Virtual **D**esktop **I**nfrastructure **F**requently **A**sked **Q**uestions

[**VDI**](#) | **V**irtual **D**esktop **I**nfrastructure

[**AVD**](#) | **A**zure **V**irtual **D**esktop

The two terms above can be used interchangeably, and you may hear them in the coming year while studying at RSU. **V**irtual **D**esktop **I**nfrastructure is a desktop virtualization technology where a desktop **O**perating **S**ystem runs and is managed on a remote server. Users log on to the remote server with a client machine then do the computing on the remote device. The following descriptions will explain in further detail how the new system operates. [Click here for the short version.](#)

Local machine is the term for the client. It will be the physical device you are connecting from, the one you can see and touch. This device will have its own processor its own memory and its own storage.

Virtual machine is the term for the device running on the server. This machine is an emulation of a physical computer running in the cloud. This computer also has its own processor, memory and storage that are independent of the client machine. The cloud is a vast network of computer servers that run most of the world's infrastructure. Multiple companies have cloud computing environments. The main three are Google, Amazon, and Microsoft. RSU works with Microsoft Azure cloud computing environment. By using VDI, RSU can offer a vastly superior learning environment.

Why are we doing this? With the VDI system you don't need a powerful computer, the virtual machine is doing all the fancy math. This greatly expands access to learning software. There is no longer a high barrier of entry to run some demanding programs. Access to computer labs may not always be possible or convenient. If you have a device and an internet connection, you have all the same power you would have in an on-campus lab. Your files and programs will follow you anywhere you go.

Is it secure? Indeed. Everyone's data will be stored in a secure location and running off machines maintained by hundreds of industry professionals. We can monitor every piece of software running on every machine to detect malicious behavior. Our passwords are now more centralized. With fewer passwords to remember you won't need to make them simple or write them on sticky notes under your desk. We are protected with 2 factor authentication. Which is something you know (a password), and something you have (a phone).

How do I access it? It will be available on the campus computers. You can install it on your personal devices, or you can use your web browser.

Account Setup

Windows [**32bit**](#)\\[**64bit**](#) | [**Web**](#) | [**Android Store**](#) | [**Apple Store**](#)

[What's This?](#)

Can I install my own software? If you own your device, you can have whatever software you wish. RSU controls all the available software on our systems so you will be unable to install software. If there is software you need for a class, reach out to your professor and we can work with them to get it approved and installed.

This seems fancy, how much did it cost? With VDI you only pay for what you use. If we bought 1000 fancy computers for computer labs, they would work great. But they would also work great when no one was around to use them. By only paying for our usage, we can greatly lower our overall cost.

Will everything be perfect all the time? Unfortunately, no. We at RSU are doing a lot of learning and it may take some time to iron out all the bugs. But we have a great support team behind us and are excited to learn.

Too **L**ong **D**idn't **R**ead

Local machine - Your physical computer.

Virtual machine - An emulation of a physical computer running on a server.

Why are we doing this? You can connect to your virtual machine from any computer and it will always run very fast.

How do I access it? [Setup your account](#) and login to the [desktop](#)or [web](#)client.

Is it secure? Yes

Can I install my own software? No, but contact ACS to request any software you need.