

SOLUTION BRIEF

Enable your modern workplace with NetApp

Deploy VDI with ease, protect
end-user data, and manage
resources with actionable insights



In today's modern workplace, your employees are not only distributed across your worldwide locations...now they're remote from any location. The pandemic has fundamentally changed how and where we work. As a result, we've all increased our use of SaaS-based systems such as Microsoft 365 for collaborating and storing sensitive data, and we now need to access globally virtualized resources. Companies need a better way to enable this new workforce profile, while protecting end-user data that's at increasing risk from both internal and external threats.

Today's workforce is driven by speed, agility, and flexibility. Delivering the scalable, secure, and adaptable infrastructure to support them is no small challenge. Your organization needs to be able to:

- Deploy virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) environments quickly and easily
- Streamline or automate ongoing management of the VDI environment according to your company's particular policies, and configurations
- Protect your users' data – specifically including their Microsoft 365 data – since it isn't Microsoft's responsibility to protect your data
- Ensure that your cloud-based VDI infrastructure can handle the stresses and demands of today and tomorrow's workloads
- Manage your cloud environment simply, easily, and proactively with actionable insight

NetApp Virtual Desktop Service: Global control plane for VDI at enterprise scale

NetApp® Virtual Desktop Service (VDS) is a software-as-a-service (SaaS) delivered solution for the management of virtual desktop infrastructure that functions as an extension of the cloud. With NetApp VDS, businesses anywhere in the world can deploy VDI at enterprise scale, allowing them to address today's growing need for a long-term, permanent remote workforce solution.

NetApp VDS leverages automation and machine logic to let you automatically provision, deploy, and manage virtual desktops in any major cloud environment. It's like an extension of the cloud for managing virtual desktops through all phases, through a single pane of glass. With its simplified UI and open REST APIs, VDS is interoperable with your private, public, or hybrid cloud deployment strategy as well as your users' chosen devices.

NetApp VDS puts you in control of Microsoft Remote Desktop Services (RDS) deployments for virtual desktops across all major public cloud environments, including AWS, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud. NetApp VDS also provides native support for Microsoft's Windows Virtual Desktop (WVD) solution in Azure. Now, businesses can reduce the complexity of VDI provisioning, deployment, and management across the global landscape, regardless of platform. VDI has emerged as a primary, tier 1 workload that's essential for maintaining business continuity. As a result, this expanding workload needs enterprise-class infrastructure and management—this is critical to the success of your deployments, your users, and to your business. Using VDS as your global control plane is key to being able to take advantage of automation and machine logic to achieve scale, stability, and security for your virtual workspaces. It also integrates with a wide range of other enterprise-class cloud infrastructure products, including:

- **NetApp Cloud Volumes platform** for secure, scalable storage to optimize your virtual desktop performance and availability, protecting against boot storms, login storms, and resource contention
- **NetApp SaaS Backup for Microsoft 365**, which offers a simple, secure, and automated solution to protect your users' M365 data against an array of threats, such as user errors, insider threats, administrative errors, application corruption, and ransomware threats
- **NetApp Cloud Insights**, which provides complete visibility into your infrastructure and application usage, allowing you to foresee issues before they affect your users

Enable VDI at Enterprise Scale by building upon NetApp's Cloud Volumes platform

As VDI moves 'upstream' to be a Tier-1 enterprise workload, serving a global user base which may never return to a 'standard' office setting, IT teams are becoming painfully aware of the scope of demands that this incredibly dynamic workload can place on cloud resources. Hundreds, even thousands of VMs are being deployed to serve the employee base, and the storage underlying these virtual workspaces are seeing intense demand for I/O and throughput – especially at peak times. It's critical to the success of the VDI initiative to be able to support these intense workload requirements for throughput and availability which could threaten the productivity of a massive cross-section of users.

NetApp's Cloud Volumes platform brings the most scalable, available, and performant storage layer to your cloud-based VDI. Available in all major clouds, the Cloud Volumes family ensures that you have the throughput you need, when you need it, whenever you need it. In a way that has integrated backup and compliance options, so that this highly dynamic workload doesn't become highly distracting to you.

Guard your Microsoft 365 data with NetApp SaaS Backup for Microsoft 365

Embracing a virtualized workforce in a stable, secure way can be complex, with the increase in threat vectors both internally and externally. From an insider perspective, the stress of the current working environment can lead to an increase in user error; there can be so many distractions—for example, from roommates, children, and pets—and it's easy to make mistakes and lose data. Even worse, malicious insider activity can arise when employees are uncertain about the future, their health, and their job security. Further, work-from-home (WFH) introduces an array of potential external threats from phishing, hackers, ransomware, etc.

SaaS solutions such as Microsoft 365 enhance productivity and provide highly-resilient infrastructure and high availability of their service, but they explicitly don't protect your critical data itself. What happens when someone accidentally deletes your data because a distraction when the doorbell rang? Or when you lose data because of ransomware being introduced to a SharePoint or OneDrive folder? Or if a disgruntled employee leaves, and deletes files in the process?

NetApp SaaS Backup for Microsoft 365 is a secure, encrypted cloud-native service that protects your Microsoft 365 data so that you can recover it quickly and simply if it's ever deleted accidentally or maliciously. With SaaS Backup, your data is backed up to the cloud provider of your choice in a NetApp-managed AWS or Azure multitenant cloud repository. It's simple, automated – and powerful. Unlimited capacity, unlimited retention. Just what you and your users need.

This comprehensive backup solution is provided as a cloud-hosted SaaS service, so you don't need to install, upgrade, and maintain software to get these benefits. It covers Microsoft Exchange Online, SharePoint Online, OneDrive for Business, Microsoft 365 Groups, and Microsoft Teams. The solution backs up all of this Microsoft 365 data, across all of these key Microsoft 365 services.

Control the performance and utilization of your cloud workloads: NetApp Cloud Insights

The pace of business today demands a comprehensive monitoring tool to prevent downtime and find problems fast. You need to optimize resource usage, lower costs, detect ransomware attacks, and minimize data loss. And this tool must be easy for anyone in your organization to use.

NetApp Cloud Insights gives you complete visibility into your infrastructure and applications. With Cloud Insights, you can monitor, troubleshoot, and optimize all your resources and applications across your entire technology stack, whether it's on premises or in the cloud.

Cloud Insights lets you:

- Be the hero by finding and fixing problems faster
- Manage resources more effectively to do more with less
- Meet service-level objectives (SLOs) and SLAs during your move to cloud—and after
- Stop ransomware in its tracks with actionable intelligence

About NetApp

In a world full of generalists, NetApp is a specialist. We're focused on one thing, helping your business get the most out of your data. NetApp brings the enterprise-grade data services you rely on into the cloud, and the simple flexibility of cloud into the data center. Our industry-leading solutions work across diverse customer environments and the world's biggest public clouds.

As a cloud-led, data-centric software company, only NetApp can help build your unique data fabric, simplify and connect your cloud, and securely deliver the right data, services and applications to the right people—anytime, anywhere. www.netapp.com

