Cognizant WorkNEXT virtual workspaces powered by Microsoft

Empower your workforce with Cognizant WorkNEXT virtual workspaces powered by Microsoft Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) and Windows 365

In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, organizations need a flexible, secure and scalable virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) to enable seamless remote and hybrid work. Microsoft Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) and Windows 365 offer flexible, high-performance virtual desktops that empower your workforce while ensuring enterprise-grade security and compliance. With the addition of Azure Local, organizations can now extend AVD to hybrid environments, bringing cloud agility to on-premises infrastructure while maintaining performance and compliance requirements.

At Cognizant, we help organizations transform their digital workplace using Microsoft AVD and Windows 365, with a focus on migration, modernization and automation. Our expertise extends to integrating AVD on Azure Local for hybrid deployments and leveraging Nerdio for optimized cost and performance management.

Key challenges faced by organizations

Managing hybrid and remote workforce effectively: With employees working from various locations, ensuring seamless collaboration, accessibility and productivity while maintaining centralized control can be challenging.

Ensuring security and compliance across endpoints: Organizations must safeguard sensitive data against cyber threats and meet regulatory requirements, which becomes more complex with a distributed workforce.

Controlling IT operational costs and complexity: Balancing the cost of maintaining on-premises infrastructure versus cloud solutions while optimizing resource utilization is a crucial challenge for IT teams.

Providing high-performance computing for distributed teams: Employees in different locations require low-latency, high-performance virtual desktops to access enterprise applications without disruptions.

Enabling business continuity and disaster recovery (BCDR): Businesses need robust disaster recovery strategies to ensure uninterrupted operations in the event of cyberattacks, outages, or other disruptions.

How our solution addresses these challenges

Microsoft AVD: Provides single and/or multi-session Windows 11/10 experience with optimized cost, centralized management and built-in security.

Windows 365 Cloud PC: Delivers a persistent cloud-based PC offering a seamless user experience with simplified deployment and management.

Hybrid AVD on Azure Local: Extends your virtual desktop capabilities with on-premises Azure Local, delivering low-latency, high-performance computing with cloud connectivity.
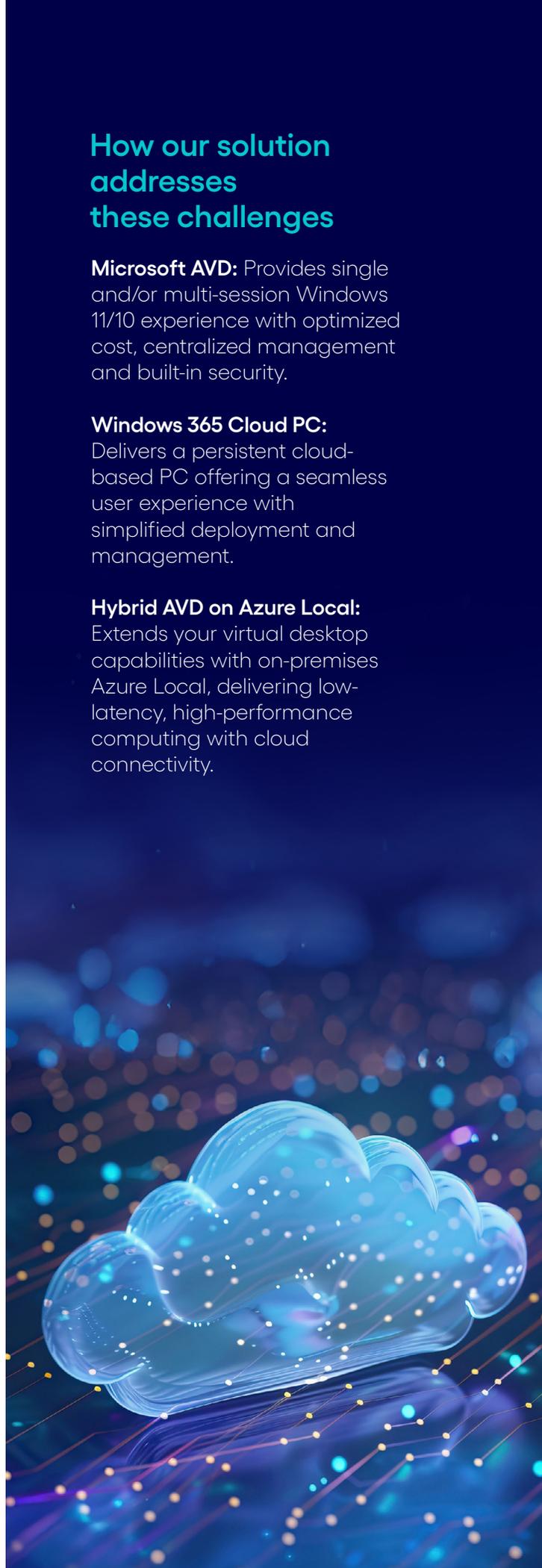
Key benefits of Microsoft AVD and Windows 365

Microsoft AVD and Windows 365 offer numerous advantages to enhance your organization's virtual desktop infrastructure:

- **Secure and scalable**: Leverage built-in security features like multi-factor authentication, conditional access, and encryption.

- **Windows 365 for simplicity and predictability**: Provides persistent cloud PCs with predictable pricing.

- **AVD for flexibility and scalability**: Delivers multi-session Windows 11 desktops with dynamic scalability.

- **Hybrid option with AVD on Azure Local**: Runs virtual desktops on-prem while integrating with Azure cloud.

- **Integrated security and compliance**: Built-in Microsoft security and compliance capabilities for a secure environment.

- **Automation with DevOps and FinOps**: Streamlines provisioning, management and cost optimization.
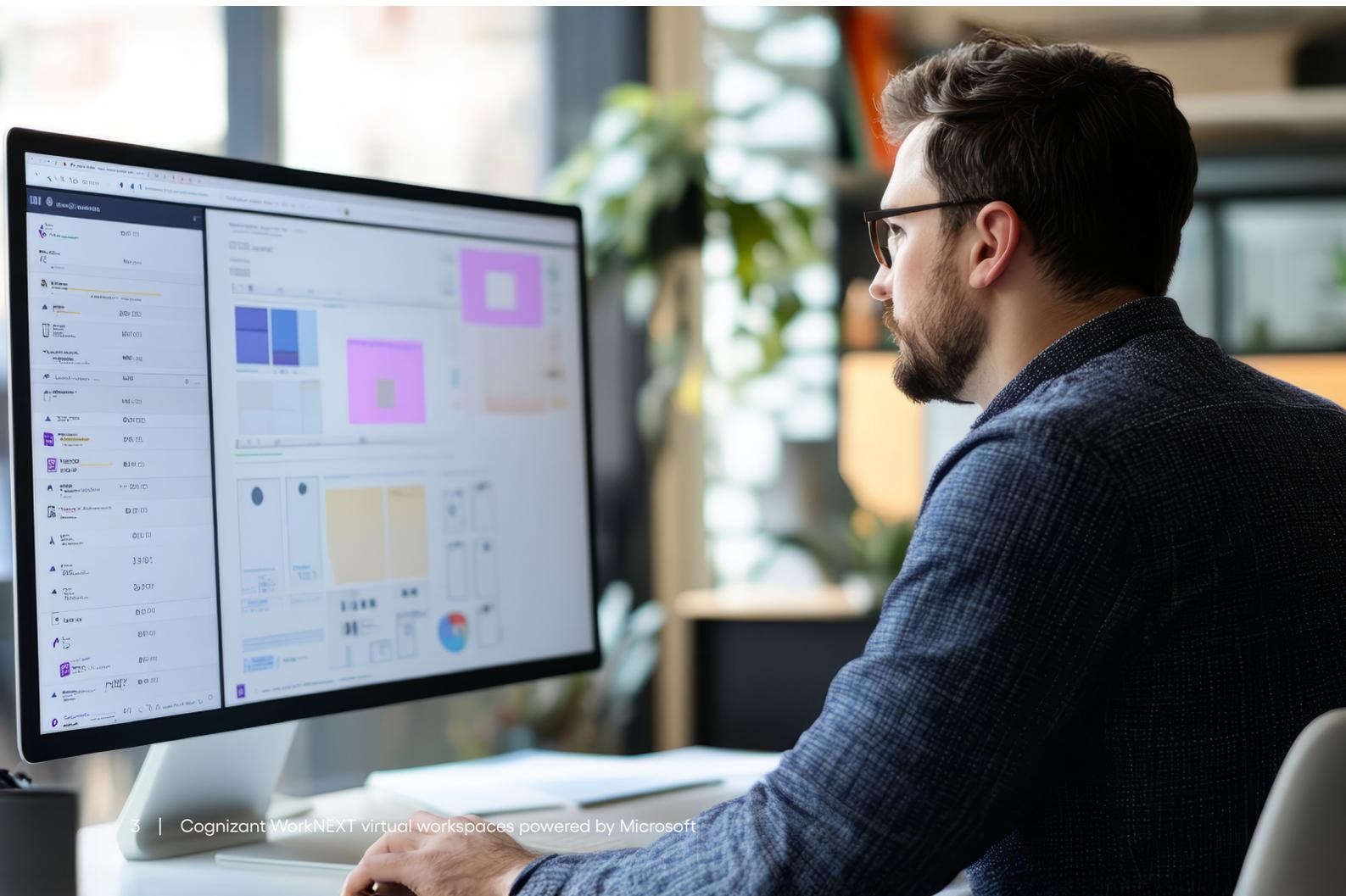
How Cognizant helps

Cognizant brings deep expertise in VDI solutions, helping organizations seamlessly adopt Microsoft AVD and Windows 365 to accelerate their digital workplace transformation. Our Advisory, Consulting and Professional Services are designed to maximize value at every stage of your journey.

Advisory and strategy
- End-to-end consulting for cloud VDI strategy and deployment.
- Health assessments, cost-benefit analysis, and proof-of-concept (PoC) engagements.
- Best practices for governance, monitoring, and ongoing optimization.
- 24x7 managed services and support to ensure high availability and performance.

Migration and modernization
- Seamless transition from legacy VDI to Microsoft AVD and Windows 365.
- Hybrid cloud enablement with Azure Local integration.
- Application and profile migration with minimal disruption.
- Optimization using Nerdio for cost-effective scaling.

Managed services
- Custom architecture design aligned with business needs.
- Intelligent automation with DevOps for provisioning and management.
- FinOps-driven cost governance for optimized cloud spending.
- Security hardening and compliance framework implementation.

Transformation services
- 24/7 monitoring and proactive support
- Performance tuning and cost optimization
- Continuous enhancements with the latest Microsoft innovations

Cognizant's approach to your digital workplace transformation

Cognizant follows a structured approach that will help seamlessly transition to AVD while ensuring that user experience, performance, and cost-efficiency are prioritized.

1

Assessment

Assess existing environment to understand current user landscape

2

Design
Design secure and resilient AVD & Windows 365 on Azure

3

Deployment and configuration
Build and deploy user persona based AVD host pools and Window 11/10 images

4

Migration
Start phased migration to the new AVD environment

5

Ongoing support and optimization
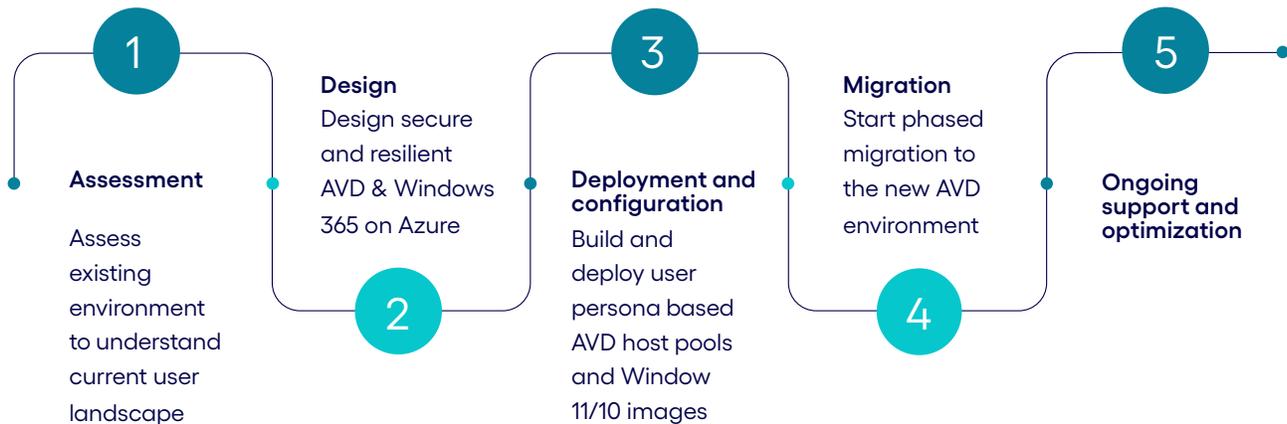
Deployment options

Cognizant understands that changing the complete desktop environment of an enterprise is a big undertaking. To demonstrate the business value of the virtual desktop solution, we offer a proof of concept with free Azure credits to begin with. Once the benefits are evident, we can scale up the engagement to drive long term business impact.

- **Proof of concept:** Rapid solution development in five to six weeks with deployment of up to two business applications for approximately 10 active users to demonstrate business and technical value. This includes free Azure credits for six weeks.

- **Large-scale deployment:** Increase the number of virtual desktops in the proof of concept to deploy a fully-fledged solution within four to six months for a scalable and agile workspace that enhances user experience

How we leverage automation

Using native Azure tools

DevOps integration

- Automated deployment and configuration: Use Infrastructure as Code (IaC) to deploy AVD environments at scale.

- CI/CD for application delivery: Ensure faster and more reliable updates to virtualized applications.

- Monitoring and incident response: Leverage AI-driven automation for proactive issue resolution

FinOps for cost optimization

- Usage and cost analytics: Gain real-time insights into resource consumption and spending patterns.

- Dynamic scaling and cost governance: Optimize resource allocation based on demand and reduce waste.

- Automated cost optimization: Implement policies to right-size virtual desktops and improve cloud spending efficiency

With Nerdio, a third-party PaaS platform on Azure

Nerdio, available on subscription, provides automation and cost optimization to enhance AVD deployments. It offers:s

- Simplified management: Automated deployment, scaling, and monitoring of AVD environments.

- Cost optimization: Intelligent scaling to reduce cloud costs while ensuring performance.

- Policy-based governance: Role-based access controls and policy enforcement for security.

- Multi-tenant management: Streamlined operations for large enterprises.

Why Cognizant

Cognizant is a strategic Microsoft partner and a preferred vendor of the Azure Virtual Desktop solution. With a pool of more than 100 Microsoft trained team of AVD engineers and more than 1,000 Azure certified engineers, Cognizant is uniquely positioned to help clients maximize the benefits of the AVD solution. AVD services include professional consulting, assessment, design and implementation, combined with our industry-proven managed services. Cognizant's AVD solution capabilities encompass application layering, App attach, AVD UX monitoring and a self-service portal for VDI provisioning and application deployment.

Get started today

Transform your workforce with Microsoft AVD and Windows 365!
Contact us to learn how we can help your business thrive in a digital-first world.

![cognizant logo]

Cognizant helps engineer modern businesses by helping to modernize technology, reimagine processes and transform experiences so they can stay ahead in our fast-changing world. To see how Cognizant is improving everyday life, visit them at **www.cognizant.com** or across their socials @cognizant.

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