

AZURE STACK HCI: VIRTUAL DESKTOP INFRASTRUCTURE

Leverage your Azure Stack HCI investment to deploy Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI), deliver centralized, highly available, simplified, and secure management for your organization end-user computing. Enable scenarios like bring-your-own-device (BYOD), while providing customers consistent and reliable experience to business-critical applications without sacrificing security to your organization's infrastructure.

Below, you will find a how-to guide for building and deploying your VDI environment on Azure Stack HCI.

Overview of Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI)

Virtual Desktop Infrastructure, or VDI, uses server hardware to run desktop operating systems and software programs on a virtual machine. For as long as operating system virtualization existed, VDI offered the flexibility of running traditional desktop workloads, on centralized servers. There is a wide range of advantages to leveraging VDI in a business setting, including keeping sensitive company applications and data in a secure datacenter, accommodating a bring-your-own-device policy without worrying about personal data getting mixed with corporate assets, reducing liability when corporate assets are lost - covering both data loss prevention, as well as exposure of sensitive data to potential corporate espionage and/or hackers. In addition, VDI has become the de-facto standard for supporting remote and branch workers, as well as providing contractor and partner access.

Azure Stack HCI offers the optimal platform for VDI. Leveraging a validated HCI solution, and Microsoft's mature Remote Desktop Services, customers achieve a highly available, and highly scalable architecture.

In addition, Azure Stack HCI VDI solutions provide unique cloud-based capabilities for protecting VDI workloads and clients:

- Centrally manage updates using Azure Update Management
- Unified security management and advanced threat protection for VDI clients

DataON Kepler Switchless Validated Nodes for Azure Stack HCI

DataON Kepler Switchless solutions for Azure Stack HCI are designed for remote office/branch offices, edge, and IoT deployments. These deployments can present a challenge for IT departments because of constrained budgets, space and power footprints, and limited IT resources.

Available in 2- and 3-node versions, DataON Kepler validated nodes for Azure Stack HCI feature switchless back-to-back networking for peak simplicity and affordability. They feature innovative technologies that set Azure Stack HCI apart at the small scale. Nested resiliency protects you from multiple concurrent failures. Cloud quorum technologies can leverage Azure instead of an appliance virtual machine for a quorum. Kepler 3-node (K3N) solutions provide an additional layer of resiliency over Kepler 2-node (K2N) solutions, essential in environments or multiple ROBO and edge deployments that require 3-way mirror fault tolerance.

DataON Kepler validated nodes provide a reference-architecture-like experience, with the broadest choice of hardware components. Validated nodes combine Intel® technology and Azure Stack HCI software to provide a powerful platform for data center modernization. Together they enable organizations to modernize their infrastructure, start or extend their hybrid cloud journey, and consolidate virtualized workloads.

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DataON is an exclusive Microsoft partner, with 100 Integrated Systems and validated nodes in the Microsoft Azure Stack HCI Catalog, as well as over 1000 HCI clusters and 150PB of storage deployed. DataON is a Microsoft Gold Partner, Microsoft Cloud Service Provider (CSP), and an Intel Strategic OEM Partner.

DataON MUST for Windows Admin Center

DataON MUST is included with DataON validated nodes. DataON MUST provides real-time monitoring & alerts for Azure Stack HCI. It features a centralized dashboard, historic data reporting, enhanced disk mapping, email alerts, and call home services.

How to deploy VDI on Azure Stack HCI

1/ Hardware and OS configuration for VDI. Specifications are per node.



DataON K2N-6104	DataON K2N-6112	DataON K2N-6208	DataON K2N-6212	DataON K2N-6216	DataON K2N-6224
Optimized for size & performance	Optimized for size & performance	Optimized for performance & expansion	Optimized for IOPS & capacity	Optimized for IOPS & performance	Optimized for IOPS & performance
2 to 16 Nodes					
All-NVMe flash storage	All-NVMe flash storage	All-NVMe flash storage	Hybrid storage	All-NVMe flash storage	All-NVMe flash storage
1U / 1-Node rack 4x 2.5" Bays	1U / 1-Node Rack 12x 2.5" Bays	2U / 1-Node rack 12x 2.5" Bays	2U / 1-Node Rack 2x 2.5"/3.5" NVMe + 10x 3.5" SAS/SATA	2U / 1-Node rack 16x 2,5" Bays	2U / 1-Node Rack 24x 2.5" Bays
3rd Generation Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors					
Up to 12TB DDR4					
Intel® NVMe SSDs					
25GbE RDMA networking					

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2/ Step by Step guide to [deploy Azure Stack HCI](#). Also install [Windows Admin Center \(WAC\)](#) for managing Azure Stack HCI.

From Windows Admin Center (WAC), set up **Azure Update Management** can quickly assess the status of available updates, schedule installation of required updates, and review deployment results to verify updates that apply successfully.

Update Management

Enable consistent control and compliance of this VM with Update Management.
This service is included with Azure virtual machines. You only pay for logs stored in Log Analytics. [Learn more.](#)

Enable

Settings

Location

East US


Log analytics workspace

Create default workspace...

Automation account

Create default account...



- Additionally, you can set up additional  Azure hybrid services such as Backup, File Sync, Site Recovery, Point-to-Site VPN, Update Management, and Security Center in WAC.

3/ Enable VDI support

Once your Azure Stack HCI deployment is complete and registered in Azure, follow the steps below to [deploy Remote Desktop Services](#):

- [Deploy the Remote Desktop Services infrastructure](#)
- [Create a session collection to hold the apps and resources you want to share](#)
- [License your RDS deployment](#)
- Have your users install a [Remote Desktop client](#) so they can access the apps and resources.
- Enable high availability by adding additional Connection Brokers and Session Hosts:
 - [Scale out an existing RDS collection with an RD Session Host farm](#)
 - [Add high availability to the RD Connection Broker infrastructure](#)
 - [Add high availability to the RD Web and RD Gateway web front](#)
 - [Deploy a two-node Storage Spaces Direct file system for UPD storage](#)

Summary

With the completion of a VDI deployment using Azure Stack HCI, you now have a secure and resilient platform for running VDI end-user workloads, built to scale with your customer needs.

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