

Microsoft Remote Desktop Service (RDS) and RemoteApp Battlecard



Microsoft Remote Desktop Services (RDS) is a powerful solution, but it does have some limitations and concerns.



Hybrid and migration

Limited support for remote working practices and phase out migration plans.



Complex configuration

Setting up and configuring RDS can be complex, especially for users unfamiliar with the technology.



Security concerns

RDS is complex with aging technologies, requiring extensive configuration for cybersecurity protection.



Lack of innovation

Continually managing RDS deployments can be cumbersome due to the manual and unintuitive processes involved.



Limited user experience

Insufficient features to support and/or boost the productivity of the workforce.

Parallels RAS is a cost-effective and flexible alternative that helps eliminate these limitations and solves these concerns for RDS customers:



Flexible integration

Hybrid by design
Leading hypervisor compatibility
Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) integration
Amazon EC2 support
Single or multi-tenancy
Seamless Microsoft Azure integration



Simplified management

Single management console
Wizard-based deployment
Advanced Image management
Built-in FSLogix profile and container support
Free training and onboarding



Upleveled security

SSL/TLS 1.3 support
Build in MFA
External IdPs for SSO
FIPS 140-2 compliance
Auditing and logs



Workforce productivity

Single Sign On (SSO)
Drag & drop
Ultra-fast file loading
Multi-tasking
Universal Printing and scanning
Modern Parallels client design for Windows, Mac and web



Key takeaways

- RDS is an older virtualization technology that Microsoft is not investing in further, opting to focus on Azure and Azure Virtual Desktop instead.
- As a result of this under-investment, key technologies are being omitted. The result is a challenging management experience for RDS customers with more manual processes involved.
- Parallels RAS offers a flexible, feature-rich experience which simplifies the management of an RDS environment through a full migration while providing greater IT security.

How to sell Parallels RAS in 60 seconds:

Parallels RAS is an all-in-one remote application and desktop (VDI) delivery solution, providing secure access from anywhere and using any device. It simplifies the deployment, configuration, and management process with powerful capabilities for IT administration.

It's flexible enough to be used on-premises, cloud, multi-cloud, and hybrid, and can integrate with existing technologies like Azure Virtual Desktop. It's quick to set up and onboard with free training and 24/7 support.

Comparing Parallels RAS to the RDS offering

Topic	Microsoft RDS	Parallels RAS	Comments
Flexibility			
Hybrid by design	No	✓ Yes	RDS requires separate installations for on-premises and cloud deployments and does not integrate with AVD. Parallels RAS supports hybrid and AVD all within a single console.
Reporting	Partial	✓ Yes (Unlimited)	RDS reports need to be carried out manually and separately.
True multi-cloud admin	No	✓ Yes	For RDS, each deployment must be managed separately. RAS uses native integration to deliver hybrid and multi-cloud, including delivering multi-cloud OS from Azure.
MSIX package deployment: "app attach"	No	✓ Yes	It is possible to use MSIX app attach with RDS but this must be done manually and with PowerShell scripting. RAS provides Application Packages which are based on MSIX app attach technology and are available to AVD, VDI, and RDSH both on-premises and in the cloud.
Lower TCO			
Installation and setup: Time investment	High	✓ Low	Setting up an RDS environment is challenging because of multiple role installations that require separate configuration. Conversely, RAS is quick and simple, using QuickStart Wizards to guide the IT admin through setup, configuration and deployment.
Let's Encrypt SSL/TLS Certificate management	No	✓ Yes	Integration is not available on RDS, but RAS includes automated certificate management which provides the ability to issue, renew, auto renew, and revoke certificates directly from the RAS Console.
Image management	No	✓ Yes	There is no built-in image management for RDS, but with RAS IT admins can create Image Templates which enable controlled updates of the template across the organization, improving productivity and control.
Simplicity			
HTML5 access	✓ Yes (but difficult to setup and manage)	✓ Yes	Admins need to install, enable, and configure this role manually through PowerShell and it is supported only on Windows Server 2016, 2019, and 2022. With RAS the HTML User Portal is enabled, configured, and made available from the Secure Gateway out-of-the-box by default via a secure TLS connection.
Remote access to the infrastructure	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	RDS can only do this via the RD Gateway. RAS can do remote access that can be provided through Secure Gateways and HALB appliances at no additional cost.
Image optimization	No	✓ Yes	Not built in to RDS and un-optimized. RAS offers administrators the ability to optimize session hosts and change templates within the admin console.
User profile management	No	✓ Yes	Not available for RDS whereas RAS has Microsoft FSLogix integration which allows IT admins to avoid importing any troubling ADMX files.
User experience			
Native AVD integration	No	✓ Yes	RDS does not have native AVD integration. RAS has integration with the AVD control plane, taking advantage of the latest features from Microsoft.
Built-in customization (White labeling/branding)	Partial (Very limited)	✓ Yes	Limited options to personalize Remote Desktop Web Access in RBS. With Parallels RAS IT admins have extensive customization capabilities.
User session metrics	No	✓ Yes	Parallels RAS includes access to live session metrics simply by right-clicking on the user session. RDS does not.
Session pre-launch	No	✓ Yes (Machine Learning for improved experience)	With RAS, Session pre-launch improves the user experience by launching a session ahead of time, before the user actually opens an application. RDS does not have this functionality.
Windows on ARM64 native support	No	✓ Yes	Parallels Client for Windows natively supports and is optimized to run on machines that are powered by ARM64 processors. RDS uses RDP client only.