Move your Remote Desktop Services deployment to Azure

Business environments are changing extremely fast, and companies are struggling to quickly adjust to new ways of working. Having a workforce that can be accessible anytime from anywhere is becoming increasingly important

A remote desktop experience for employees is often delivered through Remote Desktop Services (RDS). However, as an on-premises solution, Remote Desktop Services does not realize the full value of modernization or the benefits of a cloud VDI.

Azure Virtual Desktop not only supports Windows Server but also provides Windows 10 enterprise multi-session, combining the Windows 10 experience with the ability to run multiple concurrent user sessions. It allows you to get an optimized experience for Microsoft 365 Apps including Microsoft Teams and enhanced security for users, company apps, and data. With AVD you can easily enable remote work, save on infrastructure, and reduce the total cost of ownership (TCO). Windows Virtual Desktop also helps bring other benefits to your business, including simplified IT management, security capabilities that help keep your users, data, organization safe and protection against outages with integrated Azure Site Recovery and Azure Backup technologies.

If you have Remote Desktop Services you can consider either moving to an infrastructure as a service (IaaS) approach with Azure or migrate directly to Azure Virtual Desktop. AVD on Azure allows you to migrate your existing virtual workloads to Azure and focus on what's important to you, the end user experience. The migration process involves several steps.

STEP 1:

Environment Assessment

STEP 2:

Server Migration

STEP 3:

Windows Virtual Desktop deployment and infrastructure configuration

STEP 4:

Remote Desktop Services deployment clean-up

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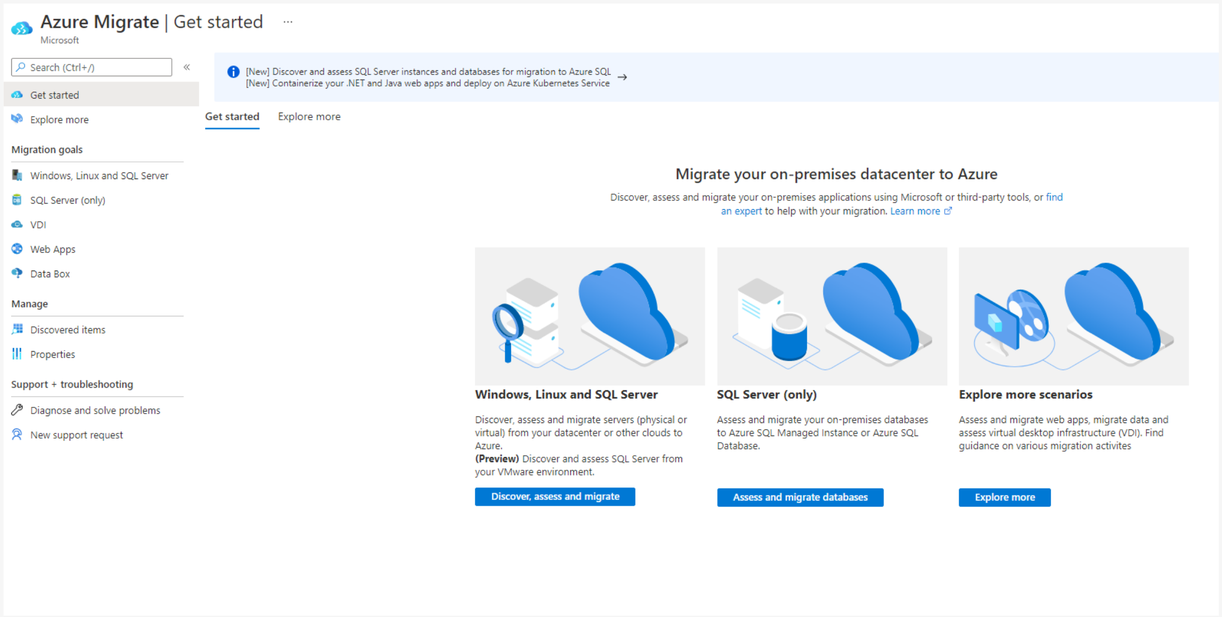
STEP 1:

Environment Assessment

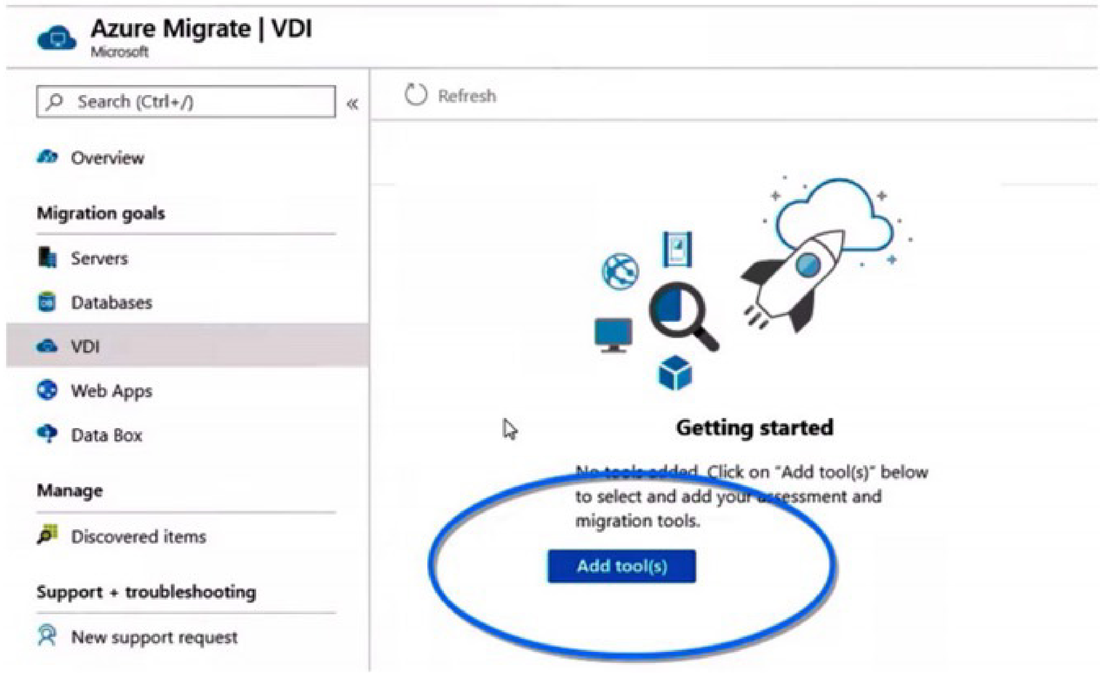
With Azure Migrate: Server Migration as the migration tool you can easily start the discovery process and gather a lot of information about your current infrastructure. It is highly recommended that you do this at least once for each RD Session Host server before you migrate it.



STEP 2:

Server Migration

After you have verified that the test migration works as expected, you can migrate the on-premises RD Session Host servers.



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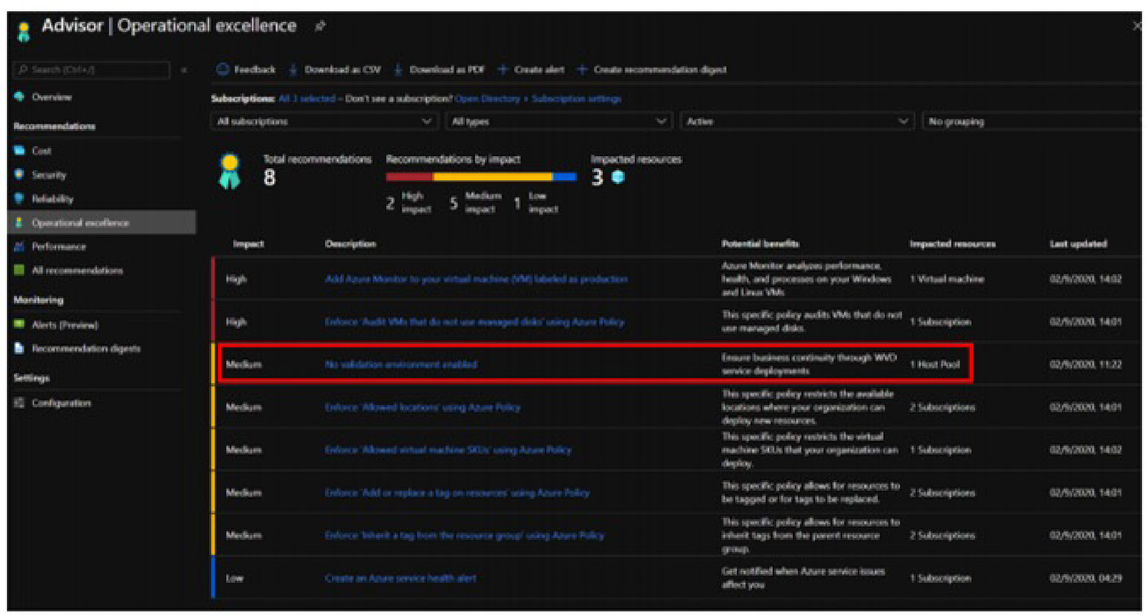
STEP 3:

Windows Virtual Desktop deployment and infrastructure configuration

Once you have migrated to Azure Virtual Desktop, you should investigate the usage and the Windows Virtual Desktop health of your environment to rescale your session host servers as needed. It is also good to monitor that health on an on-going basis. Security is an important part of Azure Virtual Desktop.



STEP 4:

Remote Desktop Services deployment clean-up

After you have successfully migrated your Remote Desktop Services deployment to Azure Virtual Desktop, it is advised to also clean up your Remote Desktop Services deployment. It's important to investigate, plan, and execute this clean-up thoroughly to make sure no components or configurations are left behind. This step involves removing the VMs of your Remote Desktop Services deployment (such as RD Connection Broker, RD Web Access, and RD Gateway), various DNS records and the corresponding AD computer objects.

The migration from Remote Desktop Services to WVD is designed to be as seamless as possible and gives you the following benefits:

- Windows 10 Enterprise multiple session capabilities.
- Free Windows 7 Extended Security Updates till 2023.
- WVD comes as a Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS).

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