

Island

Solution Brief

Right-Sizing VDI and EUC for Business Services and Technology

Modernize end-user computing by moving the right work to the browser, and keeping VDI where it's needed.

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

Virtual desktop infrastructure earned its place. When apps 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. In business services and technology, most of the day runs in a browser: client-delivery staff in approved web apps, engineering and support teams in SaaS tools, contractors and offshore teams reaching the systems they need. The devices doing that work are faster than the servers VDI once replaced. Running all of it through a virtual desktop adds cost, friction, and support load that's hard to justify for work that never needed virtualizing.

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

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

For distributed delivery, engineering, and support teams, each of these gets worse with every new user and environment.

Qualify the workload before you move it

The question isn't "VDI or not." It's “which work actually needs a virtual desktop, and which can run in a governed browser instead?” Sort each of your workflows into one of these three:

Consider Island

Browser and SaaS work, like the approved web apps your delivery teams use or the SaaS your engineers and support staff live in, where the apps and their controls can run in the browser. Confirm it with app, identity, device, and data-control tests, and name an owner.

Validate first

Private web apps, mixed workflows, and anything specialized. Check the connectivity, the access path, and how tasks split between browser and desktop before you move anything.

Retain VDI

Desktop-dependent work: native or local apps, GPU or compute-heavy jobs, and tightly regulated or isolated environments. Keep it on a virtual desktop, pending technical review.

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, the administration, or the friction, and it carries your existing controls across.

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.

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 continuity

Carry identity, device, data-action, and logging controls into the browser. Enforce access policy, govern copy, paste, download, and upload, isolate sensitive sessions, and log activity for audit.

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. Measure it against the entitlements and capacity you can genuinely reduce, plus any retained and transition costs, before you put a number on it.

Faster onboarding

Delivery teams, contractors, and offshore staff start without shipping hardware or provisioning desktops.

A better day-to-day experience

Less friction for the people doing the work, measured against their current workflow.

Less to maintain

Fewer images, fewer exceptions, and fewer tickets for IT and the service desk.



Start with one workflow

You don't need to touch your whole VDI estate to see whether this works. Pick one workflow that probably doesn't need a full virtual desktop, and test it there. These are the workflows most teams consider first:

- **Client-delivery teams on approved web apps**
- **Engineering and support teams on SaaS tools**
- **Contractor and third-party onboarding**
- **BYOD and unmanaged devices**

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 ↪