Remote Desktop Services - VDI

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Topics Of Discussion

- What is VDI
- Applications of VDI
- Benefits of VDI
- How to use it
- VDI vs. RDS
- Persistent vs. Non-Persistent
- Future of VDI
- Alternative VDI - Citrix, and VMWare

What is VDI?

VDI - Virtual Desktop Infrastructure

- Allows users to remotely connect to a virtual desktop space
- Desktops are VMs being hosted by a Hyper-V server
- Administrators have full control of images used
- Users can access the service from anywhere, even on their home computer

Why Include VDI in Your Network?

- Security
- Repurpose old hardware
- Less expensive client hardware
- Control of user experience
- Mobility/ BYOD

Persistent Vs. Non-Persistent

- Persistent VDIs allot a VM for a user, even when not in use
- The desktop image is customizable and can be kept for future use by the same user

- Non-persistent VDIs consist of VM pools with a uniform image
- Rather than a users data being kept within a VM, roaming profiles are used to keep data tied to users

Things to Consider

- General costs can increase
- The return on investment many not be immediate or exist at all
- A connection to the servers is mandatory
- Overhead on the servers

Components of VDI

- Hyper-V Servers
- Connection Broker server roles
- RD Web Access Servers
- RD Session Host server roles

Connection Brokers

- The middle man that connects the clients to the virtual desktops themselves
- Authenticates users
- Turns VMs on and off as necessary
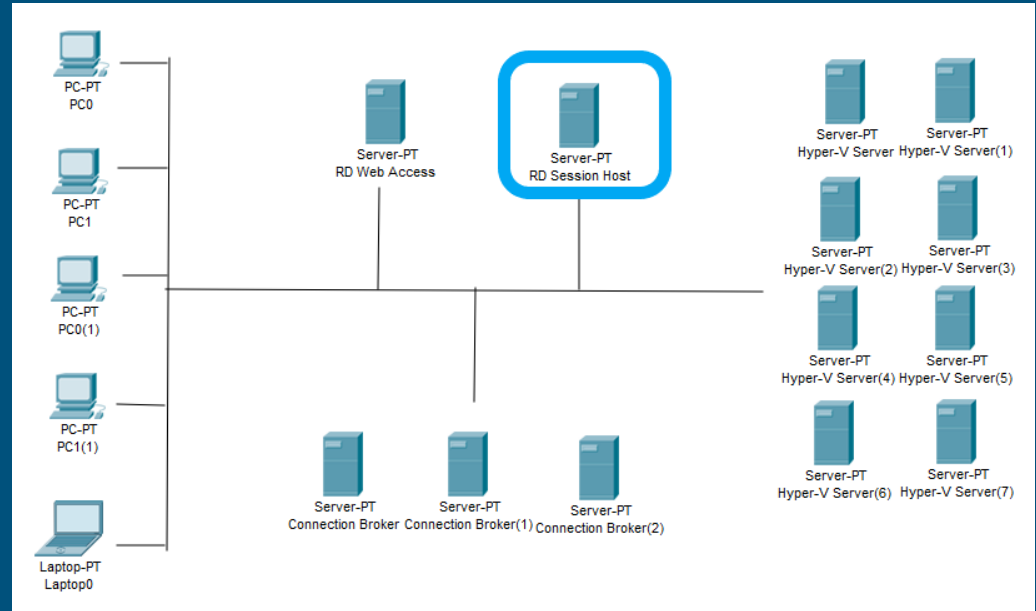- Load Balancing of Hyper-V server(s)
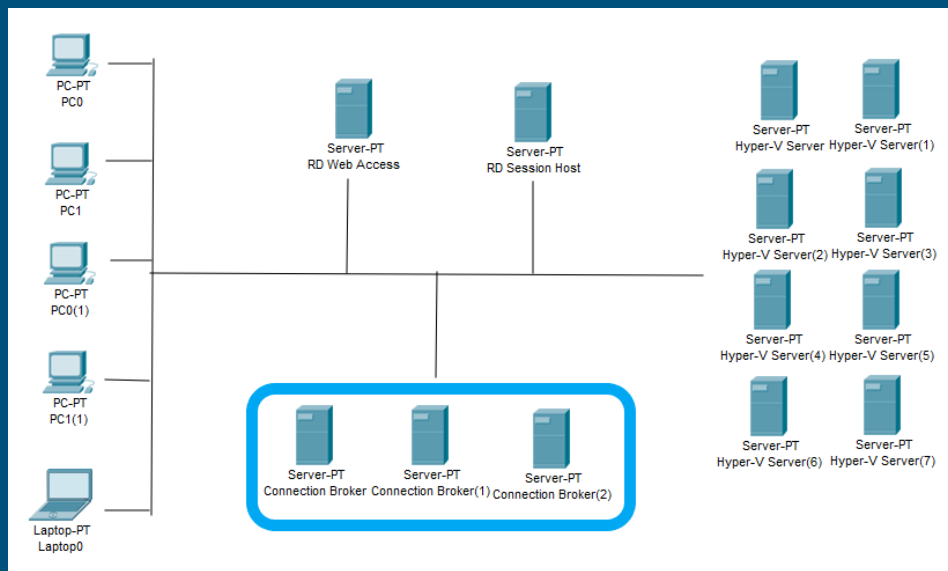
RD Web Access

- A simple web server for users to use as a portal to remote in.
- Administrators have control over what connections are served to a user
- Can be accessed from anywhere outside your network
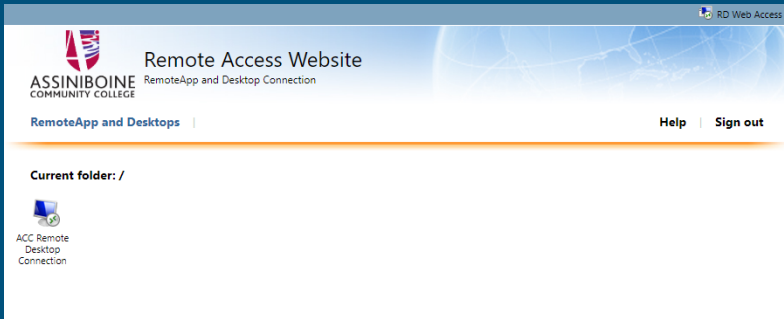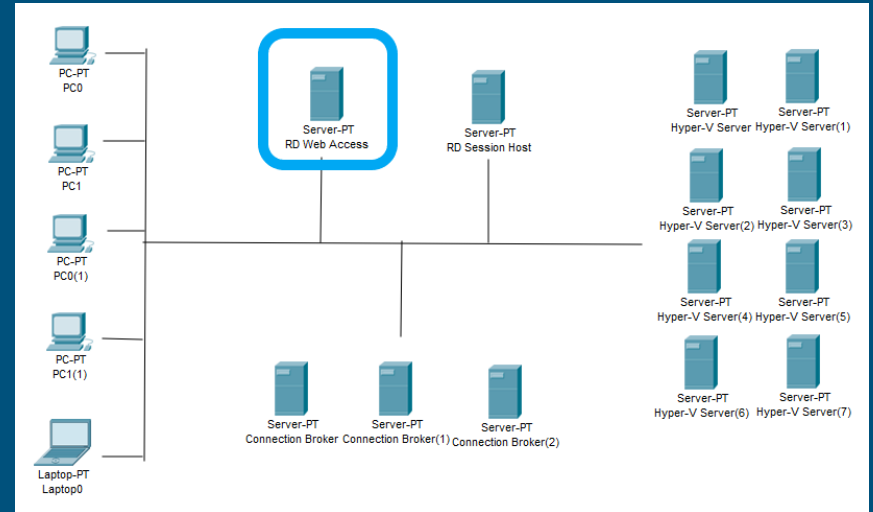
RD Session Host

The software service itself that integrates with Hyper-V to provide clients with virtual desktops

Future of VDI

Like all other services VDI is moving to the cloud with Microsoft Azure

Allows for all components of VDI to be moved into azure, and seamlessly integrated into pre existing VDI environments.

Alternatives

Citrix

- Reduced cost price model for small scale
- Integrates into other Citrix products

VMWare

- Claimed largest market share as of 2017
- Integrates with other VMware products

In conclusion

VDI is an interesting technology, but has a lot of variables surrounding it.

- Cost of implementation
- Server requirements and performance
  - Connection Brokers
  - Web access Servers
  - Session Host
- Reasons to implement VDI
- Value proposition of VDI
- Competitors