

ThinkGrid Hosted Desktop Feature Comparison

Hosted Desktops are beginning to replace the traditional idea that everyone in the office must have a full PC sitting beneath their desks. Of course, in today's world businesses need their employees to have computers to access email, applications and perform all manner of tasks. However, the way in which this can be done is changing. Buying, setting up and maintaining PCs is an expensive exercise, even costlier when adding the associated management time and costs. ThinkGrid removes this headache by providing you with a Hosted Desktop environment, which you can connect to from anywhere with an internet connection - from home, abroad, or in the office. All you need to connect to your Hosted Desktop is an existing PC/laptop or Thin Client and an internet connection - ThinkGrid do the rest. Because we provide you with a full Windows environment, with all the functionality you'd expect, you'd never know you didn't have a PC. Any additional applications can be installed on demand, whilst we backup, manage and support the Hosted Desktops for you, ensuring they're available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Below is a feature comparison of ThinkGrid's Standard and Enterprise Hosted Desktop solution versus Server Based Computing (Citrix), Terminal Services, VMWare VDI and PC Infrastructure.

Features	ThinkGrid Hosted Desktop	Server Based Computing (Citrix)	Microsoft Terminal Services	VMware VDI	Traditional PC Infrastructure
XP or Vista Based Experience	X			X	X
Isolated and Secure Environments	X			X	X
Centralised User Management	X	X		X	
Software on Demand	X				
Rapid Provisioning	X	X		X	
Hardware Infrastructure Required		X	X	X	X
Support and Management					
24x7 Support Included	X				
Anywhere Access	X	X	X	X	
Hosted In-House		X	X	X	X
Hosted in Redundant Tier 1 Data centres	X				
99.99% Service Level Backed	X				
Centralised Data Storage and Archiving	X	X		X	
IT Expertise Required		X	X	X	X
Cost Summary					
Capital Costs Involved		X	X	X	X
Software Costs, Microsoft Licensing		X	X	X	X
Operational Costs	X	X	X	X	X

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Hosted Desktops in a nutshell

1. Accessible anytime, anywhere
2. Available on-demand
3. Safe, Secure, Resilient
4. Hassle-free with No Administration
5. Supported 24/7
6. Less expensive

What about doing it myself with VMware?

Implementing an in-house Virtual or Hosted desktop system can be financially intensive. Desktops are one resource which needs to be available every minute of every day. To have an office unable to work would be a critical and costly problem.

Redundant sites, redundant SAN's, redundant servers and software all would need to be thought about and implemented, and then supported.

ThinkGrid has invested hundreds of thousands on the latest Grid and Virtualisation technologies to deliver not just a compelling service but back it up with a financial SLA.

For non-hosted services such as Terminal Services or VDI, there will be an additional requirement for servers, data centre space, operating systems, storage and software to run the end user environments.

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