

AZURE VIRTUAL DESKTOP

Secure Remote Desktop Experience from Virtually Anywhere



Case Study

Azure Virtual Desktop
and Remote Apps

Customer Profile

Financial Technology
Startup

Solutions Industry

Financial Services

Challenge Summary

- Setup required lengthy installation and configuration process for users to access database in cloud
- Performance of app was subject to unreliable connectivity
- Risk for data exfiltration or compromise was significant
- Needed solution to integrate seamlessly, rapidly, and securely with cloud

THE CHALLENGE

A FinTech client provides custom developed tools for their end users to easily access in depth custom financial portfolio data. Since their infrastructure is hosted completely in the Azure Cloud, they were looking for a solution that would integrate seamlessly and could be deployed rapidly to meet their virtual desktop needs.

In order to interact with the financial models for the application, the team required desktop software with access to the production database which is hosted as a managed instance in the Azure Cloud. This required a lengthy installation and configuration process for each app/dev user. Those end-user laptops or desktops required significant resources to run the required commercial software.

Performance of the application was subject to the stability and bandwidth of the connectivity to the end users' laptop or desktop, which could lead to unpredictable results with limited visibility into the metrics of the experience for the team.

Since the application required connectivity to the database with sensitive information, the risk for data exfiltration or data compromise was significantly increased. Furthermore, additional connectivity points needed to be created to allow these external users. This created additional cyber-attack vectors.



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Solution Summary

- Implemented Azure Virtual Desktop
- Enabled secure connectivity to database and file shares
- Setup and testing completed in a matter of hours
- Managing user access and changing host configurations completed in minutes

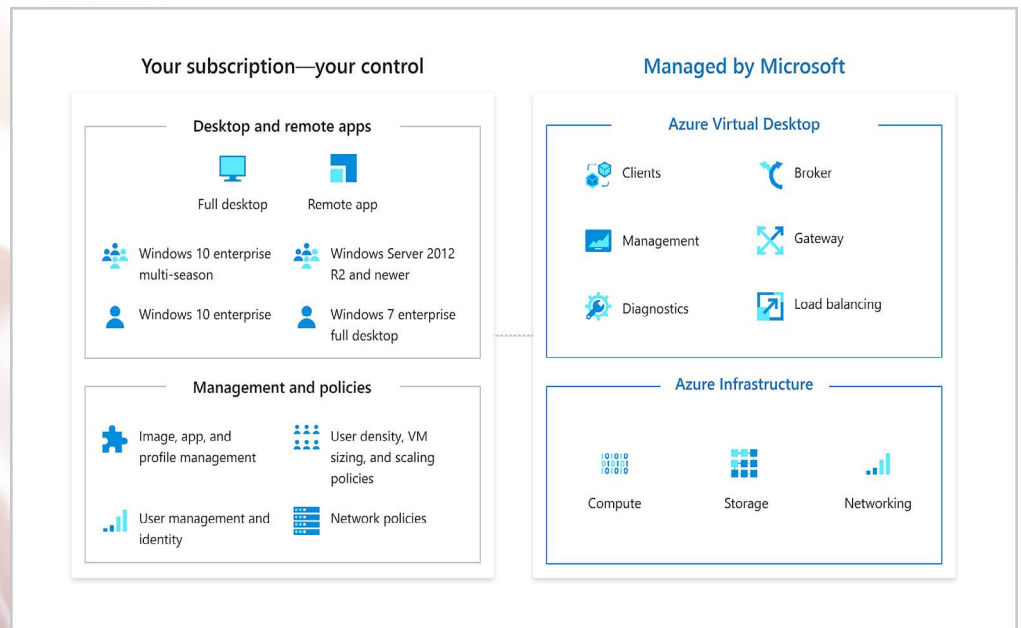
THE SOLUTION

To meet the performance goals and security requirements, OFFSITE implemented Azure Virtual Desktop; a comprehensive virtualization solution that delivers a multi-session Windows 10 experience with scalability, security, and simplicity. This setup enabled secure connectivity to the database and file shares from within the customer's virtual network leveraging Azure's low latency network backbone. By integrating with the customer's azure active directory instance, all the associated log in security and insight was applied to the sessions the Azure Virtual Desktop instances.

Configuration template deployments allowed for setup and testing of the infrastructure in a matter of hours. Once the initial application was setup was completed, multiple users could easily log in and leverage the same configurations in their own session without long and complex setup times.

Remote applications were also leveraged to allow quick and controlled access to specific applications, removing the complexities of client-side installation and management.

Managing user access and changing host configurations was completed in a matter of minutes by using the Azure portal.



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Benefits Summary:

- Centralized Environment
- Rapid and Scripted Deployment
- Scalability and Flexibility
- Secure Remote Access
- Cost Savings
- Streamlined Management and Maintenance

BENEFITS & RESULTS

1) Centralized Environment: Azure Virtual Desktop both the portfolio management and technology teams to access the solution from any location. The firm no longer had to manage external resources connecting into the network, simplifying the production network topology while improving reliability.

2) Rapid and Scripted Deployment: Templated deployments were used to enable the provisioning of the deployment environment in less than a day. The templates also allow for consistent and rapid deployments to additional environments.

3) Scalability and Flexibility: With Azure Virtual Desktop, the customer gained the ability to easily scale their sales environment based on business needs. They could quickly provision virtual desktops and allocate resources to accommodate additional users. By leveraging multi-user sessions, the customer was able to share the power of the underlying session hosts without having to provision expensive hardware for each user. Session hosts were reduced as needed within seconds.

4) Secure Remote Access: Azure Virtual Desktop provided a secure platform for remote access. By leveraging the Azure network backbone, personally identifiable information no longer needs to leave the production tenant. Detailed access and endpoint visibility and control increased the security of the environment and reduced the endpoint attack vectors. The customer implemented robust security measures, such as multi-factor authentication and Azure Active Directory integration, ensuring that only authorized users could access sensitive data and applications.

5) Cost Savings: Azure Virtual Desktop's pay-as-you-go model provided cost savings and eliminated the need for hardware maintenance and upgrades. The ability to quickly scale hosts allowed the customer to match the hardware needs to the usage patterns, reducing the cost of idle resources.

6) Streamlined Management and Maintenance: With Azure Virtual Desktop, the customer simplified their IT management tasks. They could centrally manage and update sales applications and software, reducing the time and effort required for maintenance and troubleshooting.

CONCLUSION

By leveraging Azure Virtual Desktop, the customer transformed their technology and portfolio infrastructure into a scalable and secure, environment. The solution improved efficiency of enabling access to the desktop modeling tools while providing secure remote access, reduced infrastructure costs, and simplified IT management. With Azure Virtual Desktop, the customer gained a competitive edge in bringing their financial technology-based application to market by allowing their team to focus on driving revenue without worrying about technical limitations or security concerns.