

A complete hybrid cloud digital workspace solution with Citrix and Flexible IT

Ready-to-use virtual workspaces powered by Citrix Cloud and Citrix Hypervisor



With an increasingly mobile workforce, virtual digital workspaces enhance worker productivity, and can substantially lower compute costs—all while improving security for digital information.

Many organizations depend on Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops for secure access to apps and data—allowing employees to work anywhere and anytime on the devices of their choosing. At the same time, some lack the infrastructure, resources, and expertise to design, build, and evolve robust hybrid cloud infrastructure to best exploit and scale this technology. This tension can result in lost productivity for workers as well as unacceptable security risks for the organization. Flexible|SmartWorkspaces for Citrix Cloud can ease this important transition, reducing complexity and cost at the hardware and storage layers, as well as accelerating increasingly urgent cloud migration efforts.

Citrix Workspace

Only Citrix offers the most complete and integrated workspace to enable people to securely access their apps, desktops, and data from anywhere. Rely on Windows app and desktop delivery from Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops, device security from Citrix Endpoint Management, secure file sync and sharing with Citrix Content Collaboration, and network security with Citrix Gateway. Only Citrix Workspace offers you complete choice of device, cloud and network, streamlined for IT control and simple, secure access for users.

Transitioning digital workspaces to the hybrid cloud

Beyond saving costs, virtual workspaces can provide a superior user experience while enabling the mobility that today's workers desire and require. Cloud technology is an ideal way to deploy virtual workspace technology, but each organization has unique needs and challenges in terms of:

- What resources and services to locate on-premises vs. in the cloud.
- Their ability to design, test, and deploy on-premise infrastructure.
- Capabilities to securely and effectively manage resulting hybrid cloud deployments.

Implementation and management challenges can prevent organizations from benefiting from the promise of this critical technology, resulting in:

- **Poor user experience.** Without careful implementation, virtual workspace users can encounter performance-impacting issues such as long login times and slow application and desktop performance.
- **Deployment delays.** IT administrators' time can be compromised with repetitive manual tasks, ultimately reducing the production potential of the IT department.
- **Security vulnerabilities.** Ad-hoc configurations with no end-to-end security and visibility can expose the organization to unacceptable levels of risk.
- **Cost.** Inefficient or proprietary storage solutions can undermine the cost effectiveness of virtual workspace solutions.
- **Scalability.** Scaling a virtual workspace implementation to meet the growing demands of an organization often proves troublesome and expensive.

Citrix Ready Hybrid and Multi-Cloud Program

The Citrix Ready Hybrid and Multi-Cloud Program is designed to assure compatibility with Citrix Cloud services along with those of major public cloud providers. Citrix Cloud simplifies the delivery and management of Citrix technologies, helping organizations extend existing on-premises software deployments or move completely to the cloud.

Flexible IT is certified with the hybrid cloud portion of the Citrix Ready Hybrid and Multi-Cloud program, automating the setup and maintenance of Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops in Citrix Cloud (Figure 1). Deploying the solution gives businesses the ability to embrace hybrid cloud strategies to gain organizational agility, accommodate existing and new applications, and ensure that apps and desktops reside in optimized environments. Workloads can move between on-premises and cloud infrastructure as needed, allowing organizations to:

- Migrate to cloud platforms with trusted and verified products on hybrid and multi-cloud platforms.
- Provide reliable user access to applications by combining the best of Citrix and partner technology.
- Cut cost of ownership, minimize complexity, maximize value, and modernize the way IT services are delivered.

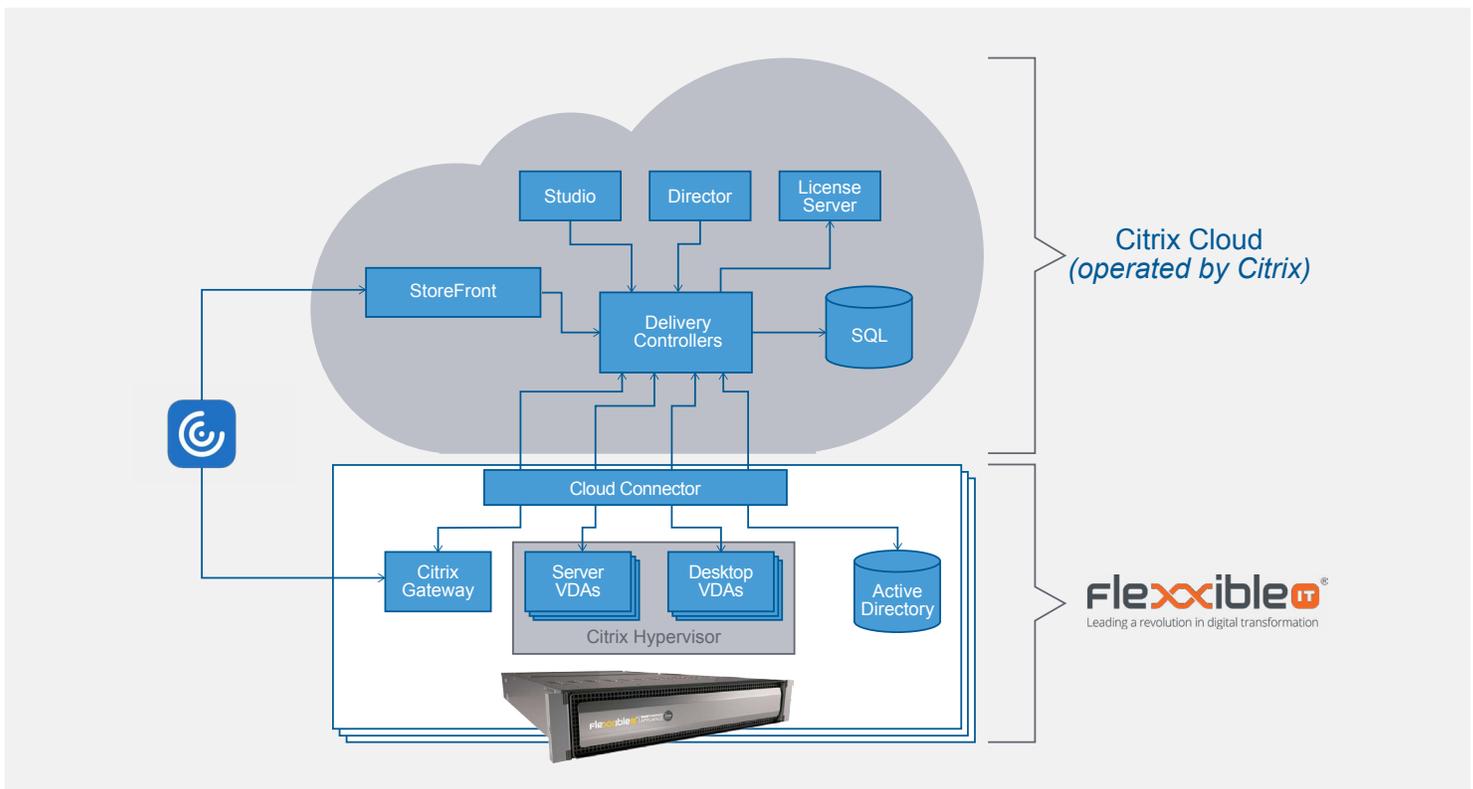


Figure 1. Flexible|SmartWorkspaces offers on-site resources for Citrix Cloud.

The Citrix Ready Program

The Citrix Ready technology partner program offers robust testing, verification, and joint marketing for Digital Workspace, Networking, and Analytics solutions—with over 30,000 partner verifications listed in the [Citrix Ready Marketplace](#).

Integration with Citrix Cloud and Citrix Hypervisor

Flexible|SmartWorkspaces for Citrix Cloud delivers ready-to-use virtual workspaces powered by Citrix Cloud and Citrix Hypervisor. The solution includes multi-tenant support, automated deployment, and simple scalability. Users also have the option of using local or cloud-based Citrix ADC and Citrix StoreFront instances if desired.

- **Citrix Cloud.** Citrix Cloud services simplify the delivery and management of Citrix technologies, helping to extend existing on-premises deployments. Organizations can create and deploy secure digital workspaces in hours, not weeks, while placing their sensitive app, desktop, and data resources on any cloud or hybrid cloud.
- **Citrix Hypervisor.** Open source Citrix Hypervisor offers a comprehensive enterprise-level feature set and is the most closely integrated hypervisor with Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops. Flexible|SmartWorkspaces for Citrix Cloud incorporates the Long Term Service Release (LTSR) program to give organizations the assurance of stability and long-term support.

Flexible|SmartWorkspaces for Citrix Cloud

Flexible|SmartWorkspaces for Citrix Cloud provides an innovative way to manage and monitor enterprise cloud infrastructure through a single pane of glass. Verified as Citrix Ready, the solution is designed for companies of any size, and provides an on-site layer for on-premises computing for Citrix Cloud. Storage options include fast all-flash storage provided by the appliance, or an organization's existing network storage. Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct can be used for replication.

Flexible|SmartWorkspaces for Citrix Cloud configuration is automated, and installation only takes a few minutes. Scaling to new capacity is just as straightforward, making it easy to grow seamlessly as requirements increase. Advantages of the Flexible|SmartWorkspaces Appliance include:

- **Reduced complexity.** All the layers of the infrastructure can be managed centrally from a single console, including the hypervisor, the Citrix environment, operating system, and applications. A customizable and responsive web panel consolidates and simplifies management, providing the ability to easily oversee complex multi-tenancy and multi-network implementations. This ease of management extends to multi-domain and multi-layer platforms.
- **Automation.** The fully automated deployment enables unattended Citrix Hypervisor installation with automatic Citrix Cloud resource location creation and Citrix Cloud connectors deployment. Automation capabilities extend to future updates of the solution. This approach relieves IT departments of the manual tasks traditionally involved with delivering virtual workspaces—reducing workload and increasing productivity. Automation enables the Flexible|SmartWorkspaces Appliance to be deployed and ready to use in a few hours.

- **Lower Costs.** Flexible|SmartWorkspaces for Citrix Cloud makes the benefits of virtual workspaces accessible to enterprises of all sizes by keeping project costs under control. The pre-configured and automated solution completely eliminates the need for specialized personnel.
- **Storage agnostic.** The storage-agnostic approach provides the benefits of all-flash storage while simultaneously protecting existing investments in storage.
- **Superior user and IT administrator experience.** Users access data and applications as if they were working in the office. IT administrators get an enhanced ability to monitor the performance and availability of the virtual workspace infrastructure and applications with integrated monitoring and alerting capabilities.
- **Multi-tenancy.** The Flexible|SmartWorkspaces Appliance extends Citrix Studio capabilities in supporting multiple global locations. The fast, simplified implementation process enabled by the solution extends to multi-tenant environments.

Multi-layer control with Flexible IT and Citrix

Citrix Cloud deployments are typically segmented into multiple management layers. Together, the Flexible|SmartWorkspaces Appliance and Citrix Cloud architecture address these layers as shown in Figure 2 and described in the sections that follow.

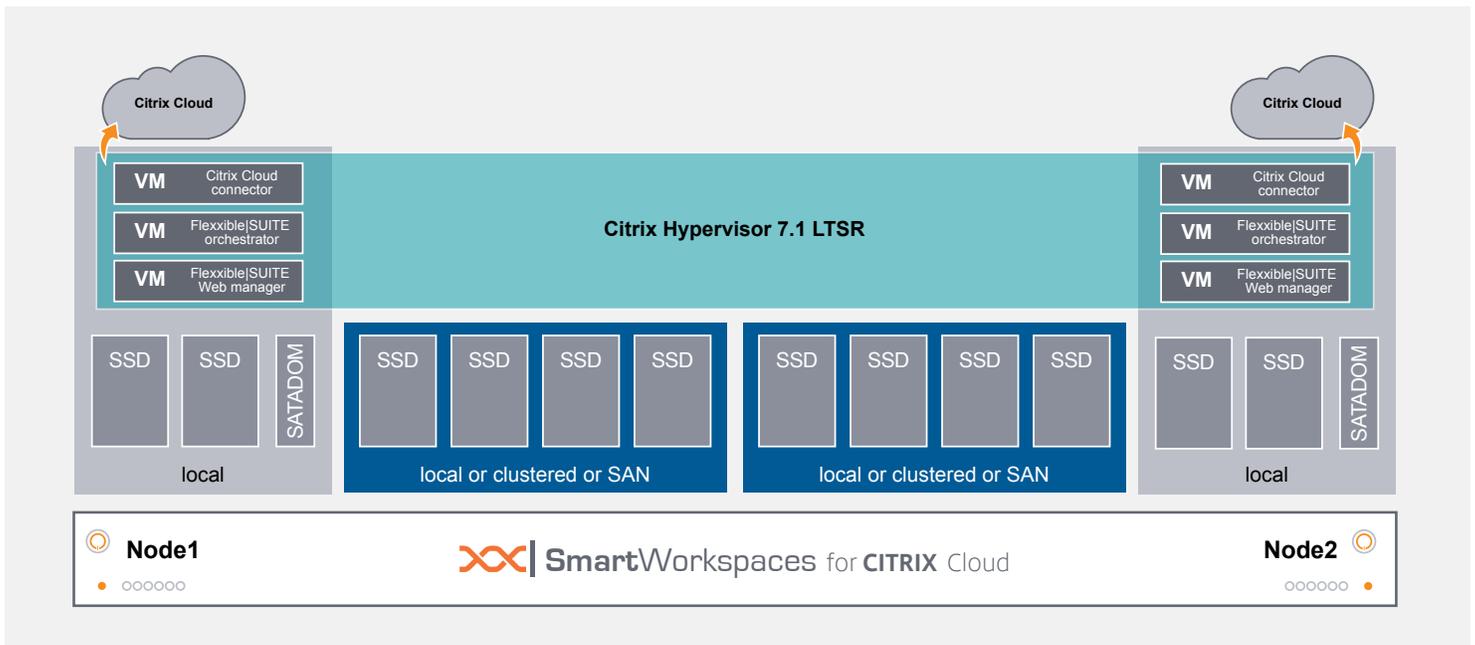


Figure 2. Flexible IT provides multi-layer control of hybrid cloud deployments.

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- **Control layer.** The Citrix Cloud control layer creates a singular unified platform upon which all user layers (users, access, and resources) are built. The control layer includes components that support the resource location, such as Cloud Connectors, Microsoft Active Directory (AD) Controllers.
 - **Compute layer.** The Citrix Cloud compute layer serves to support each resource location, including those hosted on-premises. Flexible IT enhances the compute layer with pre-sized hardware for each organization's specific workload, powered by Citrix Hypervisor (or Hyper-V) and enhanced with automation technology.
 - **Management plane.** The Citrix Cloud control plane orchestrates and aggregates services within each resource location. The control plane communicates with multiple resource locations in providing a single management perspective. Flexible IT's unique multi-tenant technology builds upon the Citrix Cloud control plane by providing a single management console view of all environments. This feature provides real-time usage data of the entire infrastructure. Deployments are fully automated with Smart Update capabilities.

Conclusion

Moving to hybrid cloud deployment models for virtual workspace integration requires mature solutions that are engineered to work together. As a Citrix Ready Hybrid and Multi-Cloud verified partner, the Flexible IT solution provides an innovative way to manage, monitor, and grow all of the relevant Citrix Virtual Apps and Desktops infrastructure elements through a single pane of glass. Based on the open source Citrix Hypervisor, Flexible|SmartWorkspaces for Citrix Cloud provides on-site resources customized to organizational need. Quick configuration ensures automated installations in a matter of minutes, extending the benefits of Citrix Cloud by providing on-premises compute for a complete hybrid cloud workspace solution.

For more information, view Flexible IT's profile on the Citrix Ready Marketplace at <https://citrixready.citrix.com/flexible-it/flexible-smartworkspaces-for-citrix-cloud-sws4cc.html.html>.



About Flexible IT

Flexible IT is the number-one cloud platform for Citrix on-premise and Citrix Cloud deployments. Since 2008, Flexible IT has been researching and implementing technology for virtual apps and desktops in the cloud and on-premise. We have the necessary know-how and extensive experience in high-density environments, with an end-to-end industrialized virtual workspace solution for Citrix. Learn more at flexible.com.



About Citrix Ready

The Citrix Ready technology partner program offers testing and verification for joint Digital Workspace, Networking, and Analytics solutions. After a robust testing process, validated partner solutions are listed in the Citrix Ready Marketplace, giving customers and channel partners a simple and effective way to explore and select Citrix Ready verified solutions—increasing confidence while reducing risk. Learn more at citrixready.citrix.com.



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