



# PARADIGMS *SHIFT*

Now is the time to turn over a new leaf.



for

Azure Virtual Desktop  
Windows 365 Cloud PC



## Why AVD?

Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) from Microsoft is a comprehensive virtualization platform for both Desktops and Applications. It's hosted in the Azure cloud and managed by Microsoft. A proper turnkey solution for teams looking to virtualize their workspace while avoiding the complications of hosting a platform themselves. The service includes optimizations for multi-session Windows 10 desktops, Microsoft 365 applications, and support for RDS environments. AVD addresses a broad range of needs from business continuity to Work-From-Home (WFH) initiatives.

Deployment is quick and straightforward and can be up and running in just a few minutes.

## You guys aren't Microsoft, so why promote AVD?

True, we have our homegrown virtualization platforms. We've worked with Microsoft for years on our **vSpace** platform, helping to extend abundant computing resources to millions of users worldwide. **LEAF OS** will push this AVD paradigm shift into overdrive.

Moving to the cloud is a big step for most organizations. It alleviates much of the IT misery that local operating systems create. However, it's missing that easy, flexible connection method. Users need a full-blown local operating system just to run an app. Enter **LEAF OS**, a purpose-built solution to eliminate redundancy.

Consider a typical employee. Their organization has issued them a laptop that's showing its age. When it has issues, IT jumps in to fix it, and work slows down. Perhaps they Work-From-Home, adding distance to the repair time. Or they don't have room next to their personal computer for another box and set of peripherals. **LEAF OS** keeps the users in their comfort zone by providing a flexible, portable solution to keep them productive.

**NComputing and Microsoft have teamed up** to deliver the best endpoint solutions for AVD, Cloud PC and RDS.

## How do I connect with LEAF OS?

Choose one of these methods. LEAF OS renders that device into a secure, centrally managed endpoint.

- 1 Permanently install it over an existing operating system and data, making a devoted **LEAF OS** device.
- 2 Boot **LEAF OS** directly from a thumb drive preserving the local machine's operating system and data.
- 3 If you don't have existing hardware to repurpose, our **RX-series** thin clients are compatible with many platforms.



## The benefits of AVD are substantial.

### For IT administrators

- ✓ **Ease of deployment and management:** Administrators can easily manage AVD virtual desktops in Azure Cloud and quickly provision them to users as needed, eliminating the need to manage each user device independently.
- ✓ **Enhanced security:** Sensitive business data remains in the data center instead of being stored locally on end-user computers.

- ✓ **Cost reduction:** Save on hardware by using lower-cost thin clients with AVD instead of traditional PCs. LEAF OS software endpoints require less maintenance, providing further savings on operational expenses.
- ✓ **Data protection:** Data is quickly recoverable should a disaster occur, improving uptime and the system's reliability.

### For end-users

- ✓ **Increased flexibility and mobility:** Users can access their apps and virtual desktops from anywhere using various devices without compromising performance.
- ✓ **Business continuity/disaster recovery:** Rapid resolution of hardware failures and failure to backup data. Elimination of location requirements.
- ✓ **Hardware independence:** Older computers still running legacy operating systems can leverage the enhanced capabilities of modern operating systems running in a virtual environment on servers.

## What is LEAF OS?

Self-sufficient computing requires an operating system, CPU, RAM, and drive space - enough to satisfy the user's needs. However, in a cloud model where all those features have moved to a data center, the user's machine doesn't need the local resources or complexity. **LEAF OS** is a small Linux-based operating system that works with desktops, laptops, or thin clients. It essentially turns that device into a fully functional AVD endpoint.

## Are you a good fit?

AVD can accommodate many use cases. **LEAF OS** and **RX-series** thin clients make the system seamless and reduce complexity. Consider these solutions if you have:

- Plans to adopt Microsoft AVD.
- WFH initiatives that require secure access to important files, data, and Windows applications from anywhere.
- Concerns about manageability, security, scalability, and corporate data leakage.
- Aging PCs and wish to repurpose them to prolong their useful life.
- Avoided the dreaded PC refresh cycle and want thin clients.
- Decisions to make because of Windows 7 reaching the end-of-life such as upgrading to a current Windows OS without replacing existing hardware.
- A desire for a simplified IT platform on which to run your business.

**NComputing**  
Compute Smartly™

## How does LEAF OS help me?

You probably have existing computers of varying ages. **LEAF OS** works with any device that is 64-bit and based around an x86 processor. Because the computing power in a AVD deployment has moved to the cloud, even older machines can run virtualized desktops without compromise. Devices that can't upgrade to Windows 10 natively can now run powerful Windows 10 virtual desktops from the cloud. You'll breathe new life into your aging hardware.

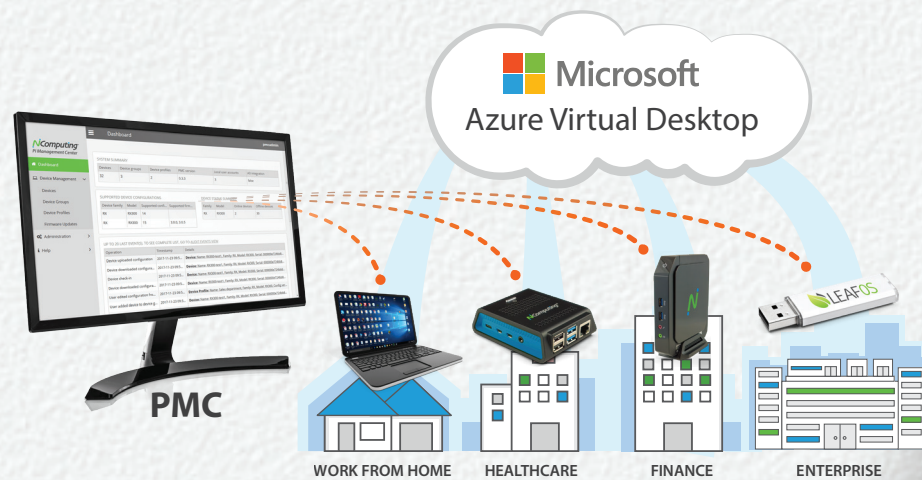
Eventually, those machines will start to fail due to hardware issues—you don't need to replace them with full PCs again. Welcome to the wonderful world of thin clients—small devices the size of a deck of cards purpose-built for virtualization and cloud computing. They are the most cost-effective way to access virtualized systems. But the list of benefits doesn't end there:

- **Security:** LEAF OS is a read-only, minimally sized Linux-based system. When LEAF OS boots up, only the thin client functionality is loaded locally. This protects against unauthorized 3rd party applications, malware, viruses, and data leakage.
- **Simplicity:** Managing a company full of provisioned computers and whatever devices your employees may bring along is like herding cats. LEAF OS eliminates many issues surrounding typical hardware deployments, including central manageability and data backup while allowing a robust BYOD policy.
- **Scaleability:** Start with your existing infrastructure. Extend the life of your old computers by repurposing them with LEAF OS. Add some **RX-series** thin clients to the mix. And let your IT personnel push updates and manage access all from our PMC management software.
- **Verified by Microsoft:** *NComputing* is an official Microsoft Azure Virtual Desktop partner for LEAF OS and our **RX-series** thin clients built on the Raspberry Pi platform. We bring our 20 years of expertise in desktop virtualization to bear on AVD, and we're confident you'll love the results.

## The Basics

Workers need computers. You chose AVD as your cloud platform, and your entire deployment is now in the trusted hands of Microsoft. Your users still need a keyboard, mouse, monitor (or two), maybe a webcam, and a computing device to hook all that up. Use **LEAF OS** with existing PCs, Laptops, or thin clients, even if they aren't capable of running Windows 10 natively or accessing your virtualized applications. They only need to be x86-64-bit compliant. **LEAF OS** makes this possible. And if you need computing devices, **RX-series** thin clients provide a cost-effective solution with a tiny footprint. The experience from a user's perspective is identical.

- Easy and secure access to Microsoft AVD
- Works with personal devices and BYOD, fully converted to LEAF OS or boot from an external USB thumb drive.
- Repurpose outdated computers and get out of the PC-refresh cycle. Put off forced investments in new hardware until it makes sense for you.
- All your data is in the cloud, so no local data leakage or backup worries.
- Massive peripheral device support - drivers for webcams, headsets, microphones, printers, mass storage, touch screens, smart card readers, and other devices run from the server, allowing you total control over compatibility within your deployment.



## Device Management

PMC Endpoint Manager software enables IT to provision hardware and software endpoints, push configurations, and provide updates. Manage your installation over local and wide-area networks, behind firewalls and NAT-routers. Automatic discovery, Check-in, flexible configurations & provisioning of new devices makes deployment easy.

## The Details

**LEAF OS** and our thin clients are optimized and verified by Microsoft to ensure best-in-class performance for AVD. As the platform matures, our integrations will grow as well. Key features of the current integration include support for:

- Microsoft Windows 365 Cloud PC support
- Spring 2020 and Fall 2019 Windows AVD releases
- Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)
- RemoteApp programs and desktops
- Regular or Kiosk mode with auto-login
- Single or Dual Display configurations with independent screen rotation
- Extensive peripheral device library
- Local Linux applications while in a AVD session (Chromium browser, Microsoft Teams, Zoom)

