

Managing Azure Virtual Desktop (Twitter - @askaresh)

Scale Out - Add extra Host (VM) to the Host Pools

- 1 Select the HP you want to add the additional host
- 2 Select - Registration Key
 - Click Generate new Key and select a date less than 27 days from the present and then Click OK
- 3 Now go to Session Host - Click on Add
- 4 No changes on the Basic Tab
- 5 Go to the Virtual Machine Tab
 - Select the Region
 - Select Image - Gallery and then go to My Items and select the previously created image
 - Enter the number of VMs you want to add within the HP
 - Select the same Virtual Network and NSG
 - Select the Azure AD join
 - Enter the local administrator username & password
- 6 Click on Review and Create

Automatically Power ON the Session host Virtual Machines

- 1 Go Azure Portal - Automation Accounts
 - Select the Subscription
 - Select the Resource Group
 - Give the account a Name - AutomationAI
 - Select the Region - Australia East
 - Managed Identities - System Assigned
 - Leave other options to default at the moment
 - Enter your desired Tags
 - Click on Create
- 2 Click On - Create
 - Click on Process Automation and select Runbooks
 - Click on Browse Gallery and Select Start/Stop VM using Tags (Pre-built)
 - Give it a Name for this Runbook - Start-VM-Auto-HP-1
 - Click on Publish and Click Yes on the version
- 3 Select the newly created the Automation Account
 - ProTip - Make sure the workflow name matches the Runbook name or/else it will not allow you to publish
 - Click on Schedules - Add a Schedule
 - Give it a name to recognize the schedule task - AZ-AA-Sch-VM-QN
 - Starts - The time to start the VM
 - Timezone - Easter Australia Time
 - Recurrence - Recurring + 1 Per Day + No Expiration + Click on Create
 - Enter the Parameters for Shutdown - Tag Name + Tag Value + Shutdown = False + Click on OK
 - You can use the same runbook for start-up as well
 - Optional - You can also use the Start/Stop VM Solution available within the Automation Account - Related Resources - Start/Stop VM. The benefit is all the above steps are completely automated by Microsoft for you.

Lifecycle - Update your Master Image - Shared Image Gallery aka Azure compute galleries

- 1 Virtual Machines - Create Virtual Machine
 - DayZOps - You want to patch or update the template. In the previous Mindmap we had selected to create our own image in the SIG just for this purpose this way we don't have to recreate the Host Pools. If you are using other methods you cannot perform rolling updates in the Host Pools using Drain method.
 - Select the Resource Group + Enter the Name of your choice
 - Under Image - Go to My Items and select Share Images and Select the previously created image (Refer to previous AVD Mindmap)
 - Select the Size of your choice + Enter the local admin username and account + Select None on Inbound Ports
 - Under Disk select - Premium SSD
 - Network - Select the dedicated Desktop Subnet we created in the previous mindmap + None on Public IP address
 - Defaults on the Management tab + Add Tags for easy of operations
 - Review and Create
 - Using Azure Bastion or RDP get into the image
 - Install the additional software or update. Make sure all reboots etc. are carried out
 - Sysprep the Image - OOBE + Generalize + Shutdown
 - Make sure the VM is in Stop - deallocated state
- 2 Update the Image by install or updating the necessary software
 - Under Virtual Machines Select the Image and click on Capture
 - Capture Image
 - Automatically deletes after creating
 - Repeat these steps on all master image
 - SIG
 - Add new version under VM image definitions
 - Provide a Version + Select the Image + Expiry Date + Multi-regions
 - Select the Host Pool that needs the new image Update - Click on Session Host
 - Click on - Add (Make sure you have done the previous step of "Registration Key" that allows you to add VMs).
 - It will open the add the virtual machine to Host Pool
 - Select the No. of VM you want to add
 - Select the VDI Desktop subnet
 - Click on Review + Create
 - Validate the new number of Session Host has been created
- 3 Add the new updated image to the Host Pools
- 4 Application Groups (AG)
 - Click on Add
 - Give the AG a name - Windows XXXXX
 - Assignments - Add the AD group with the end-users
 - No change on the workspace as its the Desktop
 - Yes on Register Application Group + Yes on the correct Workspace. Click on Review + Create
 - Now you shall see the new ICON of the newly published Windows XXX Desktop.

Monitoring Azure Virtual Desktop

- 1 Host Pools
 - Make sure Azure Log Analytics Workspace is created. If not please create one within your Resource Group
 - AVD - Host Pools - Select the HP - Diagnostics settings. Click on Add diagnostic setting
 - Go to the Azure Virtual Desktop - Host Pools and select the HP on which you want to enable Logging - Diagnostic Settings
 - Enter a Diagnostic Setting Name + Select All logs (Checkpoint, Error, Management, Connection, Host Registration and AgentHealthStatus) + Send to Log Analytics Workspace. + Click on SAVE
- 2 Application Groups
 - Go to the Azure Virtual Desktop - Application Groups and select the AG on which you want to enable Logging - Diagnostic Settings
 - Enter a Diagnostic Setting Name + Select All logs (Checkpoint, Error, Management) + Send to Log Analytics Workspace. + Click on SAVE
- 3 Metrics will start populating under Log Analytics Workspace - Settings - Logs
- 4 Reference Links
 - <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-desktop/azure-monitor>
 - <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-desktop/azure-monitor-glossary>

Drain the old Session Host VM

- 1 Go to the Host Pool and select Session Host
- 2 Now the old and new session host VM will be listed
- 3 Select the old ones and put them in "Drain Mode". It will say you can no longer accept new connections and existing sessions will not be impacted. Click on OK
- 4 When you see Zero session against the old session host VM its time to delete. Select the VM and click on "Remove" and click OK on the warning message.
- 5 Go to Portal and Select Virtual Machines and make sure you delete the old Session Host VM from here too.
- 6 Remove the disk from the Disk + Networks interfaces of the VM in the Azure Portal