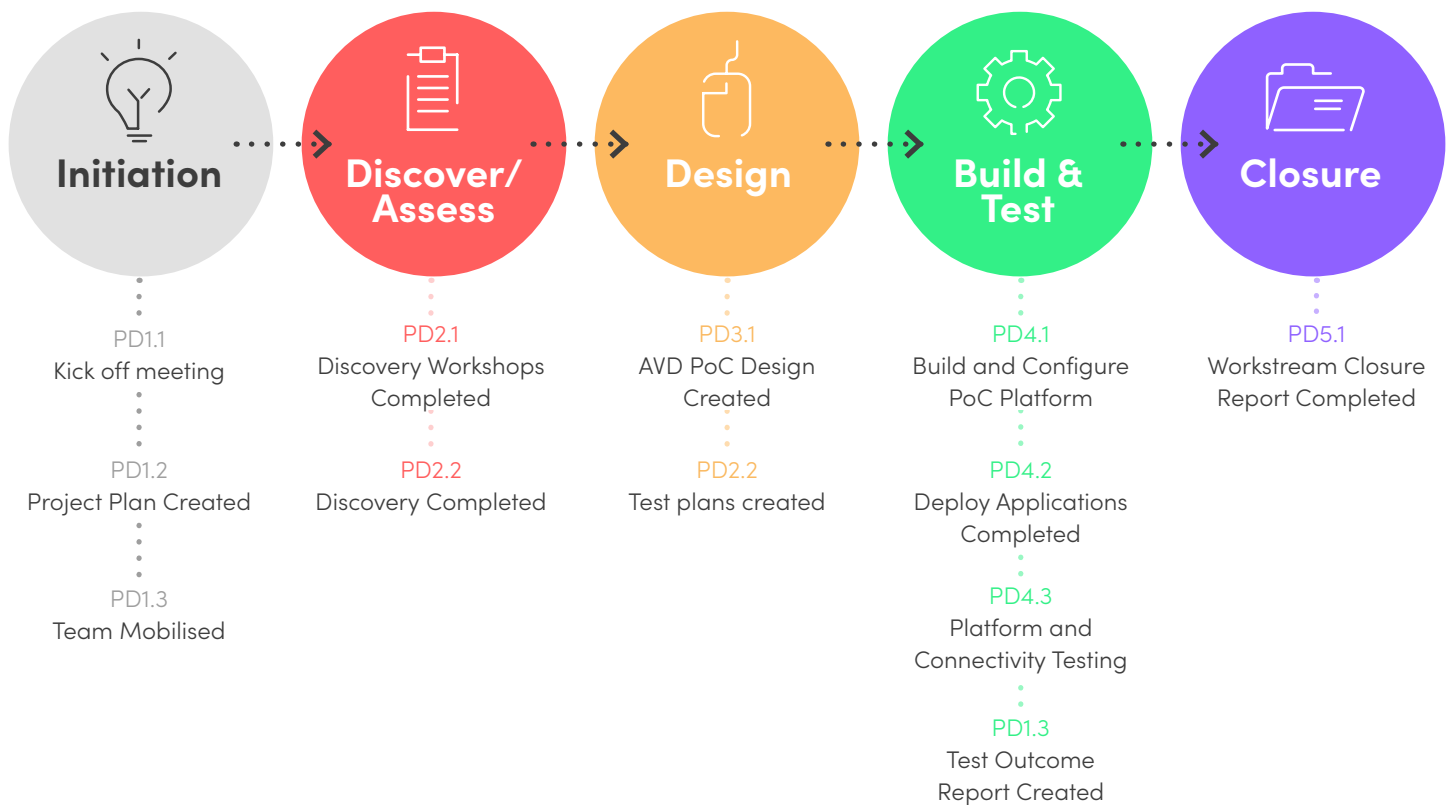
What the Agilisys AVD PoC provides

We provide a service for planning, design, setup, customization and migration to Desktop as a Service technologies, supporting customers to implement Azure Virtual Desktop deployments, allowing end users to remotely access a consistent hosted virtual desktop from anywhere, on any device. Our initial PoC offer covers the deployment of a proof of concept allowing you to evaluate the benefits from an Azure virtual desktop deployment and when favoured, we will proceed to implement a full scale robust and secure deployment.

Our AVD PoC Implementation approach

The Agilisys AVD PoC approach is typically a 6-week engagement, and follows a structured approach that limits effort from your staff, but maximizes the opportunities to provide advice, guidance and ensure alignment between your requirements and our recommendations. We have included

AVD Proof of concept approach



Get in touch

Find out how Azure Virtual Desktop can support your organisations rapidly evolving ways of working and provide your teams with a secure, remote and flexible desktop

Call us on: 02039839441

or email modern.work@agilisys.co.uk

Agilisys are a Microsoft Tier 1 partner with 13 Gold competencies, and are a Microsoft Preferred Content Services provider, one of only 24 partners globally to achieve this status. Additionally, we have advanced specialisations in Adoption and Change Management and Microsoft Azure Virtual Desktop. We were the first UK partner to deliver AVD and are the best partner to help you unlock the value in AVD through our proof of concept service.

