



VDI Isn't Done. It's Being Reworked.

A 2026 directional survey report on VDI, Cloud PCs, published apps, and the next phase of workspace delivery

A directional survey report from

Recast

 vmblog

 nerdio | manager
for enterprise

Based on responses from surveyed IT professionals. Findings should be read as directional, not statistically representative of the broader market.

How to read this report

This report summarizes a directional survey of IT professionals with awareness of VDI, Cloud PCs, and published apps. The findings show patterns among respondents. They should not be read as a statistically representative benchmark for the full market.

64

final usable records

n=64

59

current VDI, Cloud PC, and app users

n=59

63

future direction question base

n=63

53 / 37

AI interest / outcomes bases

n=53 / n=37

Read this as

A practical view of how surveyed IT professionals describe current workspace delivery, operating pressure, security concerns, update confidence, and future direction.

Do not read this as

- A market-share report
- A platform ranking
- A representative North American adoption benchmark
- A Citrix vs. AVD vs. Windows 365 comparison
- An AI-first forecast

Method Note

Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. Some questions were multi-select, so totals can exceed 100%. Base sizes vary because of skip logic and retained partial responses.

Executive summary

VDI, Cloud PCs, and published apps still have a role in workspace delivery. Among surveyed IT professionals, they continue to support secure access, remote work, contractors, developers, application publishing, and production work.

But the next phase is less about access alone. It is about whether teams can make workspace delivery simpler, more visible, more secure, and easier to operate.

Among current users in this survey, the end-user experience is often good. It is also not effortless. Performance, lifecycle work, cost, patch confidence, and security proof all show up as pressure points.

The survey points to a practical shift: VDI is not disappearing. It is being reworked.



66%

39 of 59 current users rated end-user experience good or very good.

n=59



64%

38 of 59 current users reported performance or latency issues at least sometimes.

n=59



53%

31 of 59 current users cited at least one lifecycle-related pain point.*

n=59



34%

20 of 59 current users were very/extremely confident required updates are applied on time.

n=59



2%

1 of 63 respondents planned to exit an existing deployment entirely in the next 12 to 18 months.

n=63

KEY TAKEAWAY

VDI is working well enough to keep. It is not working smoothly enough to ignore.

*Composite metric: respondent selected at least one of image management, application delivery or updates, or user profiles. Not a single survey answer choice.

VDI remains part of the workspace mix

Among current users in this survey, workspace delivery is not one thing. Respondents reported a mix of persistent desktops, pooled desktops, published apps, Cloud PCs, and session-based desktops.

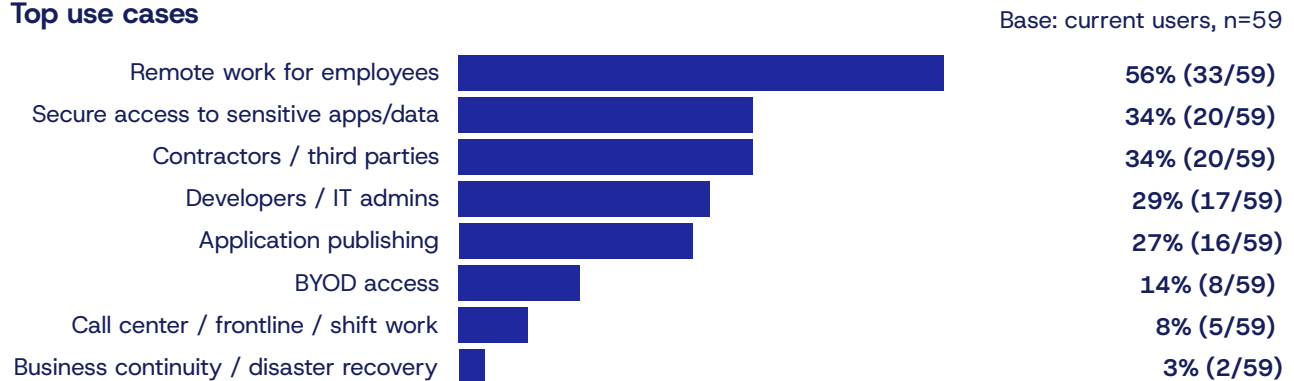
That mix matters. It shows why the next phase is not a simple "keep or leave" decision. For many teams, the question is how to make different delivery models easier to run together.

Workspace delivery types in production



Respondents most often cited remote work for employees as a top use case. Secure access to sensitive apps and data, and access for contractors or third parties, were also common selections.

Top use cases



KEY TAKEAWAY

Workspace delivery is mixed by design and by necessity.

Multi-select question; totals exceed 100%. Use cases were limited to three selections per respondent.

Workspace delivery is mixed by default

Current environments represented in this survey often span more than one named platform. Among current users, 51%, or 30 of 59, reported two or more named platforms. The average was 2.1 platform selections per current user. Hosting was also mixed. Among current users, 69%, or 41 of 59, selected a cloud, hybrid, or MSP-hosted model. 29%, or 17 of 59, selected mostly on-premises datacenters. 29%, or 17 of 59, selected mostly on-premises datacenters.

Platform footprint

n=59



2.1
avg selections

Hosting model

n=59



Platforms represented

AVD, Citrix on-prem or DaaS, Windows 365, Microsoft RDS / RemoteApp, Omnissa Horizon, Amazon WorkSpaces / AppStream, Parallels RAS, Nutanix Frame, and Dizzion Frame.

Caution

Platform data in this report should be read as platforms represented in the respondent base. It should not be read as market share or as a defensible comparison between platforms.

KEY TAKEAWAY

51% reported two or more named platforms.

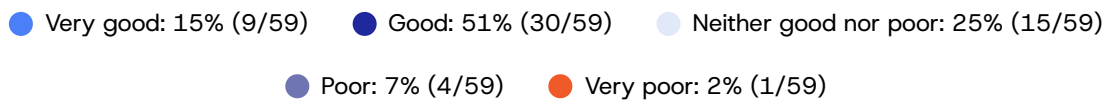
Platform data shows platforms represented in current environments among respondents. It is not a market-share estimate. Hosting was single-select and may simplify mixed environments.

The user experience is decent, not effortless

The survey does not support a doom story. Among current users, most rated the end-user experience positively. 66%, or 39 of 59, said the experience is good or very good.

But good does not mean effortless. The same environments can deliver value and still create recurring friction for users and support teams.

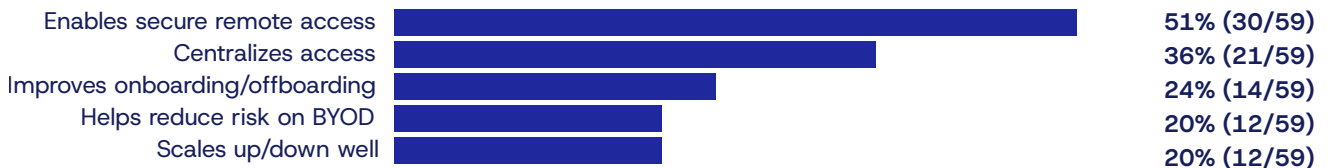
Overall end-user experience



Secure remote access was the strongest "what works well" response, selected by 51%, or 30 of 59, current users. Centralized access followed at 36%, or 21 of 59.

What works well, top five

n=59



51% (30/59)

Secure access



36% (21/59)

Centralized access



24% (14/59)

Onboarding

KEY TAKEAWAY

Good enough to keep does not mean smooth enough to ignore.

"What works well" was multi-select and limited to three selections per respondent; totals exceed 100%.

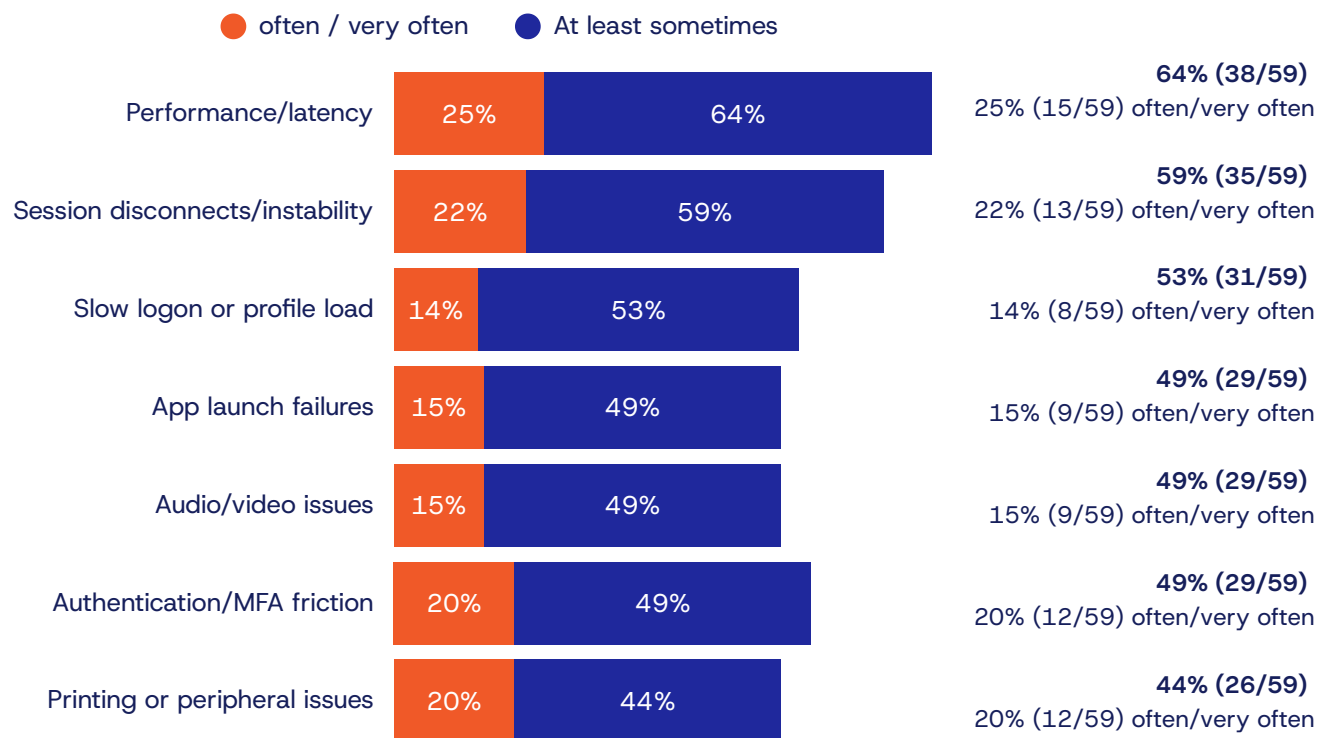
Performance remains the pressure point

Performance is the clearest pressure point in the survey. Among current users, 64%, or 38 of 59, reported performance or latency issues at least sometimes. 25%, or 15 of 59, reported them often or very often.

Other recurring issues also appeared across the user experience: session instability, slow logons, app launch failures, audio/video issues, authentication friction, and printing or peripheral issues.

Recurring issues reported at least sometimes

n=59



KEY TAKEAWAY

Performance issues touch users first and support teams second.

"At least sometimes" includes respondents who reported an issue sometimes, often, or very often. The marker shows respondents who reported the issue often or very often.

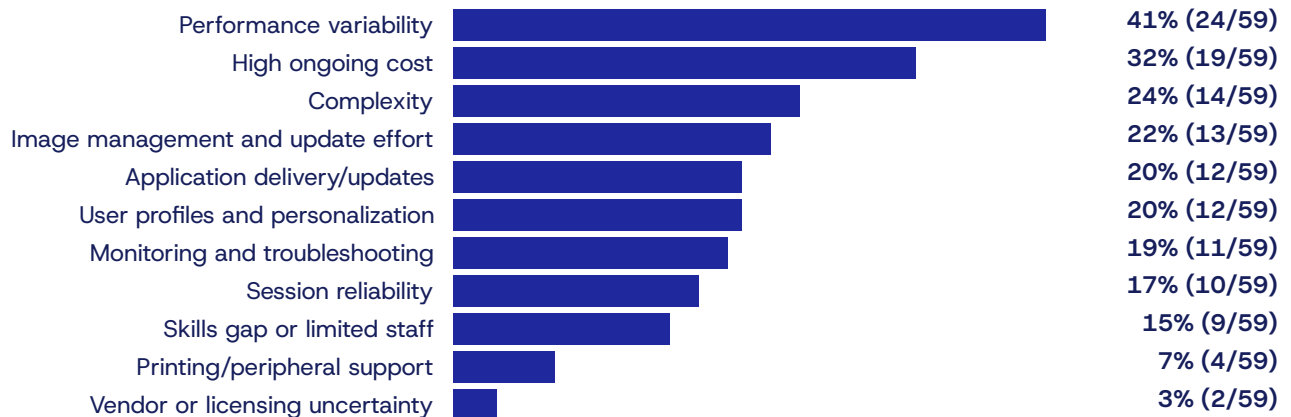
Operational pressure centers on cost and lifecycle work

Among current users, performance variability was the most selected operational pain point. But the broader pattern is lifecycle work.

Individually, image management, application delivery or updates, and user profiles each appeared at moderate levels. Combined, they show a larger pattern: 53%, or 31 of 59, current users selected at least one of those lifecycle-related pain points.

Operational pain points

Base: current users, n=59



53%

Lifecycle cluster 31 of 59 current users selected at least one lifecycle-related pain point.

High ongoing cost was also visible, cited by 32%, or 19 of 59, current users. Complexity was cited by 24%, or 14 of 59.

KEY TAKEAWAY

More than half the pain pattern sits in everyday lifecycle work.

Multi-select question limited to three selections; totals exceed 100%. Lifecycle cluster is a composite metric: respondent selected at least one of image management and update effort, application delivery/updates, or user profiles and personalization. It is not a single survey answer choice.

Security needs proof, not just access

Secure access remains a key reason to use VDI, Cloud PCs, and published apps. But among current users in this survey, security concerns go beyond access.

The top concern was audit logging and traceability, cited by 47%, or 28 of 59. Data leakage controls followed at 41%, or 24 of 59. Identity and authentication consistency was cited by 36%, or 21 of 59.

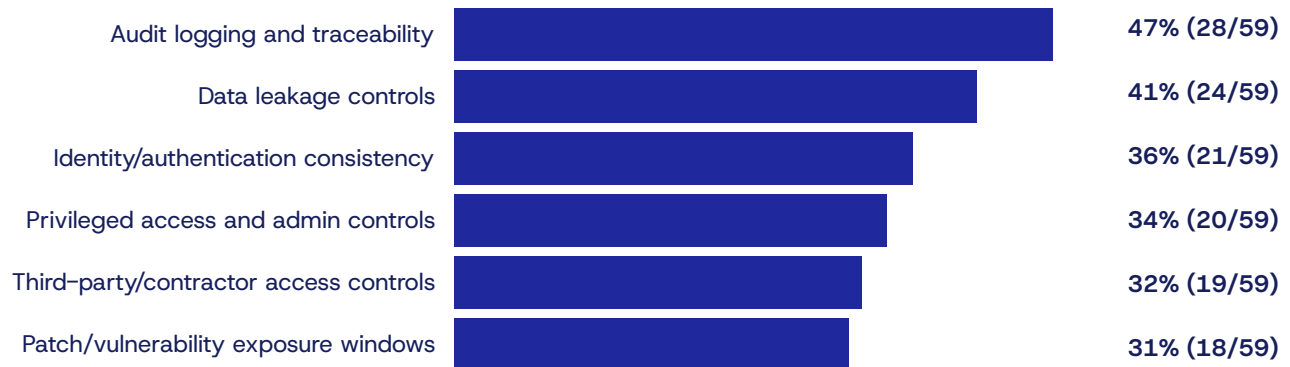


Access is only part of the job.

Teams need to show who accessed what, how activity is controlled, and whether the same rules apply across workspace delivery models.

Security and compliance concerns

Base: current users, n=59



KEY TAKEAWAY

Secure access is not enough. Teams need proof.

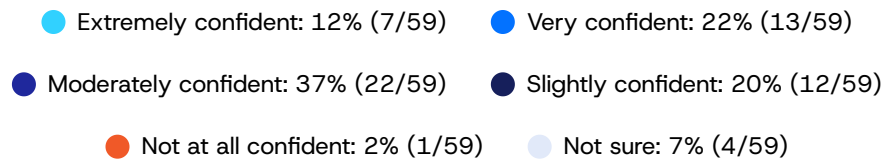
Multi-select question; totals exceed 100%. Directional survey; not a representative security benchmark.

Patch confidence leaves room for risk

Patch and update confidence is uneven. Among current users in this survey, only 34%, or 20 of 59, were very or extremely confident that required OS and third-party app updates are applied on time.

Most respondents selected a lower confidence level: 59%, or 35 of 59, were moderately, slightly, or not at all confident. This figure excludes four respondents who answered "Not sure."

Patch and update confidence



 **34%**

Only 34% were very or extremely confident.

Caution

This measures confidence, not verified patch failure. The lower-confidence figure combines moderately, slightly, and not at all confident responses and excludes the four respondents who answered "Not sure."

KEY TAKEAWAY

Confidence is an operating signal, not proof of failure.

The 59% figure combines moderately, slightly, and not at all confident responses and excludes four respondents who answered "Not sure." This question measures confidence, not verified patch failure.

VDI strategies are still in motion

Among current users in this survey, 49%, or 29 of 59, reported a significant change in their VDI, Cloud PC, or published app environment in the last 24 months.

Looking ahead, plans were split. The largest share planned to keep an existing deployment about the same. Others planned to expand, replace, reduce, evaluate, start new deployments, or make no production deployment plans. Only one respondent planned to exit an existing deployment entirely.

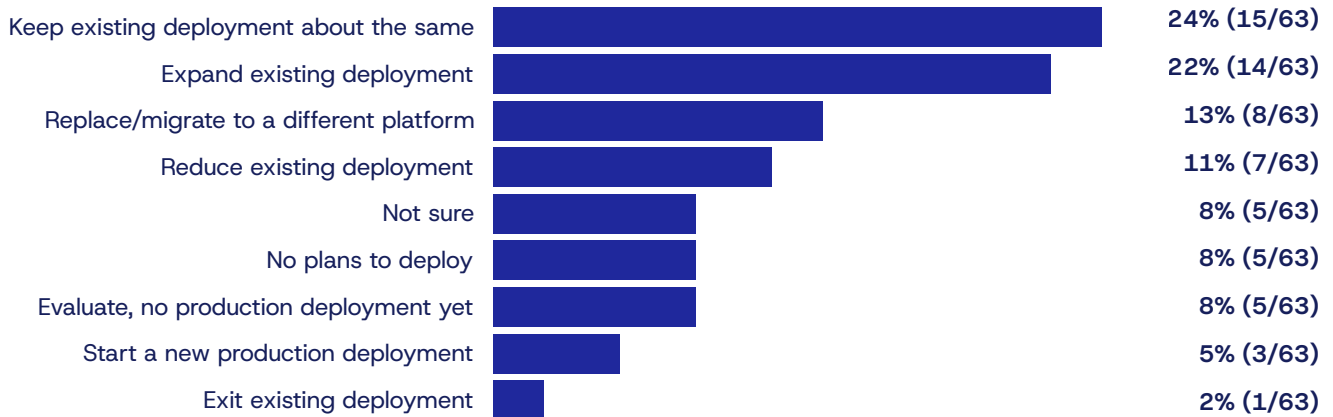
Change in last 24 months

- Significant change reported: 49% (29/59)
- No significant change: 39% (23/59)
- Not sure: 10% (6/59)
- Not applicable: 2% (1/59)



Direction for next 12 to 18 months

n=63



KEY TAKEAWAY

Change is active, but not one-directional.

Future direction base includes current users and some non-current respondents due to skip logic. Directional survey; not a market forecast.

Budget is the brake on change

For respondents routed to barriers to change, budget was the most selected barrier. 61%, or 23 of 38, cited budget constraints.

Staff capacity, skills, security or compliance approvals, licensing, user experience risk, and competing priorities also appeared. The pattern is practical: even when teams see a need to adjust, change must compete with budget, time, skills, and risk.

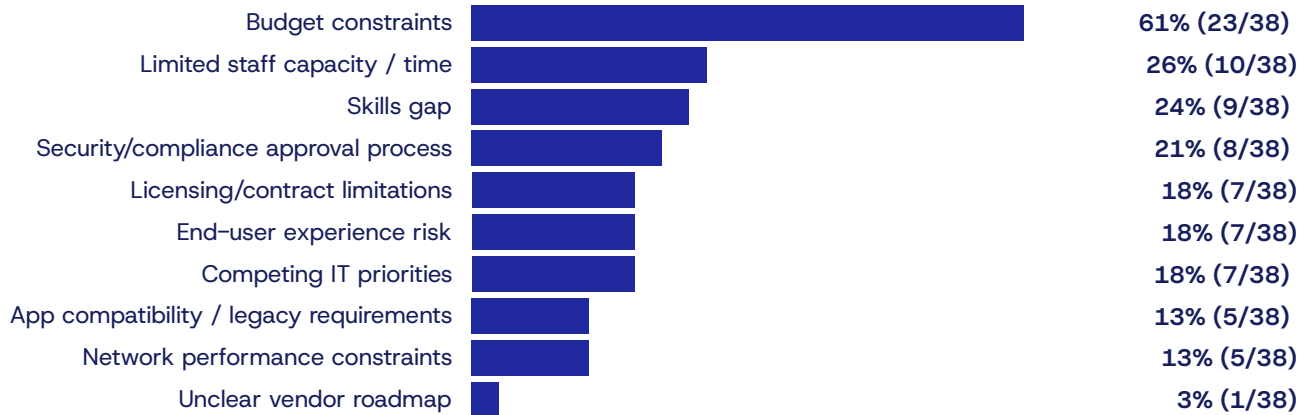
61%

23 of 38 routed respondents cited budget constraints.

This question was shown only to respondents routed to barriers to change. It should be read as a supporting finding, not a full-sample result.

Barriers to change

Base: routed respondents, n=38



KEY TAKEAWAY

Budget is a practical barrier, not the only barrier.

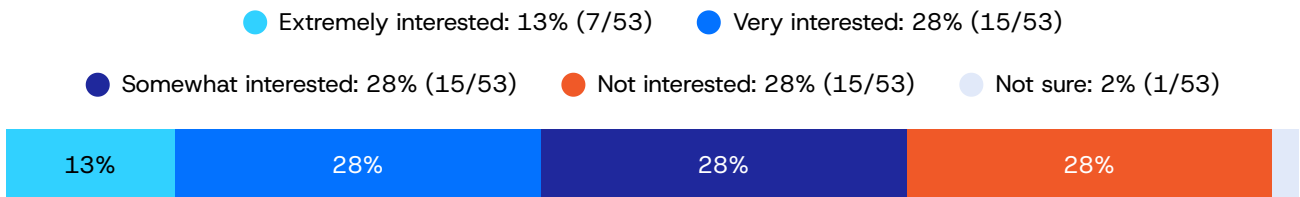
Multi-select question; totals exceed 100%. Smaller routed base; use as a supporting finding.

AI interest is practical

AI interest is real in this respondent base, but the strongest story is practical. Among respondents who answered the AI interest question, 70%, or 37 of 53, were at least somewhat interested in AI-enabled capabilities.

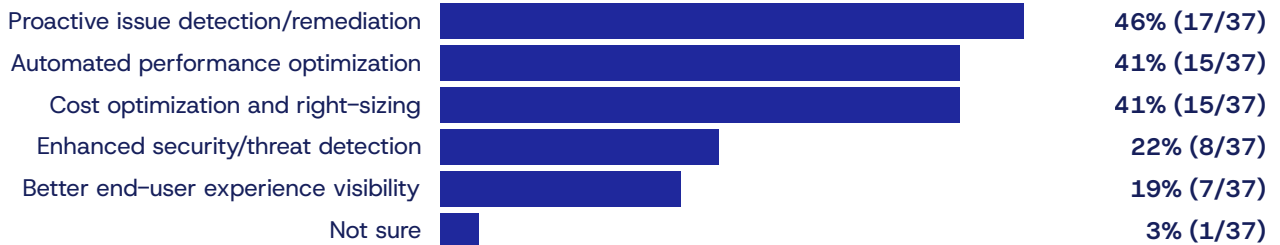
Among AI-interested respondents routed to outcomes, interest clustered around practical optimization: proactive issue detection and remediation, automated performance optimization, and cost optimization or right-sizing.

AI interest



AI outcomes that matter

n=37



70%

At least somewhat interested 37 of 53 respondents who answered the AI interest question.

KEY TAKEAWAY

AI interest clustered around fewer surprises, better performance, and cost control.

F8 was shown only to respondents who expressed at least some interest in AI-enabled capabilities. F8 was multi-select and limited to two selections; totals exceed 100%. Top outcomes are closely clustered; avoid over-ranking small differences.

What IT teams should do next

These five steps work as one connected agenda, not five separate fixes. The goal is not to chase a single architecture. It is to make workspace delivery easier to operate, easier to secure, and easier to prove.

ACTION 1

Measure the experience users actually feel

Performance and latency were the top recurring issue, reported at least sometimes by 64% of current users. Support tickets are a lagging signal. Track logon time, session stability, and app launch success as routine operating metrics to see where the experience starts to degrade.

64%

Performance or latency, at least sometimes (38/59)

ACTION 2

Treat lifecycle work as a connected pattern

Image management, application delivery, and user profiles each appeared at moderate levels on their own. Combined, 53% of current users selected at least one. These are not separate problems with separate fixes. They reflect a shared operating gap that keeps teams in reactive mode.

53%

Lifecycle cluster, composite (31/59)

ACTION 3

Build visibility into patch and update workflows

Only 34% of current users were very or extremely confident that required updates are applied on time. That is an operating signal as much as a process gap. Define what "applied on time" means for your environment, then build reporting around it. That is usually where confidence improves.

34%

Very or extremely confident in timely updates (20/59)

ACTION 4

Extend security thinking past the access layer

Audit logging and traceability, data leakage controls, and identity consistency across delivery models were the top security concerns. Teams that can answer who accessed what, when, and under what controls are in a stronger position for compliance conversations and internal reviews.

47%

Audit logging and traceability cited (28/59)

ACTION 5

Scope change around outcomes, not platforms

Among respondents routed to barriers, 61% cited budget constraints. Change is active, and it competes with real resource limits. Define a specific operating outcome before you evaluate platforms. It makes the business case easier to build and easier to defend.

61%

Budget constraints, routed respondents (23/38)

| KEY TAKEAWAY

Keep what works. Fix what slows users down. Prove what needs to be secured.

About the survey

This report is based on a directional survey from VMblog.com, Nerdio, and Recast Software. The survey gathered input from IT professionals to better understand how organizations are delivering virtual desktops, published apps, Cloud PCs, and modern workspaces today.

The goal was to identify what is working, where teams are feeling pressure, and how workspace delivery plans may change over the next 12 to 18 months.

The findings are intended to help the IT community compare common challenges, spot emerging patterns, and think through practical next steps for the next phase of workspace delivery.

Recast

