

Microsoft Cloud Workspace *Comparison Sheet*

Four ways to deliver Windows from the cloud. Pick by workload, not by brand.

V1.0 · 2026 · AVD · WINDOWS 365 · AGENT 365

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	● Azure Virtual Desktop <small>AVD</small> GA	● Windows 365 Enterprise <small>CLOUD PC</small> GA	● Windows 365 Flex <small>WAS FRONTLINE</small> GA	● Windows 365 for Agents <small>FOR DIGITAL WORKERS</small> PUBLIC PREVIEW
BEST FIT	Variable usage, multi-session density, custom images, regulated workloads needing hypervisor control. Global Azure regions.	Knowledge workers who need a dedicated, always-on Cloud PC. IT manages via Intune. 30+ Azure regions, Gov cloud supported.	Shift workers, part-time staff, contractors, periodic-use roles who don't need 24/7 access. Azure Global Cloud only.	AI agents (Copilot Studio & partners) needing isolated identity + audit-distinct Cloud PC. US-only Preview.
PRICING MODEL	Consumption-based. Pay per Azure VM-hour + storage + bandwidth. Reserved Instances and Savings Plans available.	Fixed per user / month. Flat fee per Cloud PC config. Predictable, all-in.	Fixed per license / month. 1 license = up to 3 Dedicated Cloud PCs or 1 active Shared session.	Per VM / hour. Billed per task, rounded up. Idle pool time billed separately.
INDICATIVE PRICE	VM-hour (e.g. D4s_v3 PAYG ~\$0.19/hr) + disk + egress. AVD service free with M365 E3/E5/Business Prem/F3 — no separate trial needed.	From ~\$31/user/mo (2vCPU/4GB) to ~\$66 (4vCPU/16GB); high-end up to ~\$162. 30-day free trial of 2vCPU/8GB/128GB. <i>Verify per region.</i>	Per-license rate (config-dependent). License = max concurrent active sessions. 30-day free trial of Dedicated mode. <i>Verify per region.</i>	\$0.40 / VM-hour. Billed per task, rounded up. 50 free hours/tenant for published autonomous agents during Preview.
SESSION MODEL	Personal (single-session) or pooled multi-session. Windows 11 Ent. multi-session is unique to AVD.	Personal, dedicated, single-session only. No multi-session.	Dedicated mode: 3 users / license, non-concurrent. Shared mode: 1 active session / license.	Pool-based check-out / run / check-in. One agent per Cloud PC at a time.
OPERATING SYSTEM	Win 11 Ent. (single + multi), Win 11 Pro, Win Server 2016-2025. Linux not supported as host.	Win 11 Ent. (single-session) on Microsoft-managed Azure infra.	Win 11 Ent. (single-session). Same image options as Enterprise.	Win 11 Ent. 24H2. <i>Linux for Researcher option.</i>
MANAGEMENT PLANE	Azure portal, ARM, CLI / PowerShell. Optional: Nerdio Manager for Enterprise.	Microsoft Intune admin centre. Optional: Nerdio Manager (single pane for AVD + W365).	Microsoft Intune (same surface as Enterprise). Same Intune policies apply.	Microsoft Intune + Agent 365 console. Nerdio operations on roadmap (NerdioCon 2026).
IDENTITY & LICENSE	Entra ID + AD DS or Entra-joined / hybrid-joined session hosts. Conditional Access fully supported. Requires M365 E3/E5/ Business Prem/F3 or Windows Ent E3/E5 / VDA. RDS CAL for Win Server hosts.	Entra ID P1 + Entra-joined or hybrid-joined Cloud PCs. Requires Win 11 Ent + Intune + Entra ID P1 (included in M365 Business Prem/F3/E3/E5/A3/A5).	Same identity and license model as Enterprise (Win 11 Ent + Intune + Entra ID P1).	Microsoft Entra Agent ID per agent — cryptographic and audit-distinct. Requires Agent 365 (\$15/user/mo or in M365 E7) + Intune + active Azure subscription.
STATE / PERSISTENCE	Persistent (personal) or non-persistent (pooled). FSLogix for profile portability. Cross-region replication via ASR.	Always persistent. User data and apps persist between sessions. Cross-region DR pairing available.	Dedicated: persistent per user. Shared: stateless reset between users. No cross-region DR.	Stateless reset every session. Nothing leaks between agents.
SCALING MODEL	Manual or auto-scale (Azure scaling plans, Nerdio NMM). Pay only when VMs are on.	None at infra level. One Cloud PC per assigned user, always provisioned.	License-bound concurrency. Bulk power on / off via Intune. Predictive prestart in Dedicated mode.	Warm pool (pre-provisioned) or cold pool (on-demand). Policy-governed.
HYBRID / ON-PREM	AVD Hybrid Public Preview (May 2026): control plane in Azure, session hosts on Azure Local / VMware / Hyper-V / Nutanix via Arc. <i>No multi-session on-prem.</i>	No. Microsoft-managed Azure only.	No. Microsoft-managed Azure only.	No. Microsoft Hosted Network only.