



Mindtree

A Larsen & Toubro Group Company



DaaS: Desktop-as-a-Service

A leap towards the future



Introduction

Organizations' workplace infrastructure requirements have changed today, given the effect of the pandemic. On a lighter note, the term BC can now also be referred to as 'Before Corona,' - the period before the pandemic struck. Today, more than **70%** of an organization's resources work from home from around the globe. Given the increase in demand of remote / hybrid workplaces and new ways of working, VDI or virtual desktop infrastructure is a technology that has been used worldwide to provide IT services.

While VDI provides flexibility in the workplace, organizations still face challenges while setting up huge in-house servers and spending lots of money on operations and maintenance. With on-prem VDI infrastructure, there lies a significant upfront capital.

Also, the ongoing trend of **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)** has led to the increasing adoption of **Desktop-as-a-Service (DaaS)**, which was brought in to reduce the hassles of VDI. DaaS is not hosted on-prem; instead, it is hosted in the cloud and managed by providers (third party).



What is DaaS?

DaaS is an offering by third party cloud providers, which offer cloud-based desktop and applications securely. DaaS, also known as '**hosted desktop services**,' remotely delivers cloud PC or virtual desktops and apps, as needed by users. As DaaS delivers remote resources over the internet, end users can access the virtual desktop from their personal computers or mobile devices.

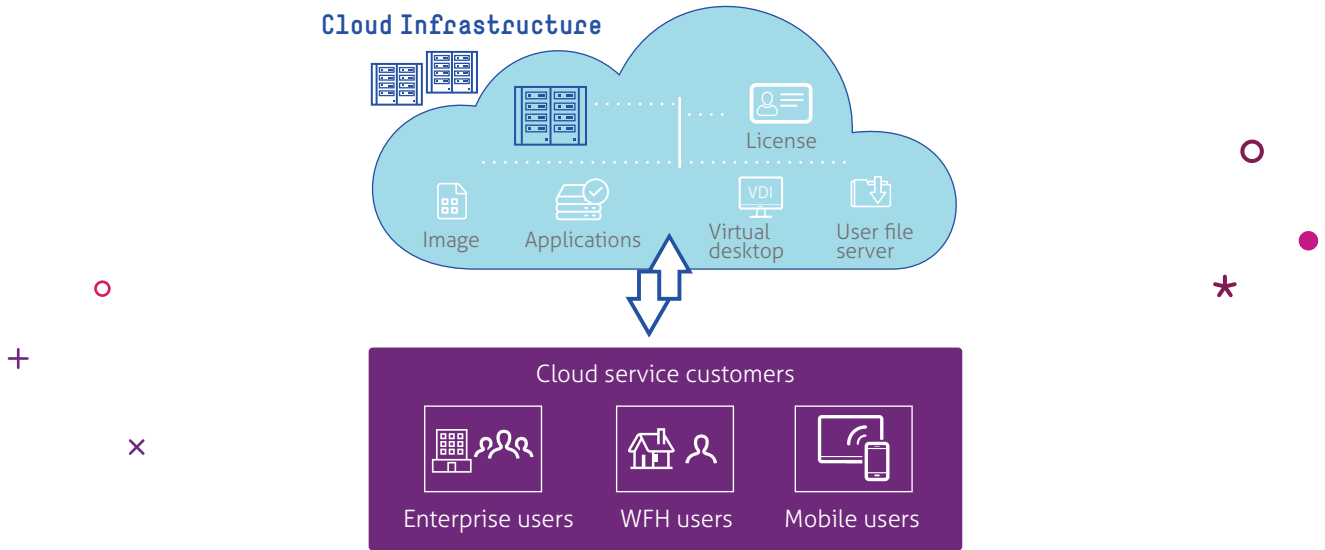
DaaS can be considered as an effective alternative to on-prem VDI - a DaaS provider provides all the backend infrastructure including backup, storage, update, and maintenance when compared to VDI, which needs upfront capital for the solution license, and to build and manage the infrastructure. In a DaaS model, the organization is responsible for managing only the desktop images, virtual applications and security of end users.





How does DaaS Work?

DaaS is typically designed using multi-tenant architecture, wherein the organization opting for it can purchase the service through a subscription model—typically based on virtual desktop instances per month.









Organizations today have let their employees work from home, especially after the onset of the pandemic. With this decision, there are a few factors that organizations must consider like security and centralized management, with no data residing on the end user’s laptop, mobile or desktop.

Organizations must provide data through a centralized server, providing their workers access to their information, and ensuring security and compliance. To achieve ease of management, organizations can opt for a VDI solution hosted on local Datacenter. However, doing this is too expensive and the upfront costs are high, considering hardware, licenses, software, servers, and the skilled staff needed to maintain the VDI and its infrastructure.

To overcome the above issues, DaaS providers offer VDI infrastructure on the cloud at a monthly subscription fee, which helps the organization shift from a CAPEX to an OPEX model.

The following are differences between VDI and DaaS:

 VDI	V/S	 DaaS
Infrastructure Virtual desktops are created and managed on the organization’s On-Prem servers		Infrastructure Virtual desktops are managed and deployed on the provider’s cloud
Cost Creation of On-Prem VDI infrastructure would require high initial CAPEX. Typically, a perpetual license per user; Concurrent, plus investment		Cost VDI infrastructure is provided by the DaaS provider on the cloud for a subscription fee helping to shift from CAPEX to OPEX. Subscription model: Per user, Per month, Concurrent
Manageability Since VDI infrastructure is managed On-Prem, it provides more control. However, it needs a dedicated team to manager, run and update		Manageability Cloud VDI is managed and updated by the cloud provider and needs lesser organization overheads and resources
Scalability Higher investment and resources are needed for managing changing business requirements, and is time and effort consuming for the organization		Scalability Cloud provider provides faster and effortless ramp-up and ramp-downs as per changing business requirements



Benefits of DaaS



Lower CAPEX: In DaaS, since the provider offers VDI infrastructure on the cloud at a monthly subscription fee, it helps organization to shift from a CAPEX to an OPEX model.



Access from Any device, Anytime, Anywhere: With a DaaS solution, access to applications and desktops is much easier from any device, anytime and anywhere, thus enhancing productivity.



Scalability: DaaS solutions provide organizations the option to quickly scale up or down as per end users' requirements. Based on the need, they can rapidly scale up desktops or applications. Similarly, downsizing during off seasons is also quickly possible.



Business Continuity with High Availability: DaaS solutions provide continuous availability of applications and desktops with build-in redundancy. The workforce can operate even if there are any disruptions due to natural calamities or other unforeseen events.



Secured Data: With security being pivotal, DaaS solutions provide organizations with central management, wherein all the data is stored within the cloud provider's data center. This makes platforms secure, given that no data is stored within the local end point devices - thus minimizing data risks.



Enable Cyber Security: DaaS provides a secured cloak that includes firewalls, intrusion detection, malware, encryption etc., with a fortified environment.

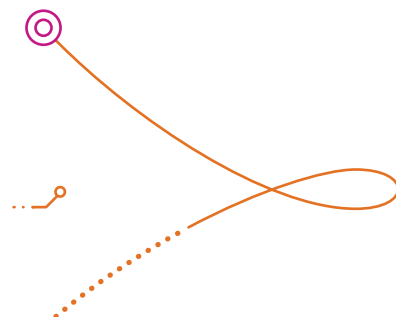


Conclusion

In the next normal, the transformation of end user computing will be a continuous process, with DaaS being at the core. DaaS lowers both CAPEX and OPEX, which are normally high in the case of traditional client-server computing – thus alleviating most security concerns faced by IT. It helps enterprises to provide a user-friendly workplace by supporting BYOD, cloud enabled infrastructure, and scalability and elasticity, with maximum performance.

We believe DaaS will continue to play an increasingly important role, greatly simplifying endpoint management in companies with enhanced security, and helping them become future ready. In this direction, [we offer a flexible and scalable DaaS solution](#) through market leading cloud service providers with different service classifications to meet unique enterprise business needs. We provide end-to-end DaaS services including infrastructure assessment, workload estimation, dependencies, phase-wise migration, and operational strategy, as per your specific environment and business requirements.

[Contact us](#) to know more.





Keerthi has professional experience in consulting, designing, implementing, and administering virtualization technologies like Citrix (XenApp \ XenDesktop), DaaS solutions, VMware Horizon View (VDI), Huawei Fusion Compute, Microsoft Windows and Azure WVD along with multiple Cloud technologies, along with sound ITIL knowledge.

Keerthi Ganesh

Senior Technical Architect – DWPS C&I



Varun is a seasoned technology professional with extensive subject matter expertise in Digital Workplace Service domains. He has experience in implementing multiple end user service transformations with focus on user experience, analytics, automation, and productivity.



Varun Mehta

Program Director – DWPS C&I



Siddarth is a leader for the global Digital Workplace Services and is the Practice Head of Mindtree’s Cloud and Infrastructure services. He has more than two decades of in-depth techno commercial experience in multiple workplace domains with cloud-enabled transformations focusing on customer infrastructure and business requirements.

Siddarth Oruganti

Practice Head – DWPS | Cloud & Infrastructure



About Mindtree

Mindtree [NSE: MINDTREE] is a global technology consulting and services company that enables enterprises across industries to drive superior competitive advantage, customer experiences and business outcomes by harnessing digital and cloud technologies. A digital transformation partner to approximately 275 of the world’s most pioneering enterprises, Mindtree brings extensive domain, technology and consulting expertise to help reimagine business models, accelerate innovation and maximize growth. As a socially and environmentally responsible business, Mindtree is focused on growth as well as sustainability in building long-term stakeholder value. Powered by more than 37,400 talented and entrepreneurial professionals across 24 countries, Mindtree — a Larsen & Toubro Group company — is consistently recognized among the best places to work.

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