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# Maximizing Your Desktop and Application Virtualization Implementation

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# Considerations for Implementing Desktop as a Service

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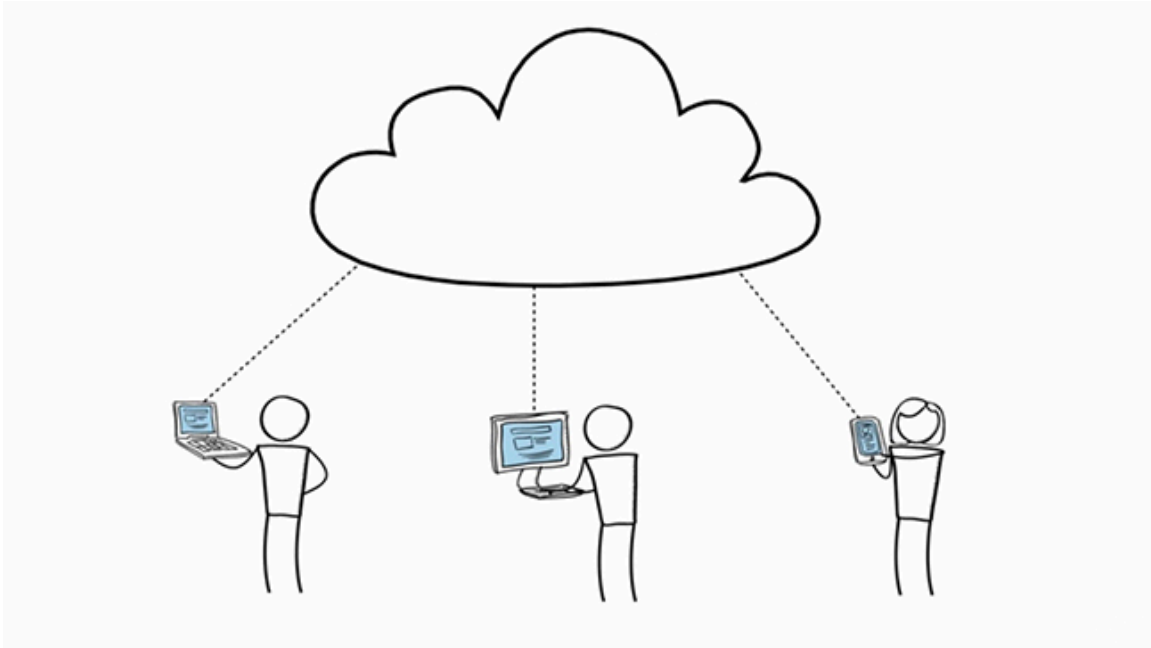
The design, purchase, implementation, administration, troubleshooting, and ongoing refresh of virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) environments requires more time and resources than some companies have to invest. Also, some use cases may be better suited for more dynamic deployment mechanisms. More and more, enterprises are considering and making the move to the latest desktop as a service (DaaS) solutions. To realize the greatest success, enterprises must select DaaS solutions that are:

- Based on proven virtualization technologies
- Provide integrated security and control
- Offload their current VDI administrative overhead while still providing their company greater return on investment (ROI)
- Offer their company greater predictability in costs
- Ensure they can still integrate with their current enterprise infrastructure

## How DaaS Works

DaaS works by intelligently integrating the following components, offering them “as a service” in a hosted-form, and pricing them in an affordable and predictable cost model (see Figure 3.1):

- Server virtualization
- Desktop and application virtualization
- Performance and capacity for VDI
- Secure multi-tenancy
- Self-service
- Hybrid cloud connectivity back to your existing enterprise infrastructure



**Figure 3.1: DaaS in use.**

## Benefits of DaaS

The benefits of using DaaS over running your own VDI are many. DaaS implementation means there is no need for you to design, plan, build, administer, and troubleshoot your own VDI, freeing you time and saving your company money. Instead, you can leverage the proven knowledge of an expert provider. In addition, DaaS frees the time of IT experts to work on IT projects that leverage technology to increase company profits, and provides your company with a predictable monthly cost model for VDI. Also, DaaS setups enable your company to implement the latest and greatest desktop and application virtualization solution available.

## 5 Essential DaaS Requirements

Let's say that you want to run a DaaS proof-of-concept and then, if successful, implement DaaS at your company. What is required to do so? Minimally, you could subscribe a handful of users to employ DaaS as a test; however, at most companies, implementing DaaS will be done on a larger scale by utilizing a hybrid cloud.

In the typical enterprise scenario, the existing enterprise IT infrastructure is connected with a site-to-site VPN or dedicated circuit to the DaaS provider. VDI virtual machine (VM) images are created, applications are installed, applications are linked back to on-premise company applications, and the DaaS infrastructure is connected to the existing directory for authentication. With this design, end users keep their existing devices, use their existing authentication credentials, and run the same applications they have always used.

## Selecting the Right Desktop and Applications Virtualization Option

So how do you know when to use DaaS or implement desktop virtualization in-house, on-premises? If you are planning a new desktop or application virtualization implementation, you should seriously consider DaaS. With a predetermined, predictable monthly cost and no initial capital expenditure, DaaS is a smart move for many companies. The only caveat may be that there is a minimum commitment term for most DaaS implementations that you would want to ensure your company could meet. When looking at the financial side of your desktop or application virtualization implementation, the DaaS OPEX model is very appealing, as the model is usually preferable to many CxOs and executives of your company.

### Summary

The way companies deliver desktops and applications to their end users is changing. Many companies have moved or plan to move to some type of desktop virtualization. At the same time, new DaaS options are maturing and becoming more competitive with on-premises desktop and application virtualization implementations. Keep in mind that this strategy is not an either-or situation. Many companies are looking to implement both on-premise and cloud-hosted strategies to address various use cases. Before your company makes a new capital expenditure for more VDI hardware and software, ensure that you perform due diligence and compare the costs and time commitment of running your own on-premises desktop and application virtualization solution with simply subscribing to DaaS in the cloud.