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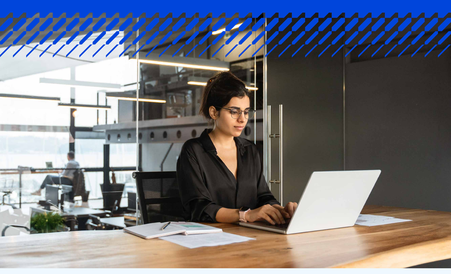
Centralized desktop control vs. distributed managed devices

Centralized compute infrastructure delivers far more than cost savings — it drives speed, productivity, security, and resilience across the enterprise.



The five pillars of centralized infrastructure

Savings
Reduce TCO by up to 33% through operational efficiencies

Speed
Onboard new employees 60% faster by deploying full desktops in minutes, not weeks

Productivity
Boost workforce productivity with a stable, high-performance workspace and a reduction in downtime

Security & compliance
Enable zero trust by keeping data off endpoints and streamlining audits through centralized control and logging

Resiliency
Business continuity is job one — employees can work from anywhere, and disaster recovery shifts from days to minutes

A tale of two architectures

Distributed managed PCs: Device-centric control	Centralized desktop control: Policy-centric delivery
Vulnerable endpoint-resident data & apps Sensitive data and sessions on devices increase breach risk and inconsistent patching creates security gaps	**Central data center/cloud** Data never leaves the secure environment, and one image enforces universal compliance
Endpoint fleet management IT teams waste time chasing thousands of endpoints, reacting instead of innovating	**Any device access** Productivity from anywhere, on any device, with a secure connection to corporate resources
Failure modes multiply Distributed systems face independent failures and nondeterminism, making root cause analysis difficult	**Modern resilient core** Redundancy and failover deliver resiliency, and a centralized control plane speeds issue resolution
Large attack surface Being forced to defend thousands of vulnerable endpoints is challenging and complex	**A single point of entry to secure** A single control point enforces compliance at scale, with zero trust verification of every user and request
Costs may be larger than they appear Excess resources, software sprawl, idle VMs, and complexity add unnecessary cost	**Lower CapEx and OpEx** Thin clients extend hardware life, and Citrix Autoscale ensures you only pay for what you use
Complicated data governance Convoluted consensus algorithms with no single source of truth	**Single source of truth** Simplified governance ensures data integrity, consistency, and reliability
Uncontrolled browser access Web and SaaS sessions run locally, enabling data leakage, credential reuse, and shadow IT	**Secure enterprise browser** Browser sessions are isolated, governed, and logged, protecting SaaS and web apps without exposing data to endpoints
Complex Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery (BCDR) More endpoint sprawl means slow, complex, and expensive BCDR processes, tools, and systems	**Simplified recovery and continuity** A centralized strategy speeds disaster recovery and ensures business continuity

35% of breaches

involved data stored in unmanaged data sources—aka "shadow data"

46% of unmanaged devices

holding company credentials were compromised by infostealers

Building a secure and audit-ready compliant enterprise

Demonstrate compliance with ease: Centralized control means all data access and user activities are logged and managed from a single, auditable point

- HIPAA: Protect patient data by ensuring it never leaves the secure data center
- PCI DSS: Isolate cardholder data environments and restrict access based on user roles
- GDPR: Enforce data residency and apply granular access policies to protect user privacy
- FedRAMP: Streamline ATOs by inheriting security controls from a pre-authorized, U.S.-based cloud infrastructure

Savings with a smarter strategy

Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) savings are the direct financial results of enhanced speed, security, and productivity. Less time spent on manual management and fewer security risks translate into savings of up to 33%.

> "Gartner has declared hosted PCs are now often cheaper to operate than on-prem laptops, and two years away from being cost-effective for 95 percent of workers."
>
> theregister.com, August 2025

The data is clear: A centralized computing strategy with Citrix drives savings, productivity, and resilience. Learn more here.

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Secure the Work.

Sources
1. Forrester, "The Total Economic Impact™ of Citrix DaaS," May 2022. Read study
2. Gartner, "Critical Capabilities for Desktop as a Service," Aug 2025. View study
3. The Register, "Desktop as a service now often cheaper to run than laptops... even after thin client costs," 14 Aug 2025. Read article

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