

Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) vs. Sonet.io: A Comprehensive Comparison

The Hidden Costs and Complexity of AVD

For IT leaders seeking a secure and scalable remote work solution, Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) often seems like the logical choice. But many quickly realize that AVD comes with hidden costs, operational headaches, and unpredictable licensing fees.

- **Complex deployment** – Requires Azure subscriptions, VM provisioning, and ongoing infrastructure management.
- **Unpredictable costs** – Azure compute, storage, licensing, and add-on fees make budgeting difficult.
- **Security gaps** – Requires additional Microsoft security tools, increasing both costs and complexity.
- **Ongoing IT burden** – Regular maintenance, scaling challenges, and patching demand continuous oversight.



Meet Sonet.io: The Zero-Hassle AVD Alternative

Sonet.io provides
a modern, browser-based,
zero-trust solution that
eliminates VDI complexity,
reduces IT overhead, and
offers simple, fixed pricing.



With Sonet.io
IT leaders can instantly
and securely deliver
applications to users—
without the headaches.



Key Areas of Comparison

Cost & Licensing

Cost Factor	Azure Virtual Desktop	Sonet.io Advantage
Infrastructure Costs	Requires Azure compute, storage, licensing, and additional infrastructure setup	True SaaS – all infrastructure is managed by Sonet.io, with nothing exposed to the customer
VDI & Licensing Fees	Usage-based pricing for compute, storage, and security. Windows licensing included.	Simple fixed per-user pricing – no surprise fees or metered usage
TCO (Total Cost of Ownership)	Variable costs based on Azure resource consumption and security add-ons.	Low – predictable costs with no hidden fees or variable pricing

Security & Compliance

Security Feature	Azure Virtual Desktop	Sonet.io Advantage
Zero-Trust Security	Manual setup using Entra ID (Azure AD), Defender & custom policies.	Preconfigured Zero Trust with granular access controls, no setup needed.
Access Management	Custom Entra ID setup for SSO, MFA & Conditional Access.	Uses existing SSO & MFA policies with no extra admin work.
Data Loss Prevention (DLP)	Requires Purview & third-party tools.	Built-in DLP, session recording & clipboard restrictions.
Session Monitoring	Requires SIEM solutions or additional services like Azure Monitor.	Fully integrated session tracking & auditing.
Security Patching	IT-managed OS updates & policy enforcement.	Automated security updates, no manual patching.
Admin Overhead	High—continuous maintenance required.	Low—fully managed security stack.

Real-World Insight:

“One of the bigger pain points with AVD is the integration with Microsoft Suite. There are some roadblocks when using apps like Teams through the virtual desktop. There is also a lack of DLP unless it is already set up within the environment.”

— Cyber Operations Analyst, Manufacturing

Takeaway: AVD requires IT to configure and maintain security policies, adding complexity and cost. Sonet.io provides built-in, enterprise-grade security with no manual setup or third-party tools needed.

Key Areas of Comparison

Deployment & IT Overhead

Deployment Factor	Azure Virtual Desktop	Sonet.io Advantage
Setup Time	Complex setup with Azure subscriptions, VM provisioning, and licensing	Deploy in minutes – No hardware, no infrastructure, no device shipping
IT Management	Requires ongoing Azure management & patching	Fully managed SaaS – No maintenance required
Scalability	Requires Azure VM scaling & cost forecasting	Instant scalability with fixed, predictable pricing—no surprises or overages
Workflow Automation	Needs additional Azure services to enable workflow automation.	Out-of-box AI-powered automation across all apps to reduce IT workload.
Workload Flexibility	Limited to Azure, no multi-cloud support	Multi-cloud architecture that runs workloads where they make sense—including AVD for Windows apps
Global Management	Each region requires separate setup, policies & manual coordination	Globally deployed service—no regional complexity.

Real-World Insight:

"We transitioned our former on-premises system to Azure over the past few years, but we've seen costs skyrocket as demand on campus grows across various courses."

— CISO, Higher Education

Takeaway: AVD demands complex setup, ongoing management, and unpredictable costs. Sonet.io eliminates infrastructure setup, enables instant deployment, introduces AI-powered automation, and provides simple, fixed pricing—so you never go over budget.

Why IT Leaders Are Making the Switch

AVD delivers a cloud-hosted VDI experience—but at a steep price. It demands extensive infrastructure, licensing, and IT oversight, making it difficult to scale. Sonet.io, on the other hand, eliminates these challenges entirely.

No Infrastructure Setup

Deploy in minutes without VDI, VPNs, or device shipping.

Zero-Trust Security Built-In

Enterprise-grade protection, including DLP and MFA, without additional costs.



No Licensing Headaches

Fixed, predictable pricing with no per-minute billing.

Instant Onboarding

Get remote teams operational in seconds with browser-based access.



Multi-Cloud Architecture

Runs workloads where they make sense—including AVD for Windows apps.

Learn how companies are slashing IT costs



**Schedule a Demo
with Us Today**



Download Our White Paper:
“Breaking Free from Remote
Work Challenges”



Work Securely From Any Device

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