

# VMware Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure

## Q. What is VMware Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure?

A. With VMware Horizon® Cloud on Microsoft Azure, you deliver virtual desktops and applications from your Microsoft Azure subscription. Horizon Cloud delivers the same feature-rich virtual desktops and applications as VMware Horizon Enterprise, but as part of a Desktop-as-a-Service platform that is installed and maintained by VMware. The service supports a cloud-scale architecture that makes it easy to deliver virtualized Windows desktops and applications to any device, anytime.

Plus, with support for the features of Microsoft Azure Virtual Desktop (formerly called Azure Virtual Desktop), you can get the best of both worlds in one managed service.

## Q. What is Azure Virtual Desktop?

A. Azure Virtual Desktop is a Microsoft offering that includes built-in licensing, special Azure instance pricing, free extended security updates until January 2023 for Windows 7, and the new Windows 10 Enterprise multi-session operating system.

## Q. What does Azure Virtual Desktop have to do with Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure?

A. Microsoft has partnered with VMware to extend the capabilities of Azure Virtual Desktop to Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure. That means VMware customers can take advantage of their Azure Virtual Desktop entitlements while still enjoying the enterprise-class capabilities of Horizon Cloud, such as hybridity, broad client support, advanced power management, and application and user environment management.

## Q. Does Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure support hybrid environments with Azure Virtual Desktop?

A. Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure leverages the Horizon Control Plane, which lets you manage both on-premises and cloud deployments from a single plane of glass. However, the unique features of Azure Virtual Desktop, such as Windows 10 Enterprise multi-session and Windows 7 with extended security updates, are available only when deployed in Azure.

## Q. How do I get Azure Virtual Desktop?

A. Many customers are entitled to Azure Virtual Desktop as part of their Microsoft Enterprise agreement. For more information, visit the [Azure Virtual Desktop Pricing FAQ](#).

## Q. Which features does Horizon Cloud support on Microsoft Azure infrastructure?

A. Horizon Cloud supports the following features on Azure infrastructure.

### Application and desktop delivery

- Ability to deliver virtual applications and Windows 10 desktops on Azure while leveraging cloud resources.
- Dedicated and floating desktops are available with virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI).

### Cloud-based management console

- Intuitive, cloud-based management console to manage remote and virtual desktops, apps and users on Azure from a single pane of glass.
- Built-in monitoring service with logs, notifications and analytics.

### User experience and access

- Identity-based end-user catalog access via VMware Workspace ONE®.
- Secure remote access for end users with integrated VMware Unified Access Gateway.
- Support for VMware Blast Extreme, BEAT protocol, real-time audio and video enhancements (with specific optimizations for Microsoft Teams and Zoom), and more.

**Power management** – Ability to track and manage Azure capacity consumption to keep costs low.

**Customer support** – Enterprise-grade, 24-7 support from VMware for Horizon Cloud.

**Graphics** – Support for graphics-intensive workloads on the Azure GPU-enabled infrastructure.

**Microsoft Azure Government** – Support for U.S. public sector entities requiring isolated infrastructure.

**Health alerts** – Alerts displayed when CPU usage, memory usage and disk latency are above a set threshold value.

**Auto-agent update** – Ability to update agents via the management console.

**Two-factor authentication** – Support for RADIUS-based authentication when accessing desktops and applications over the Internet.

**Help desk** – Intuitive web application designed for support staff and admins to look up user sessions, troubleshoot problems, and perform desktop maintenance operations, such as restarting and resetting desktops.

**VMware NSX® Cloud** – Support for micro-segmentation of virtual desktops deployed on VMware Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure.

Q. In which markets is Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure available?

A. The Horizon Control Plane is deployed in several Microsoft Azure [regions around the world](#). Additional regions are added based on customer demand. Customers can host virtual desktops and applications from any Microsoft Azure region. See [List of Microsoft Azure regions](#) for more information.

Q. Does Horizon Cloud support multitenancy?

A. Yes, Horizon Cloud is a multitenant service.

Q. Which virtual machine types are supported on Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure?

A. You can select from over 200 virtual machine (VM) sizes for both VDI and RDSH use cases, along with the ability to filter VM sizes based on type, series, CPU, memory, and tag when creating a desktop assignment or RDSH farm. For a list of recommended VM types for given workloads, see the [product documentation](#).

Q. Does Horizon Cloud support vGPU-accelerated applications and desktops?

A. Horizon Cloud supports vGPU-accelerated Azure infrastructure to deliver secure, immersive 3D graphics to virtual desktops and applications.

Q. Which devices and endpoints can I use to access my desktops?

A. With Horizon Cloud, you can use any device anywhere to access your desktop and applications, such as thin clients, zero clients, PCs, Macs, iOS and Android devices, Google Chromebooks, and even a simple web browser.

Q. Which display protocol does Horizon Cloud use?

A. Horizon Cloud supports VMware Blast Extreme and Teradici PCoIP protocols for a premium end-user experience. In addition, with Horizon clients, you get a great end-user experience across networks and devices with support for unified communications, USB devices, 3D, multimedia and gesture support.

Q. What is the difference between Blast Extreme and PCoIP?

A. Blast Extreme is a display technology built on the H.264 protocol. It offers an additional means to remote virtual desktops and apps to a user's client device. Horizon Cloud continues to support devices that leverage PCoIP. Customers can choose the display technology that best fits their use cases.

Q. Does Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure support micro-segmentation of virtual desktops using VMware NSX?

A. Yes. NSX Cloud delivers micro-segmentation security for applications running natively in public clouds. The NSX Cloud micro-segmentation policy can control traffic between desktops within Azure VNET as well as traffic destined to on-premises applications in a hybrid deployment. Watch the [demo](#).

Q. Does VMware offer managed infrastructure on Microsoft Azure or do customers attach their own Azure infrastructure to the Horizon Cloud Control Plane?

A. Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure runs natively in your Azure subscription. A managed infrastructure platform called [Azure VMware Solution](#) is available if you want to run VMware vSphere® workloads in Azure. Microsoft operates this service in partnership with VMware, which is available through the Azure Marketplace. However, this environment does not run Horizon Cloud. Instead, it runs the same vSphere version of Horizon that runs on-premises. While Horizon on Azure VMware Solution has unique capabilities compared to Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure, like Linux VM support and lift and shift migrations, it does not support the features of Azure Virtual Desktop.

For more information, see the [Azure VMware Solution product page](#).

Q. Does Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure support VMware Workspace ONE Access?

A. Yes. Horizon Cloud includes Workspace ONE Access (formerly known as VMware Identity Manager). With Workspace ONE Access, you can set up single sign-on (SSO) for Horizon Cloud apps and desktops, ensure security with multifactor authentication (including VMware Workspace ONE Verify, a multifactor authentication solution powered by a third-party service provider), and control conditional access.

Q. How do I buy Horizon Cloud?

A. Horizon Cloud is included with any Horizon subscription license. You can purchase these directly from VMware or your preferred reseller. Contact VMware Sales to learn more.

Q. How can customers that are interested in using Horizon Cloud purchase Microsoft Azure hosting?

A. You can purchase Azure capacity from Microsoft resellers.

Q. Can I buy Horizon Cloud and Microsoft Azure services together?

A. You can purchase both Microsoft Azure and Horizon Cloud through Microsoft and VMware resellers.