

EBOOK:

Agile and Secure Desktop Delivery

with Amazon WorkSpaces

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Introduction

More and more businesses are embracing workplace mobility and bring-your-own-device (BYOD) strategies as a method to reduce costs and stimulate productivity. These initiatives give employees, contractors, and business partners the power to remotely contribute, collaborate, and communicate with team members from familiar devices, anywhere around the world. To implement these strategies effectively however, IT teams must provide access to applications, business systems, collaboration platforms, and development environments without sacrificing end-user experiences, hindering their organization's security posture, or inducing excessive costs. What many are finding is that traditional methods of desktop and application delivery and on-premises Virtualized Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) often cannot live up to this task, as they introduce new challenges upon implementation.



Challenges to Delivering Remote Desktop Access

Insufficient Security

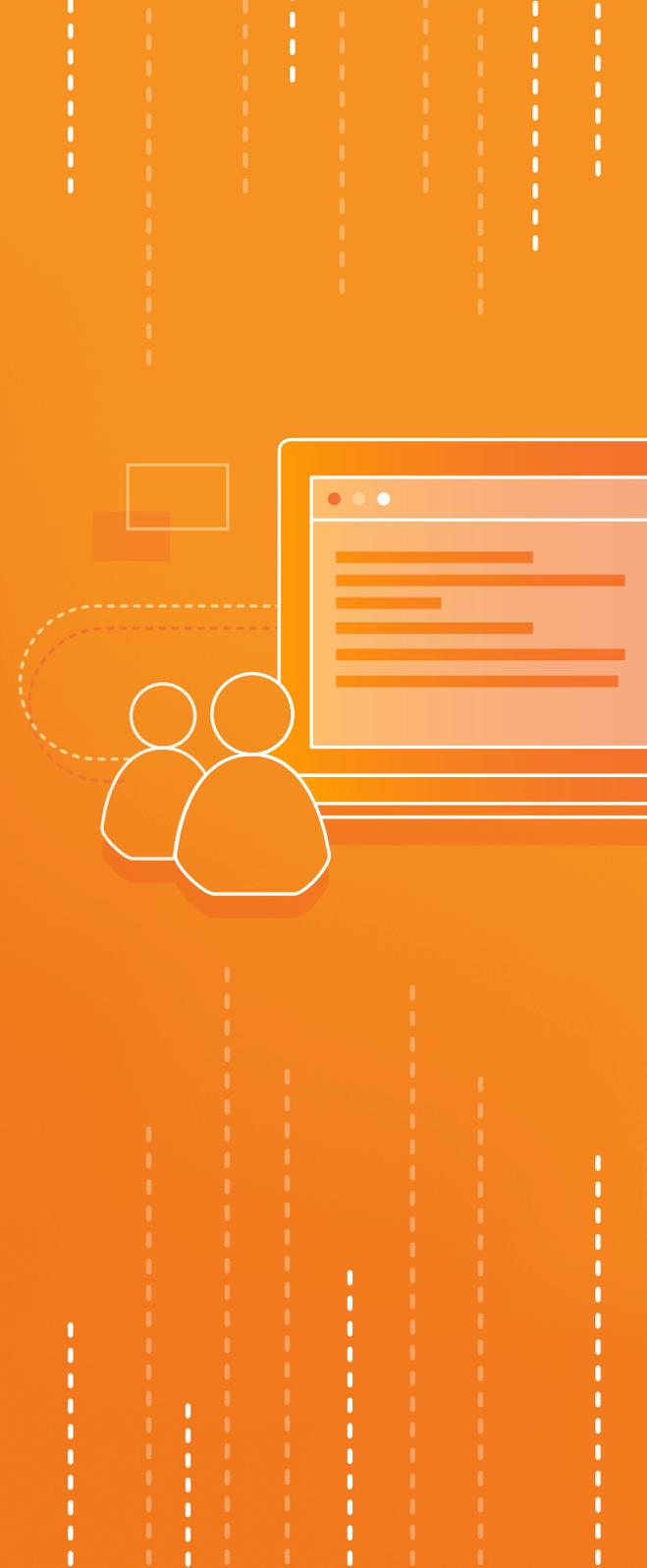
Security and threat detection are key requirements of supporting workplace mobility because personal devices can inadvertently expose your organization to new risks. If corporate data is sent to or stored on personal devices, a lost device or a connection to an insecure network can result in a breach. Further, employees expect quick, seamless access to corporate resources to get their jobs done. If this access is not up to par, they could explore other, non-corporate routes to fulfilling their requests, inadvertently exposing risks. Lastly, traditional desktop and application delivery methods are not agile enough to keep up with continuous security updates and patches, making it difficult to implement fixes as simple as a password reset in a timely manner.

Rising Costs

The rise of cloud computing has empowered many organizations to do more with less physical resources. Yet, this has put IT under pressure to continue implementing cost-efficiencies and reduce total cost of ownership (TCO). Ideally, a BYOD policy would help with this initiative, yet traditional desktop and application delivery solutions negate device savings by requiring more investments in legacy infrastructure. On-premises VDI fails to provide a cost-efficient alternative, by also forcing businesses to undergo hardware refresh cycles, as well as overprovision resources in order to meet peak demand, leading to unutilized capacity. All this leads to more of the same inflexibility that organizations want to avoid by migrating to the cloud.

Complex Management

Because on-premises VDI is a complex infrastructure, businesses require specialized labor to plan, configure, manage, and maintain their environment. In turn, these resources are diverted away from differentiating and innovative ventures. New on-premises VDI implementations are time-consuming, taking months to plan, test, and stage, hindering the agility businesses require. Scaling your existing infrastructure is not easy either, as it is complex to replicate your environment in new regions around the world.



Solution: Amazon WorkSpaces

To overcome these challenges, many businesses are turning to Amazon WorkSpaces – a flexible Desktop-as-a-Service (DaaS) solution. Backed by the Amazon Web Services (AWS) global footprint, Amazon WorkSpaces gives remote employees high-quality access to the resources they need from anywhere, at any time, on any supported device. Since Amazon WorkSpaces is a fully managed solution, your teams can increase productivity by accessing desktops from around the world, without overburdening IT with mundane management tasks. Among others, Amazon WorkSpace provides key advantages over traditional desktop and application delivery services, as well as on-premises VDI, in regard to security, cost-efficiency, and management. These advantages include:

Strengthened Security

With Amazon WorkSpaces, desktops are streamed over the internet, meaning your organization's data is not sent to, or stored on, end-user devices, because the data remains on AWS. You can integrate your existing Active Directory with Amazon WorkSpaces, ensuring active users can continue using their existing credentials to access resources. Additionally, you can determine which client devices can access your Amazon WorkSpaces based on the client device type and the use of your digital certificates. AWS Key Management Service (KMS) can be used to encrypt your Amazon WorkSpaces storage volumes. By using KMS when new deployments are launched, you can ensure that data in transit and at rest, along with snapshots created from the volume, are all encrypted.

Reduced Costs

Amazon WorkSpaces comes with flexible payment options, enabling you to support a multitude of use cases, while paying only for the resources you use. The monthly payment option simplifies your bill and gives full-time employees near instantaneous access to desktops, while the hourly payment options provide quick access for part-time employees. Since Amazon WorkSpaces is entirely cloud-based, you reduce upfront investments and entirely eliminate continual maintenance costs.

Streamlined Management

As a fully managed service, Amazon WorkSpaces frees your IT staff from having to worry about maintenance, patching, and the management of desktop and application delivery environments. As such, your staff can shift a large portion of their focus to more differentiating tasks. Deploying high-quality desktops for any number of users around the world is as easy as a few clicks within the AWS Management Console. You can use Amazon CloudWatch for detailed monitoring of your Amazon WorkSpaces environment. In addition to AWS services, Amazon WorkSpaces can be easily integrated with your on-premises resources, such as Microsoft Active Directory and company intranet, further streamlining management for new users.



Key Use Cases

Amazon WorkSpaces supports a diverse collection of use cases, all of which enable your employees to remain productive without overloading your IT personnel. Three key use cases include:

Mergers and Acquisitions

Streamline the merger and acquisition process with the ability to quickly on-board new users, or off-board in the case of a divestiture, without impacting business goals or worker productivity.

Temporary Workers

Rapidly deliver desktops to temporary workers, such as contractors or developers, on their personal devices wherever they are located – all in just a few clicks. Hourly billing allows you to pay only for the resources they use.

Developers

Give your developers access to the tools they need, without requiring them to spend time downloading, installing, and configuring software. The AWS global footprint provides reliable access to corporate resources around the world.

Getting Started with APN Partners

As you're getting started with Amazon WorkSpaces, you may need help accelerating deployments, streamlining migrations, or setting up an environment in accordance with best practices. The AWS Partner Network (APN) consists of experts that can help you quickly and cost-effectively get started with Amazon WorkSpaces.

Strategic Communications

Strategic Communications is an AWS Advanced Consulting Partner specializing in designing, deploying and optimizing cloud environments. Since 1994, Strategic has worked with hundreds of government, education and enterprise customers in delivering best-of-breed technology solutions. Strategic's technical expertise and access to contract vehicles such as NASPO ValuePoint Cloud, Texas DIR Cloud, NASA SEWP V, NITAAC CIO-CS, GSA IT Schedule 70 and Army ITES-SW2 give public sector customers tremendous flexibility in procuring the latest in AWS cloud products, such as Amazon Workspaces. In addition, Strategic offers immersive technical enablement programs designed to educate IT departments on provisioning and managing AWS services.

Strategic Communications Consulting Offer

Deploy a Proof of Concept environment that includes Amazon WorkSpaces and AppStream 2.0

Leverage the Strategic Communications consulting offer to quickly set up an Amazon WorkSpaces environment that will give your IT team and end-users access to virtual desktops around the world. Through this engagement, Strategic will help you build and deploy a Proof of Concept (PoC) environment that includes AppStream 2.0 and is in accordance with best practices for security and cost.

Learn more by visiting <https://www.yourstrategic.com/contact-us> to speak with one of our representatives!



Conclusion

Amazon WorkSpaces is an agile and secure DaaS solution that helps businesses overcome the challenges of traditional desktop and application delivery, and on-premises VDI solutions. By streaming desktops over the internet, Amazon WorkSpaces makes sure that no data is ever sent to or stored on a personal device, or exposed to external threats. Flexible payment options reduce upfront expenses and eliminate ongoing maintenance costs, helping businesses deliver desktops cost-effectively. Intuitive management capabilities ensure that your IT team can focus on innovation, rather than mundane administrative desktop delivery tasks.

To learn more about Amazon WorkSpaces and DaaS, you can explore the following links:

- [Amazon WorkSpaces](#)
- [Amazon WorkSpaces FAQ](#)
- [Amazon WorkSpaces Quick Setup Guide](#)
- [Enterprise Strategy Group: Desktop-as-a-Service \(DaaS\): Greater Operational Control, Reduced Costs, and Secure Workspaces](#)



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