Workspot

Workstation Cloud

GPU-Enabled Workstations on Microsoft Azure

OVERVIEW

The move to cloud computing and virtualized infrastructure is delivering significant business value when implemented properly. However, physical hardware is still the norm when a high-powered workstation is needed. In this paper, we discuss the challenges posed by physical workstations, why the time is right to deliver GPU-accelerated workstations from the cloud, and what to look for to ensure your power users have the performance they need. The ease with which virtual desktops and apps are now being deployed in the public cloud stands in stark contrast to the time and resources required to provision, manage and maintain physical GPU workstations. It's time for that to change. Workspot has completely re-imagined how GPU workstations are deployed and managed. With Workspot's turnkey, cloud-native, virtual workstation service, organizations of all sizes can deploy Windows 10 GPU workstations on Microsoft Azure in hours – anywhere in the world - to stay agile and accommodate new opportunities, improve collaboration, engage the best talent, secure intellectual property and address disaster recovery.

CHALLENGES WITH PHYSICAL WORKSTATIONS

Professionals in industries such as Architecture, Engineering, Construction (AEC), Manufacturing, Automotive, Media & Entertainment (M&E), and Oil & Gas use graphics-intensive applications, including AutoCAD, Revit, CATIA, Petrel, Ansys, SOLIDWORKS, Adobe Premiere and more, for their daily tasks. Designers, architects, engineers, creative artists, and researchers are power users who depend on a highly immersive and responsive environment as they work on 2D/3D simulations, models and graphic designs of buildings, aircraft, automobiles, animated movies and more. But the physical workstations with high powered GPUs used to support these applications pose many challenges for organizations seeking a competitive advantage.

Traditionally, IT procured expensive physical workstations for each user and customized them according to the project requirements, a time consuming and resource-intensive process that has many drawbacks:

Collaboration between users in different locations is difficult and slow

To maintain an efficient and productive working environment, these power-users need to collaborate in real-time on large, shared datasets. In traditional environments, the only way to share large datasets is to upload and download to and from a common data repository, which can take hours and becomes costly as it consumes lots of network bandwidth and delays projects.

Physical workstations are expensive and inhibit collaboration

No support for remote users

Users are tied to their physical workstations since data and applications are stored locally on workstations and the on-prem datacenter. If last minute changes need to be made outside of normal office hours – it's a problem. The inability of users to access applications and data from a job site, a remote office or from home seriously hinders productivity and impacts job satisfaction.

Limits access to engineering talent

To create and maintain a competitive advantage, organizations need access to the best talent, regardless of location. It is impractical, and sometimes impossible, to provide remote users with costly physical workstations.

Inability to scale up and down

Projects have different phases, requiring different resource levels. With physical workstations, having a sufficient number of powerful workstations to handle peak demand means that subsequent project phases are over-provisioned when demand subsides. Moreover, organizations depending on physical workstations lack the agility to respond effectively to more projects in multiple locations.

Reliability, availability and security

Storing high value datasets on multiple physical workstations introduces data security and backup headaches. IT must maintain regular backups of many systems that could be scattered across multiple locations. In the event of a workstation failure, even if the backups are working perfectly, it could take days or even weeks to order, provision and dispatch a replacement . There are also concerns around data security. The files stored on traditional workstations often contain valuable intellectual property. There is a risk of loss or theft as these files can be easily compromised from a physical workstation sitting under someone's desk.

Constant cycle of hardware refresh and obsolete technology

The inevitable continuous hardware refresh cycle is expensive in both time and money. These workstations, which can cost up to $15,000 each, become obsolete with the release of new GPUs and software technology. IT has to buy, configure, manage, and replace these expensive machines at least every 3 years.

A BETTER WAY TO DELIVER GPU WORKSTATIONS: WORKSPOT WORKSTATION CLOUD

The Workspot Workstation Cloud is built from the ground up as a cloud-native, multi-tenant, turnkey GPU workstation service on Microsoft Azure. Powered by NVIDIA's GPU technology, Workspot Workstation Cloud provides high-performance, on-demand, scalable cloud workstations.

Turnkey service simplifies deployment, rollout and ongoing management: The Workspot Workstation Cloud is the industry's only turnkey service for GPU-accelerated workstations on Azure. It's an insanely simple service that eliminates the management overhead of physical workstations, enables real-time collaboration, anywhere-productivity, better security, and superior performance. Power users have access to state-of-the art GPU technology, and IT benefits from eliminating hardware refresh cycles. Your first set of users are typically live in just a few days, and your production environment is usually ready in about 30 days. If you've been involved in VDI implementations in the past, you know what an amazing achievement that is! And once you are up and running, Workspot takes care of day to day operations, including scalability, availability, upgrades, and support.

Built exclusively for deployment on Microsoft Azure: We believe that Microsoft Azure is the best public cloud for Windows workloads, so Workspot Workstation Cloud is tightly integrated with Microsoft Azure. Using a single pane of glass, IT can deploy, manage, and monitor virtual desktops, applications, and workstations in any of the tens of Azure regions worldwide, close to users, to ensure a great performance. Our solution also supports hybrid deployments, in case you need to keep some desktops and apps on-premises.

Figure 1: Workstation Cloud enables collaboration from anywhere.

We're absolutely committed to your success.

Insanely simple, yet enterprise-class: We have designed our solution to be simple. But make no mistake - it is enterprise-ready. The virtual workstations delivered from Workspot Workstation Cloud on Azure will use *your* corporate Windows template, connect to *your* corporate Active Directory, inherit all the GPOs you have already setup, and use all the networking and security tools you have in place. Additionally, you can flexibly scale your deployment up or down to meet project needs dynamically.

Workspot Customer Success Program: Customer success is our highest priority. In addition to our technology innovations, we have completely changed the way customers procure, deploy and manage virtual desktops. Our Customer Success Program includes a variety of deployment services and training, including our unique, Free Go-Live Services Program, complemented by our flat rate subscription pricing.
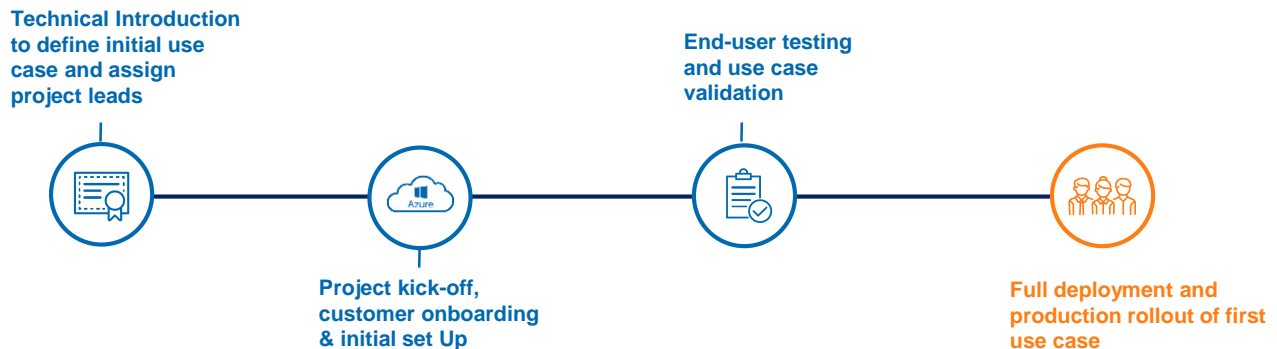
Technical Introduction to define initial use case and assign project leads

End-user testing and use case validation

Project kick-off, customer onboarding & initial set Up

Full deployment and production rollout of first use case

Figure 2: Overview of Workspot Free Go-Live Services Program

Deployment services: Our goal is for you to realize the value of your purchase fast, while also preparing your IT team to manage and scale the solution as needed. Initial deployment can take as little as a day, and it usually involves a subset of users that will ultimately use cloud PCs. Our Customer Success Team will kickoff your project by partnering with your IT team to define the scope of the project, use case(s), project timeline and success criteria. For more details, including how you can take advantage of our **Free Go-Live Services Program**, access the Deployment Services Overview solution brief now.

Flat rate subscription pricing: Our philosophy is to eliminate complexity for our customers. To that end, we provide flat rate, predictable subscription pricing that includes Free Go-Live Services, solution updates, new features, and standard support. With Workspot you get a single bill that *includes the cost of Azure* to run your virtual applications and desktops, freeing you from worrying about variable Azure costs. Now there's no need to waste time parsing complex cloud provider billing statements, only to discover an unpleasant OpEx surprise! Workspot has you covered.

SUMMARY

The only multi-tenant, cloud-native solution in the market, Workspot Workstation Cloud is a turnkey service that deploys Windows 10 GPU workstations on Microsoft Azure to users anywhere in the world. Now organizations of all sizes can provide secure access to GPU-intensive applications and enable real-time collaboration for greater productivity and faster time-to-market. With the ability to provision thousands of workstations in a day on Azure, on-prem, or both and manage them from a single pane of glass, Workspot delivers unprecedented value.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Video: Workspot Introduction

White Paper: VDI Reinvented: The Innovation Behind the Revolutionary VDI Workspot Cloud Service

Blog: GPU-Accelerated DaaS Cloud Workstations on Azure

Demo: Schedule 15-minute demo

For more information contact Workspot at sales@workspot.com.

ABOUT WORKSPOT

Workspot Desktop Cloud, App Cloud, Workstation Cloud and Disaster Recovery Cloud services have completely changed the way virtual desktops, applications and GPU workstations are delivered. With its insanely simple, turnkey, cloud-native service and relentless commitment to customer success, Workspot eliminates VDI complexity and enables customers to achieve unprecedented time-to-value. To inquire about Workspot solutions, visit: www.workspot.com