nerdio | **Manager** for Enterprise   **N**Computing® *Compute smartly*™

CASE STUDY

A U.S. Local Government's Successful Transition to A Cloud-First Approach with Azure Virtual Desktop.

Learn how a large City in Oklahoma worked with leading Microsoft partners Nerdio and NComputing to successfully pivot to Azure Virtual Desktop and a cloud-first computing approach.

Learn more: getnerdio.com/nme

Pivoting to Azure Virtual Desktop

When a large city in Oklahoma decided in mid-2021 to move 3,000 of its employees to Microsoft's Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD), previous experimentations with virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) raised concerns around implementation and how security, management, and enabling collaboration tools for remote collaboration would work in AVD.

Security and recoverability capabilities of cloud environments were vital considerations as the City made its decision to transition to AVD. Other influencing factors in choosing Microsoft's service centered around their needs regarding rapid deployment and streamlined management and reusing and extending the life of various aging PCs used across their workforce.

To ensure these needs were met and the AVD proof-of-concept (POC) was successful, Microsoft introduced the City to Nerdio and NComputing. Both companies are preferred Microsoft partners that are compatible with the Azure Government Cloud and have demonstrated results and experience working with state and local government organizations. As the City's Chief Information Officer explained, "Finding the right vendors to make our Azure Virtual Desktop proof-of-concept a success was pivotal in scaling our secure computing environment and cloud-first approach. The support and hands-on assistance from both Nerdio and NComputing were top-notch and high touch."

Implementing A Cloud-First Mentality in Tandem

Before using AVD, the City used a variety of individual systems and hardware that made IT management cumbersome due to differing system updates, software licensing, hardware compatibilities, security considerations, and more. At the time of the AVD POC, the City's IT department had a staff-to-support ratio of 1:100.

Additionally, being a cloud-first organization was imperative to the City's transition to AVD. As their CIO detailed, "We decided to take a cloud-first approach. Users had to convince us they could not use the cloud to be exempt."

NComputing's LEAF OS allows a desktop, laptop, or thin client to be reborn as a cloud computing device. Their PMC Endpoint Manager remotely deployed LEAF OS to the City's existing Dell and HP devices, transforming them into high-performing Linux AVD endpoints. LEAF OS helped support the City's collaboration objectives via the cloud, enabling them to run both Microsoft Teams and Zoom within AVD sessions.

By deploying Nerdio Manager for Enterprise, the City's IT department managed a more significant number of virtual desktop users without disrupting employee experience. This saved the City a substantial amount of time, reducing desktop deployments that previously took weeks to just a few hours, enabling the City to quickly and efficiently equip its workforce with its preferred workspaces and apps. Additionally, Nerdio's centralized management interface allowed IT staff to more efficiently manage hundreds of users at scale and quicken help desk responses because any level of IT staff could easily resolve access issues.
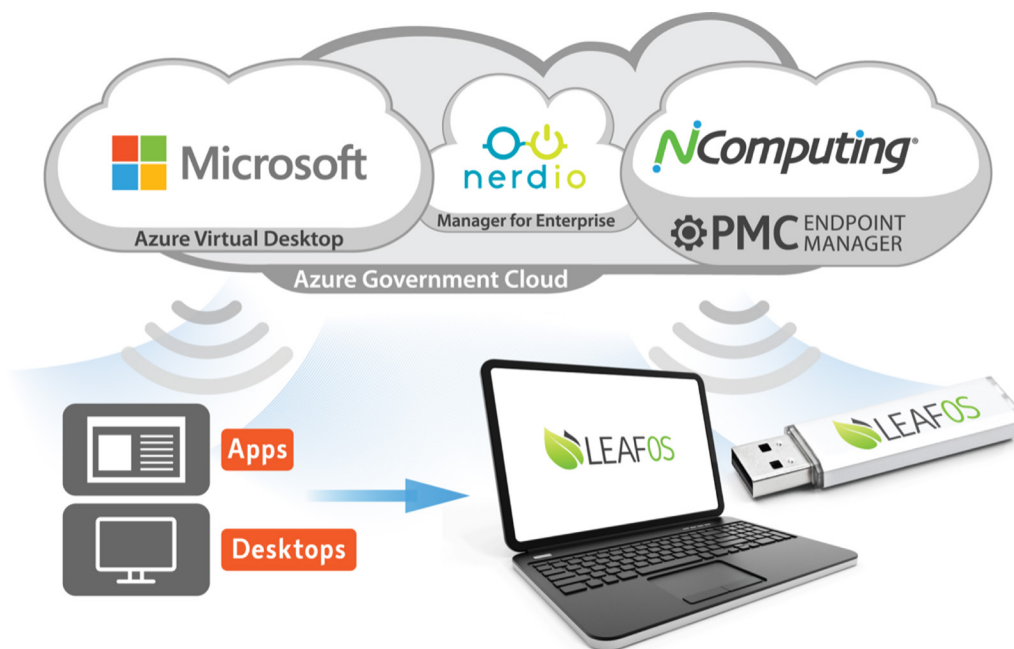
Modern, Scalable and Empowered IT

In using Nerdio Manager for Enterprise, the City was able to aggressively speed up its transition to AVD while creating an IT environment that's much more robust, secure, and scalable than their previous on-premises solutions. They were able to deploy over 600 users within the first month and efficiently manage all Azure services needed by AVD.

"Nerdio was instrumental in our move to Azure Virtual Desktop. They were able to quickly migrate all our existing applications and resources to the new cloud environment and greatly streamline ongoing management for our IT department."

Because the City utilized remote, highly secure data centers in Azure, they did not need to buy servers or additional infrastructure nor worry about planning investments around government budget cycles. Nerdio's free Cost Estimator also helped the City determine their Azure costs and how much they would save using Nerdio Manager.

It was a helpful tool used during the evaluation and purchasing phases. However, surprise still resulted for the City after seeing an average savings of $10k per month when using Nerdio Manager and AVD. In addition to cost savings, the time saved on AVD management and maintenance was significant because Nerdio Manager could be used by any IT staff member, regardless of their level, technical expertise, or certifications in Azure.

Manager
for **Enterprise**

About Nerdio

Nerdio empowers IT Professionals to deploy, manage, and auto-scale Azure Virtual Desktop. Created to address the technical and security requirements of enterprise customers, Nerdio Manager for Enterprise is ideal for IT Professionals looking to deploy and manage large AVD environments and can be connected to an existing AVD setup or used to stand up a new AVD deployment. Nerdio Manager is an all-PaaS Azure application that runs in a customer's own Azure subscription, making it one of the most secure and compliant solutions on the market.

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