Creative ITC

BUILDING A VDI BUSINESS CASE

HOW TO UNLOCK THE FULL BENEFITS

This no-nonsense guide takes you through the key points you'll need to consider when you're looking into investing in the right remote working solution for your business – one that improves workforce mobility and productivity for all users, without compromising on security or sustainability, and without increasing IT cost and complexity.

Drawing on real-world experience and business outcomes from leading firms in the architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) space, it outlines essential steps to building a business case for virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) and how to unlock its full benefits.

VDIPOD

OVERCOMING INVESTMENT OBSTACLES

Organisations have increasingly turned to VDI as an easy to scale remote working technology to boost productivity and agility. But some have struggled to get VDI to work effectively - even when they've tried to overcome issues with on-premise legacy infrastructure by moving to a cloud-hosted system. Many IT teams quickly found off-the-shelf platforms simply couldn't cope with the demands of power users working with graphics-heavy design and visualisation applications. The result has been incessant resource demands, performance issues, user complaints and spiraling public cloud costs.

Those in the know are turning to Desktop-as-a-Service (DaaS) from a specialist managed service provider. But, with so many VDI and DaaS solutions on the market, how can you be confident you're making the right choice?

The stakes have never been higher for IT teams to choose wisely and then seek financial approval from a C-suite battling with balance sheet challenges, increasing energy costs and growing environmental concerns.

It's more crucial than ever for IT teams to build compelling case – one which includes both an effective technology solution for all users and a successful long-term deployment model in order to unlock return on investment.

Put simply, does your case for further IT investment have legs?

DOES YOUR VDI ARGUMENT STACK-UP?

In our experience, the answer to that question is almost certainly 'yes' if you:

Have a need for long-term hybrid or remote working

Have encountered problems with your VDI deployment

Need an efficient, secure way to share large files and collaborate with partners

Want to improve access to big data and applications

Need to review your disaster recovery strategy

Want to reduce IT power consumption, energy costs and carbon emissions

Are looking to consolidate your data centre footprint

Need to meet data security and sovereignty requirements

LEVERAGING WORKFORCE MOBILITY

There are many VDI platforms available, but none that perform better or are more cost-effective than VDIPOD. In the hands of specialists, Creative's purpose-built VDIPOD solution has been engineered for the most demanding of settings, like super users working with big data or graphics-heavy design and visualisation applications, releasing these employees from their traditional office IT systems.

VDIPOD combines best of breed technologies optimised for AEC industry applications. Crucially, staff enjoy tools and experiences identical to or better than they enjoy in the workplace, and the solution can be spun up rapidly to enable teams to collaborate effectively and securely to deliver projects faster.

Delivered by Creative as a fully managed Desktop- as-a-Service (DaaS) solution, VDIPOD can be consumed in the cloud, on premise or in a hybrid model to truly enable working from anywhere across the entire workforce - from those with basic IT needs through to high graphics and data users. At last, IT teams can successfully provide workforce mobility for everyone in a single VDI solution.

LEADING AEC BUSINESSES CHOOSE VDIPOD

Quickly adopted by the world's leading AEC companies, today VDIPOD powers remote workers everywhere, while enabling IT leaders to boost business continuity, productivity, global collaboration, security and sustainability.

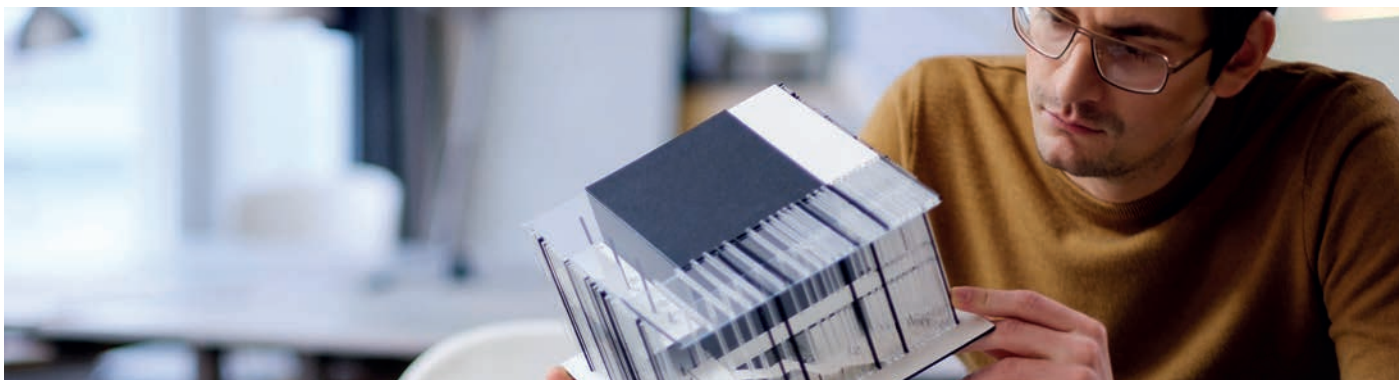| AHR	AtkinsRéalis	bam
BENOY	David Chipperfield Architects	Foster + Partners
POPULOUS	SHEPPARD ROBSON	WilkinsonEyre

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"Our global teams are significantly more agile, and downtime is a thing of the past, reducing project delays and budget overruns. We have gained hundreds of days productivity across the business."

Paul Selby, DCW Manager, Royal BAM Group

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"This investment will transform how we deliver with our clients, allowing us to move at pace – improving productivity and collaboration across time zones and disciplines in a way we've never done before."

Ian Edwards, President and CEO, AtkinsRealis

PRODUCING A SOLID BUSINESS CASE

A business case for any IT investment must, of course, be founded on a solid financial argument. But, in our experience, mounting a successful campaign for VDI adoption requires a more holistic approach.

Beware of companies offering VDI solutions designed solely to save money. While businesses can and do achieve IT cost savings by implementing virtual desktops, the reality is this isn't always the case. Before and after IT infrastructure costs often remain flat or rise slightly.

So, while it's right to do a cost comparison, a business case based purely on cost saving is unlikely to fly and ignores a host of wider benefits that companies can unlock through investing in virtual desktop infrastructure.

Pretty much without exception, Creative clients who have overcome the hurdles of financial approval and seen the best results from their VDI investment have justified and built support on the basis they can unlock significantly greater value for around the same outlay.

First, scrutinise the numbers – but be careful to avoid comparing apples with oranges.

When comparing on-premise or cloud-based VDI options like Azure Virtual Desktop managed in-house with Desktop-as-a-Service delivered by an MSP, start by calculating the total cost of ownership (TCO), usually over a 5-year period. In-house expenses should include PC hardware refreshes, virtualisation software and additional GPU, together with costs associated with administrator salaries, power, rack space, out-of-hours staffing and training costs to support the deployment.

Creative VDIPOD can enable you to deliver greater ROI from your IT investment.

VDIPOD will enable you to

- Enjoy 60-70% saving on traditional CapEx cost of purchasing high spec workstations and laptops to manage big data, graphics and CAD applications

- Move to lower spec laptops or thin terminals to work on VDI

- Sweat existing hardware assets for longer as all performance will be provided by Creative's DaaS solution

- Remove large CapEx cycles and move towards a predictable monthly OpEx payments

WHAT DO THE NUMBERS LOOK LIKE?

BUILDING A VALUE-DRIVEN CASE

Productivity benefits are often overlooked. Creative VDIPOD users enjoy the same (as a minimum) or in some cases superior experience than they get in the workplace. That's because our Desktop-as-a-Service (DaaS) solution was purpose built to meet the demands of high graphics and data users, enabling workforce mobility for all employees.

The value of enabling project teams to work and collaborate effectively from anywhere should not be underestimated. With VDIPOD, team members in different time zones can work together on complex designs and models, delivering projects faster at less risk and cost.

Don't forget to factor in technological gains. Creative VDIPOD offers enhanced data security, built-in disaster recovery, faster IT provisioning, speed of access, improved version control and time saved eliminating rework and duplicated effort.

To optimise ROI, choose a deployment model tailored to your business needs, deciding which workloads to deploy in the cloud and which to retain on-premise. Creative VDIPOD is the only platform that can be consumed in the cloud, on-premise or in a hybrid model in a single, seamless solution for all users.

Our DaaS solution is delivered as a managed service, with businesses paying a set amount per user, per month, meaning predictable OpEx payments and no more large upfront CapEx costs. Businesses benefit from access to the latest technologies, optimised and managed by industry specialists.

Take advantage of Creative Scalable Pricing, one of the most flexible virtual desktop offers on the market. Unlike normal VDI approaches based on fixed hardware or cloud solutions, you pay per user, per month with profiles tailored to users' needs, enabling scalability as and when you need it.

MAKING SMART IT CHOICES TO BOOST SUSTAINABILITY

With rising environmental concerns, there's mounting pressure on AEC firms to provide clear evidence of the benefits of their environmental, social and governance (ESG) policies. ESG stipulations are already in place in tender frameworks for some projects and legal reporting requirements are growing more stringent.

Adopting VDI is a practical step IT teams can take to accelerate their organisation's ESG aims. Companies deploying VDIPOD use 81.7% less energy with an 89% renewable power model at source (one VDI server supporting 60 laptops/thin clients) and CO_2eq reduction of up to 43% compared to traditional power-hungry CAD workstations*. VDIPOD also provides firms with metrics and an audit trail to simplify ESG reporting.

Since migrating over 400 employees to VDIPOD, a multi-award-winning international architecture studio has already achieved a three-fold increase in renewable power use and a 90% reduction in kilowatt hours per person.

IT teams can also make wise environmental choices about where to host their data and services. With the cost of designing and implementing a green data centre on premise out of reach for most companies, and public cloud hyperscalers castigated for under-used resources and poor environmental controls, smaller cloud providers may be a consideration.

Creative's VDIPOD is hosted from data centres operating on 100% clean, renewable energy and optimised to achieve an industry leading power usage effectiveness ratio (total energy

used versus energy delivered to IT equipment) of c.1.2 versus an industry average of 1.8.

Global engineering company AtkinsRealis is working with Creative ITC to reduce its global data centres from 16 to three.

> **"One of the biggest benefits we've already seen in our carbon footprint is we've reduced storage by 69%, electricity by 53% and floorspace by 45%,"**
> said Steve Capper, Group CIO.

ΩʳAtkinsRéalis

*Calculations based on standard Dell high graphic workstations, Supermicro VDI servers and Dell XPS laptops. All calculations were accurate as of vendor technical specs 2023.

SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF VDI TO FOCUS ON

WORKFORCE GAINS

Greater mobility

Richer collaboration

Increased productivity

Better decision-making

Improved version control resulting in less rework

Equal or improved user experience

Enhanced work-life balance

IT GAINS

Eliminates need for expensive refreshes, maintenance and support on PCs and laptops

Smaller storage footprint

Built-in disaster recovery through geographic data centre redundancy

Less provisioning, patching and helpdesk traffic

Centrally managed updates, leaving more time to spend on innovation and transformational IT projects

Capacity that scales up and down as business needs change

CFO/BUSINESS GAINS

Faster time-to-market

Improved business uptime and productivity

Recurring savings on PC refreshes, software licences and support contracts

Stronger balance sheet

Predictable OpEx payments and no more large upfront CapEx costs

More agile IT platforms for growth

Complies with data security and sovereignty regulations

ESG GAINS

Lower power consumption

Reduced carbon emissions

Use of renewable energy at source

Enables data centre consolidation

Supports a diverse and inclusive workforce

Replaces inefficient legacy IT infrastructure

Metrics to simplify ESG reporting

HOW CREATIVE CAN HELP

With our unparalleled experience of delivering VDIPOD solutions within the AEC sector, we can provide real-life usage data and feedback to help you benchmark performance in real time and develop a proof of concept to validate improvements within your environment. So, you can strengthen your business case with meaningful numbers, combined with powerful workforce, IT, environmental and business gains.

To arrange a free, no-strings consultation, please contact:

hello@creative-itc.com

+44 (0)20 4551 9267