

— MICROLEARNING

Windows 365 Flex

*and the license model that fits
the worker*

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PRINCIPAL LEARNER ARCHITECT

Most users don't need a *dedicated Cloud PC*. Microsoft **renamed the alternative.**

01

One license covers up to three users

A single Flex license covers three dedicated Cloud PCs (one user active at a time), or a pool of unlimited users serially in shared mode. For roles that don't need a 24/7 desktop, that is a different cost basis entirely.

02

Prerequisites are usually already in place

If users sit on Microsoft 365 E3, E5, F3 or Business Premium, then Microsoft Intune, Microsoft Entra ID P1 and Windows 11 Enterprise rights are already covered. Only the Flex SKU is new.

03

Frontline became Flex on May 4, 2026

Same product, same licensing, same prices. The new name explicitly opens the audience beyond shift workers: contractors, seasonal staff, part-time, task-based and developer scenarios.

One platform, two operating modes. And one app-only layer on top.

*Windows 365 Flex is the new name for what was, until **May 4, 2026**, Windows 365 Frontline. Same product, same licensing, same prices. The rebrand signals a broader audience than shift workers, including contractors, seasonal staff, part-time roles and developer scenarios.*

FLEX + CLOUD APPS AT A GLANCE

- **Rebrand**

Frontline became Flex on May 4, 2026. No change to features, licensing or pricing.

- **Two modes**

Dedicated mode: one license covers three Cloud PCs, one user active at a time. Shared mode: one concurrent session per license, with multiple users serially on each Cloud PC.

- **Cloud Apps**

Built on Flex shared mode. App-only experience generally available since November 2025.

- **Prerequisites**

Windows 11 Enterprise, Microsoft Intune and Microsoft Entra ID P1 per user. Bundled with Microsoft 365 E3, E5, F3 or Business Premium.

- **Access**

Always via Windows App: on Windows, macOS, iOS, iPadOS, Android, web or Windows 365 Link.

Where Nerdio Manager extends Flex

● PLAN

License Suitability advisor

Scans your Windows 365 estate and flags Enterprise users who fit the Flex shape: low concurrency, long idle gaps and no session overlap.

DaaS Modeler · TCO analysis

Models AVD, Windows 365 Enterprise, Flex Dedicated and Flex Shared cost from real workload data, side by side, before any provisioning.

Group Templates with variables

Auto-generates the Microsoft Entra security groups Flex needs for license assignment, with variable-based naming for scale.

● DEPLOY

Cloud Apps provisioning UI

Streamlined interface for Cloud App provisioning policies and publishing apps. Public Preview on plans with Windows 365 management enabled.

Custom RBAC for Cloud Apps

Define a Nerdio Manager role scoped to `Intune > Windows 365` only. Delegate Cloud App publishing to tier-1 helpdesk safely.

Bulk image and app management

Unified Application Management deploys line-of-business apps across many policies at once, with versioning, staging and rollback.

● OPERATE

Concurrency reports and alerts

Real-time peak-usage reporting on Flex Shared pools shows whether to right-size the license count up or down with confidence.

Right-Sizing Advisor

Continuously analyzes telemetry and recommends Cloud PC size adjustments. Catches both undersized and oversized hosts automatically.

Console Connect

Remote support without signing the user out. Live PowerShell, Task Manager and registry access. Works on Flex Shared too.

● GOVERN

Intune Policy Studio

Centralized UI for creating, assigning and monitoring Intune policies, with versioning, backup and full audit history baked in.

Policy backup and drift detection

Automatic backup on every change, side-by-side diff, one-click restore. Catches edits made directly in the Intune admin centre.

CIS-certified baselines

Pre-built compliance configurations applied to Flex Cloud PCs out of the box. Reduces hardening from weeks to a checkbox.

From "buy a Flex license" to "user selects an app" in five moves

0

Confirm prerequisites and buy Flex licenses ONE-OFF

Each user needs Windows 11 Enterprise rights, Microsoft Intune and Microsoft Entra ID P1. All three are bundled in Microsoft 365 E3, E5, F3 and Business Premium. Buy Flex separately via the Microsoft 365 admin center.

1

Create the Microsoft Entra security group

In Microsoft Intune, create a Microsoft Entra security group for the target users. Direct or dynamic membership both work. Group-based licensing then assigns Flex licenses automatically as members are added.

2

Create the provisioning policy

Go to `Devices > Windows 365 > Provisioning policies`. On the General tab, for Experience, select **Access only apps**. That selection auto-defaults License type to Frontline (the back-end name for Flex) and mode to Shared.

3

Choose the image and (optionally) an Autopilot profile

Use a gallery image or a custom image. Attach a Windows Autopilot Device Preparation profile if you want Microsoft Intune Win32 apps installed at provisioning time, so you skip custom image management.

4

Publish the apps in All Cloud Apps

Once Cloud PCs provision, apps appear under All Cloud Apps with status **Ready to publish**. Publish them and users see the apps on the Apps page of Windows App, where they launch as if they were local.



STEP 5 · THE INSIGHT TO REMEMBER

Flex is not a different Windows.

*It is **the same Windows 365**, with a license model built for users who do not need a 24/7 desktop, and an app-only mode for users who do not need a desktop at all.*



The shared-PC retail scenario

● TODAY

A regional retailer with 280 store associates across eight locations runs three shift rotations. Each store has three aging back-office PCs running a point-of-sale management tool, an inventory app and human resources self-service. The PCs are end-of-life. Refresh quote totals €58k over three years. Microsoft 365 F3 is already assigned to all associates.

280

ASSOCIATES

8

STORES

24

PCS END-OF-LIFE

€58k

REFRESH QUOTE

● WITH FLEX + CLOUD APPS

The three back-office tools publish as Cloud Apps on a Flex Shared pool. Associates open Windows App on a store tablet (or their own phone), select the app, they are in. The license count tracks concurrent peak, roughly 22 active sessions across all stores, not headcount.



App-only streaming

Three legacy tools published as Cloud Apps, no full desktop



Concurrent pricing

22 peak sessions cover all 280 associates serially



F3 covers it

Windows 11, Intune and Microsoft Entra ID P1 already covered

€58k refresh

struck off the books · 22 peak sessions cover 280 users · Nerdio Manager publishes apps across all 8 stores in one operation

Three questions to lock the lesson in

Q · 01

In your own words, why does the Frontline → Flex rebrand matter beyond marketing?

Hint: Same product, broader audience. Contractors, seasonal, task-based, even devs.

Q · 02

Which Flex mode does Cloud Apps require, and why does that constraint exist?

Hint: Shared mode. App-only streaming runs serial users on one Cloud PC.

Q · 03

Where in your customer base or organization does this scenario actually fit?

Hint: Shared physical PCs, contractors, seasonal staff, Microsoft 365 F3 already in place.

TAKE-AWAY

Same Windows 365. Same Nerdio Manager workflow.
The license model just **fits the worker**.

Found this useful? Share it with one colleague who'd benefit from a fresh look at Flex Cloud Apps.

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