

Remote Desktop Session Hosts for government agencies

Maximize capacity, minimize costs

Budget pressures driven by recent governmental policy changes demand cost optimization across federal commands. Organizations leveraging **Omnissa® VDI** face high per-user costs that compound at enterprise scale. Using, Remote Desktop Session Host (RDSH) desktops lowers costs by allowing more users to share the same resources and reducing licensing needs.

Hosting apps on RDSH and using Omnissa App Volumes allows the apps to be delivered only when needed, which reduces the number of RDS hosts required. This makes app management easier while maintaining the security, scalability, and resilience organizations rely on. The result? Immediate and recurring savings without compromising operational excellence.

Meet these core challenges with Omnissa Horizon RDSH

- Increased financial pressure due to recent governmental and budgetary changes.
- Need to reduce recurring infrastructure and licensing costs.
- Desire to reuse existing Omnissa Horizon licensing and operational expertise.
- Requirement to maintain secure, centrally managed desktop services.



At a glance

Omnissa Horizon RDSH provides **multi-session, hosted desktops** to help reduce your agency's overall compute, storage, and licensing footprint.



Architecture fundamentals

Remote Desktop Session Host (RDSH) operates on a shared resource model. Multiple users connect to a single Windows Server instance, each receiving an isolated session with dedicated app access. This architecture maximizes infrastructure utilization—one robust server supports dozens of concurrent users, dramatically reducing the hardware footprint, storage requirements, and IOPS demands compared to individual VM deployments.

Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) provides each user with a dedicated virtual machine running their own Windows 10 or 11 operating system. This approach offers maximum personalization and isolation, but requires proportionally more compute resources, storage capacity, and management overhead. Every user consumes a full VM’s worth of resources, regardless of their actual utilization patterns.

While both RDSH and VDI deliver remote desktop experiences, understanding their architectural differences helps clarify why cost structures diverge so dramatically and helps identify optimal use cases for each technology.

Key differences at a glance

	RDSH	VDI
Desktop type	Shared session environment	Dedicated virtual machine
Resource model	Multiple users per server	One VM per user
Personalization	Standardized with limited customization	Fully customizable desktop
Infrastructure footprint	Minimal (one server serves many)	Large (dedicated resources per user)
Licensing	Windows Server + RDSH CALs	Windows 10/11 Enterprise + VDA
Management complexity	Lower (fewer endpoints)	Higher (must manage individual VMs)
Scalability	Horizontal (add servers) and vertical (add resources)	Modular expansion with independent scaling
User experience	Consistent, shared environment	Personalized, isolated experience
Cost profile	Lower initial and operational costs	Higher costs across infrastructure and licensing

Fewer servers, faster response

Infrastructure considerations

One RDSH server supports 20–50+ users versus VDI's one-per-user model. This shared architecture dramatically reduces CPU, memory, storage, and IOPS requirements while simplifying operations—potentially eliminating entire server clusters at enterprise scale.

Licensing economics

Windows licensing models differ significantly. RDSH uses Windows Server plus RDSH CALs—optimized for shared access. VDI requires Windows 10/11 Enterprise plus VDA or Microsoft 365 E3/E5 per user. RDSH's concurrent or server-based app licensing typically costs less than VDI's per-desktop model.

RDSH environments simplify IT operations

RDSH consolidates operations dramatically. Updates to a handful of hosts benefit all users versus managing thousands of individual VDI desktops. This streamlines patching, monitoring, and security, reducing IT labor costs and accelerating vulnerability response.

You should deploy RDSH for:

- **Task workers and standardized roles** – Call center reps, data entry specialists, and administrative personnel with consistent app needs benefit from RDSH's efficient, secure, cost-effective delivery of line-of-business apps.
- **High-density environments** – Hundreds or thousands of users accessing standardized app sets maximize RDSH's shared resource model, delivering more users per infrastructure dollar than any alternative.
- **Budget-constrained initiatives** – RDSH provides enterprise-grade virtual desktop capabilities at a fraction of VDI costs, enabling broader digital workplace deployments or freeing budget for mission-critical investments.

Let's go

Ready to validate RDSH feasibility for your command? Just visit the [OmniSSA federal webpage](#) or contact your [federal government sales rep](#) today.