VMware Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure
Extending Microsoft Azure Virtual Desktop

Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure gives organizations the ability to connect their own instance of Azure to the simple, intuitive Horizon Cloud control plane, creating a secure, comprehensive, cloud-hosted solution for delivering virtualized Windows applications and desktops. VMware has partnered with Microsoft to extend the functionality of Azure Virtual Desktop to customers using Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure.

Organizations extending Azure Virtual Desktop to Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure receive all the benefits of Azure Desktop, such as Windows 10 Enterprise multi-session and FSLogix capabilities. In addition, organizations benefit from all the following the modern, enterprise-class features of Horizon Cloud.

Broad Endpoint Support with Enhanced Remote Experience
Horizon Cloud supports a large and diverse array of client platforms and endpoints, allowing users to access their desktops and applications from any common desktop or mobile OS, thin client, or web browser. Users can expect a feature-rich experience, with support for USB, camera, printer, and smart card redirection on most platforms, as well as support for real-time audio and video platforms like Microsoft Teams, Skype, Zoom, and Cisco Jabber.

Additionally, Horizon Cloud provides the PCoIP and Blast Extreme protocols, which support Network Intelligent Transport. This feature uses both TCP and UDP to adapt and optimize the end-user experience based on network conditions, ensuring consistent performance regardless of geographic location or application workload, including for 3D applications.

Horizon Universal Broker with Cloud-Optimized Architecture
VMware Horizon Cloud for Microsoft Azure leverages a common control plane that includes a broker that automatically routes end users to the most appropriate virtual workspace based on predetermined criteria set by the IT department (for example, location or endpoint type). The cloud-optimized architecture places the gateway close to the workloads—rather than in the same location as the broker—so users have the shortest possible connection from their endpoint to the desktop, enabling a better user experience. This broker works with on-premises and cloud environments, creating a hybrid environment where users have a single interface from which to access workloads that are strategically located based on business needs.

With enterprise-class management in the form of the Horizon Cloud control plane, administrators can accomplish most tasks—including user and image management, environment health checks, end-user performance monitoring, and user support—for resources in any location from a single pane of glass. Administrators can take advantage of Horizon Cloud features that facilitate intelligent power management, advanced load balancing, and automatic workload scaling.
Best of all, since VMware Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure is integrated into the Azure Marketplace, customers that are entitled to Azure Virtual Desktop will automatically see their entitlements appear in the Horizon Cloud control plane.

Flexible Desktop Options and Configurations
The Horizon Cloud control plane allows customers to manage desktop deployments in any location, on premises or in Azure, from a single pane of glass. Support for floating (also known as non-persistent), dedicated (also known as personal or persistent), and pooled desktops in both platforms, combined with the flexibility of VM types in Azure and broad operating system support (including Windows 10 Enterprise multi-session), empowers customers with the ability to deploy virtual desktops and applications in the ways that make the most sense for their use case.

User Environment Management
The inclusion of FSLogix in Microsoft Azure Virtual Desktop solves many problems related to profile management. VMware Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure works with the FSLogix features, either building on top of them or providing customers with alternatives. For example, VMware Dynamic Environment Manager™ (formerly User Environment Manager) can be used to add user environment management features to FSLogix Profile or Office 365 Container.

Hybrid Environments
Organizations making a move to the cloud rarely do it in one step, so it’s important to note that VMware Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure gives customers the ability to deploy, manage, maintain, and monitor desktops running in multiple locations, including on premises. Combined with global intelligent brokering, enhanced end-user experience, and broad endpoint support, this flexibility means that VMware can support your cloud journey at every step along the way—be it a hybrid environment, disaster recovery, cloud bursting, or any other use case.