

The University of Nottingham & CoreAzure: Windows Virtual Desktop

Background

With Covid-19 lockdown in place, the University of Nottingham (UoN) were searching for a solution to ensure that their undergraduate and post-graduate students could continue to access specialist applications whilst studying from home. Microsoft's Windows Virtual Desktop (WVD) enables a secure and seamless remote working experience for students and keep applications and data secure with capabilities that can proactively detect threats.

The Challenge

With the UK and many countries around the world in lockdown, UoN were looking for a solution to enable staff and students to continue to work and feel supported whilst working remotely and securely from home and to limit the disruption to teaching and learning services. The solution had to:

- Replicate the staff and student's on-campus desktop experience.
- Provide effective access to complex and resource hungry applications.
- Deal with the inequalities of different device and access types and IT literacy.



The Benefits

WVD has many benefits when compared to other remote desktop platforms;



Like all Azure-based services, you only pay for what you use



The built-in security features provide a platform that users can trust.



Management overheads are minimised because the management plane is PaaS-based

Why CoreAzure ?

CoreAzure are delivering remote access solutions to students, staff and researchers using the new Microsoft Windows Virtual Desktop.

We are the UK's leading cloud service provider in Higher Education specialising in the modernisation of infrastructure services by exploiting the potential of

the Microsoft cloud platform. We are currently working with a range of UK universities in helping them to evaluate and exploit the potential of the new Windows Virtual Desktop remote access solution.

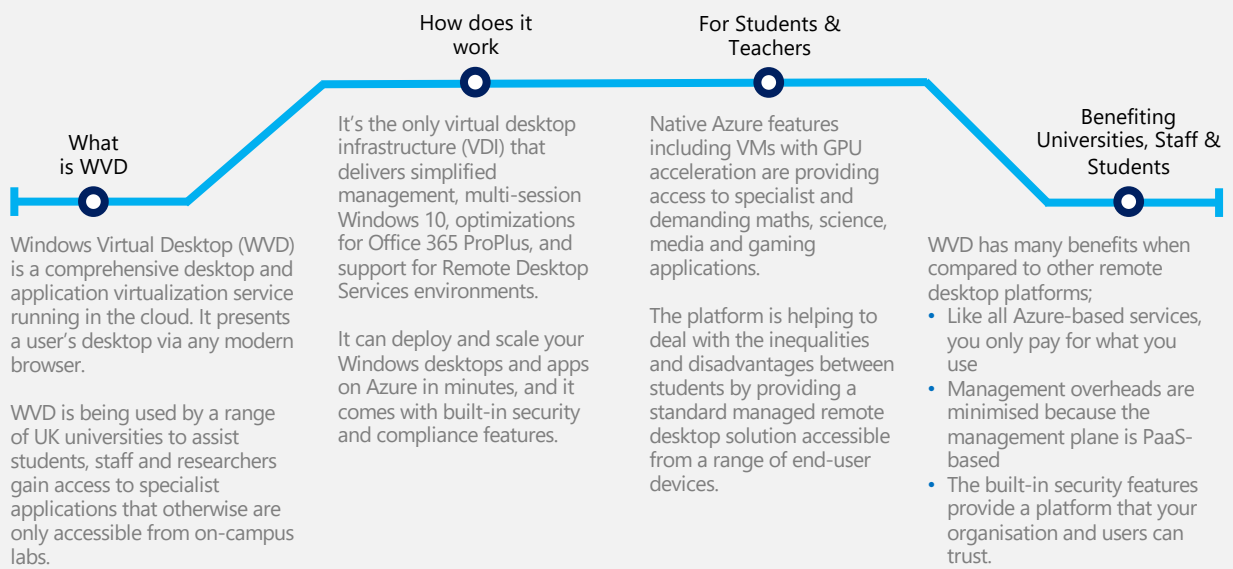
CoreAzure is working with a group of universities and Microsoft to develop a common proposition that would streamline and simplify the Windows Virtual Desktop deployment and rollout.

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The Solution

The solution for the University of Nottingham focused on:

- Design assurance to provide confidence that WVD is secure, reliable and able to scale as adoption ramps and reliance increases
- The review and validation of the UoN roadmap to assure the approach, to validate investment choices and facilitate delivery prioritization
- Assisting UoN in the definition and creation of a service wrapper (outline Managed Service specification)




"We are using Microsoft's WVD to allow students and staff to remotely access the applications they need during the lockdown period. After logging into the WVD platform from their own devices they are presented with the same desktop experience they encounter when accessing on-premise communal PC's within the university. The solution also mitigates potential inequality and disadvantage between students as a consequence of the technology they have available to them, providing a standard managed offering. This ensures the University provides access to all the required tools, when used in conjunction with online teaching and learning techniques, to enable the University to continue to effectively provide teaching and learning services during this challenging period."


Simon Swinburne, Enterprise Architect (Platforms & Technologies, Research, IS)

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