

Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) / DaaS Comparison

Category	Citrix Desktop	Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD)	AWS WorkSpaces	Fortified360
Architecture	Traditional VM-based VDI	Full Windows VM-based desktops	Full Windows/ Linux VM-based desktops	Streaming workspaces
Desktop Persistence	✗ Persistent / Non-persistent	✗ Persistent & pooled	✗ Persistent only	✓ Ephemeral or persistent (policy-driven)
Security Model	✗ Perimeter + endpoint-dependent	✗ Perimeter + endpoint-dependent	✗ Perimeter + endpoint-dependent	✓ Zero-Trust by design; endpoint isolated
Attack Surface	✗ High (full OS + endpoint)	✗ High (full OS + endpoint)	✗ High (full OS + endpoint)	✓ Minimal – no local OS, no data on device
Ransomware Resilience	⚠ Moderate (requires backups, EDR)	⚠ Moderate (requires backups, EDR)	⚠ Moderate (requires backups, EDR)	✓ Very high – sessions reset, apps immutable
Immutable Applications	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No	✓ Yes – apps cannot be altered
Ephemeral Sessions	✗ No	⚠ Limited	✗ No	✓ Yes – attackers are ejected at logout
BYOD Support	✗ Poor	⚠ Limited	⚠ Limited	✓ Native – secure access from any device
Endpoint Software Required	✗ Yes (Citrix Workspace, security stack)	✗ Yes (RDP client + security stack)	✗ Yes (WorkSpaces client)	✓ No agent – 100% browser-based access
Patch & OS Management	✗ High (gold images, patch cycles)	✗ High (VMs, images, FSLogix)	✗ High (VMs, images)	✓ None – platform-managed containers
Endpoint Security Tools Needed	✗ EDR, MDM, VPN, DLP	✗ EDR, MDM, VPN, DLP	✗ EDR, MDM, VPN, DLP	✓ None required on endpoint

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MSP Implementation Effort	✗ High – complex design & tuning	✗ High – Azure expertise required	✗ Medium–High – AWS infra knowledge	✓ Low – deploy, assign users, go live
Ongoing MSP Management Effort	✗ High	✗ High	⚠ Medium	✓ Low
Scalability	⚠ Scales but infra-heavy	⚠ Scales but cost-variable	⚠ Scales but VM-bound	✓ Instant, elastic scaling
Cloud Dependency	Citrix + customer infra	✗ Azure-only	✗ AWS-only	✓ Cloud-agnostic (hosted or hybrid)
Compliance Alignment	⚠ Achievable with add-ons	⚠ Achievable with add-ons	⚠ Achievable with add-ons	✓ Built-in (NIST, ISO, SOC2, CMMC)
User Experience	✓ Good, but client-dependent	✓ Good, latency-sensitive	✓ Good, client-dependent	✓ Fast, consistent, streamed UX
Windows Support	✓ Strong (primary focus)	✓ Strong (core offering)	✓ Strong	✓ Strong (streamed, containerized)
Linux Support	⚠ Limited, complex	⚠ Limited, niche	✓ Supported	✓ Designed for Native Linux Containers
macOS Support	✗ Not supported as a desktop OS	✗ Not supported	✗ Not supported	✓ Supported (streamed macOS)
Multiple OS per User	✗ One desktop per user	✗ One desktop per user	✗ One desktop per user	✓ Run multiple OS simultaneously
OT / IoT System Access	✗ Not ideal	✗ Not ideal	✗ Not ideal	✓ Designed for IT/OT isolation