

Your checklist for right-sizing VDI

You don't have to move everything off VDI to get value from rethinking it. Plenty of work still belongs on a full virtual desktop: thick-client apps, OS-dependent tools, anything peripheral-heavy or compute-heavy.

This checklist helps you:

- Find the workflows that don't belong there
- Identify the browser-dominant ones that may run just as well with browser-layer access
- Pressure-test each workflow before you make a decision

Work through it one workflow at a time. By the end, you'll know whether to keep it on VDI, validate it for a browser-based model, or dig a little deeper first.

The three outcomes

Every workflow you run through this checklist will end up in one of these three places. None of them is the wrong answer. The point is to sort honestly, not to force a move.

Retain in VDI

The workflow leans on the desktop, and that's exactly where it should stay.

Validate for Island

It looks browser-dominant, and it's worth a closer fit review.

Needs more discovery

There's real promise here, but a few open questions to work through first.

The Checklist

1. Application and browser dependence

Start with the work itself. The best candidates are workflows that already live in a browser, with nothing pulling them back to the desktop.

- ☐ Core tasks run in a browser (SaaS or web)
- ☐ No thick-client or OS dependencies
- ☐ No heavy local processing, GPU, or high compute
- ☐ No specialized peripherals (badge printers, scanners, signature pads)
- ☐ No need for a full, persistent desktop

If most of these are true, you're looking at a strong candidate. If the work depends on a thick client, a peripheral, or serious compute, that's your sign to keep it on VDI.

2. Users and endpoints

Who does this work, and on what, often decides the case. Unmanaged devices and outside contractors are where a browser-based model tends to shine.

- ☐ User groups and locations are known
- ☐ Managed and unmanaged devices accounted for
- ☐ Contractor and temporary access needs are clear
- ☐ Device posture requirements defined
- ☐ Accessibility requirements understood

Unmanaged devices and contractor access strengthen the case for browser-layer control. If you can't yet describe who's doing the work, keep digging before you decide.

3. Security and data controls

This is the section that makes or breaks the move. A workflow only leaves the full desktop if its security and data requirements can be met somewhere else.

- ☐ Identity, SSO, and MFA requirements defined
- ☐ Conditional access rules known
- ☐ Data sensitivity classified for this workflow
- ☐ Data-action controls listed (copy, paste, download, upload, print)
- ☐ Logging and audit requirements documented
- ☐ Network access boundary understood

If every control the workflow needs can be enforced at the browser layer, it stays a candidate. If even one can't, keep it on VDI or investigate further before moving.

4. Operations and resilience

A workflow isn't ready to move until you know how it runs day to day, and what happens if something goes wrong.

- ☐ Provisioning and deprovisioning mapped
- ☐ Policy administration and ownership assigned
- ☐ Support and update processes defined
- ☐ Availability and incident response covered
- ☐ Rollback and fallback path exists
- ☐ Exception handling planned

You want a clear operating model and a fallback path before anything moves. Gaps here don't rule a workflow out, but they do mean more discovery first.

5. Economics and decision readiness

Finally, a gut check on whether you have enough to make the call, rather than a hunch.

- ☐ Current-state usage baseline exists
- ☐ User population sized
- ☐ Success measures agreed
- ☐ Technical owner named
- ☐ Enough validated data to weigh a business case

With a baseline and an owner in place, you're ready to decide. Without them, the workflow stays in discovery, and that's a perfectly fine place for it to be for now.

Score it

Step back and look at the workflow across all five sections. The pattern usually makes the call for you:

- If it's strong across all five, validate it for Island and book a fit review.
- If the fit is there but controls, operations, or the baseline have gaps, give it more discovery and close those first.
- If it leans on the desktop, a peripheral, or heavy compute, keep it on VDI with confidence.

A few things should stop a move on their own, at least for now:

- A thick-client or OS dependency with no browser equivalent
- A required control that can't be met outside a full desktop
- No rollback or fallback path
- No named owner or success criteria

Next Step

If the workflow came out as validate for Island, the next step is a short, focused conversation. In about 30 minutes, a workload-fit review confirms:

- Applications, users, and endpoints
- Identity, data, and control requirements
- Technical owner and success criteria
- The call: retain, validate, or investigate further

You'll leave knowing whether to move it, wait, or keep it right where it is.

[Request a workflow review](#)