

Right-sizing VDI with Island

Keep VDI where it earns its place. Move the rest to the browser.

VDI still fits some work. It just doesn't fit all of it.

Virtual desktop infrastructure earned its place. When applications were installed locally and endpoints were weak, virtualizing the desktop was a smart way to deliver apps, centralize control, and protect data.

The picture looks different now. Most work runs in a browser, in SaaS and web apps, on devices that are faster and more capable than the servers VDI once replaced. Running all of that through a virtual desktop adds cost, friction, and support load that's hard to justify for work that never needed virtualizing in the first place.

This isn't an argument to rip out VDI. Some workloads still belong there. It's an argument to right-size it: keep VDI where it earns its place, and move the everyday work that doesn't need it somewhere lighter.

What over-extending VDI costs you

The value of VDI comes with baggage, and the more broadly you deploy it, the heavier that baggage gets.

- **Infrastructure that scales with every user.** Virtualizing desktops takes significant server capacity, on-prem or in the cloud. As headcount grows, so does the bill.
- **Administrative burden.** Servers to maintain, images to build and patch, and specialized staff to keep it all tuned. Cloud DaaS trades some of that for consumption costs you have to manage instead.
- **End-user friction.** Login delays, session interruptions, performance lags, and compatibility issues are a tax users pay every day, and a queue the help desk works through every day.
- **Sprawl and exceptions.** LClient-, team-, or app-specific setups pile up into complexity and audit gaps.

For distributed teams, contractors, and third parties, every one of these gets worse with each new user and each new environment.

Which workflows still need full VDI, and which don't

The useful question isn't "VDI or not?" It's "Which work actually needs it?"

Keep full VDI for:

- Legacy thick-client apps that can't be delivered another way
- Graphics- or compute-intensive workloads
- Tightly regulated or isolated environments
- Specialized engineering, design, or development software

Move to the browser:

- SaaS and web applications
- Contractor, partner, and third-party access
- BYOD and unmanaged devices
- Private web apps behind the network
- Everyday knowledge work

Most organizations find a meaningful share of their VDI footprint sits in that second list, delivered through heavy infrastructure it never needed. That's the work worth moving first.

How Island covers the work you move off VDI

Island's enterprise browser gives people secure access to SaaS, web, and private apps, with access policy, data controls, and visibility built into the browser itself. It delivers much of what you turned to VDI for, without the infrastructure, administration, or friction.

No excess infrastructure

Island runs on the endpoint like any browser and is managed from a cloud console. No virtual desktops to stand up, no network proxy to route through.

Minimal administration

No servers to maintain and no images to patch, with licensing that's predictable per user rather than per usage pattern.

No end-user friction

It's a familiar Chromium experience with no virtualization lag, so there's little to learn and nothing to wait on.

Control and visibility

Enforce access policy, govern copy, paste, download, and upload, isolate sensitive sessions, and log activity for audit and investigation.

Any user, any device

Employees, contractors, and third parties get secure access from managed or unmanaged devices, and can be up and working in minutes.

For the workloads you keep on VDI, Island can also serve as the endpoint client, so the two run side by side.

What changes when you right-size



Lower cost and complexity for the work that never needed virtualizing.



Faster onboarding for contractors and distributed teams, without shipping hardware or provisioning desktops.



A better day-to-day experience for users, which means less frustration and fewer workarounds.



Less to maintain and fewer tickets for IT and the help desk.



Start with one workflow

You don't need to touch your whole VDI estate to see whether this works. Choose one workflow that probably doesn't need a full virtual desktop, and test it there:

Contractor and third-party onboarding

SaaS and web app access

BYOD and unmanaged devices

Private app access without a VPN

A short demo is enough to see Island run against that workflow, in your own environment and with your controls in view.

[Request a demo ↪](#)