



Remote Access Desktops: Hosted vs. GoToMyPc®

The Trend

Mobile Working and Anywhere Access

In today's world, businesses are increasingly recognising both the need for and the value of employees being able to access their computers from a number of different locations. Happily, there are now several ways to access your desktop – with your own files, settings, applications, email and everything else that makes up your personal desktop - from anywhere with an internet connection, be it from home, abroad, a Wi-Fi cafe or simply in the office.

Using either a ThinkGrid Hosted Desktop or technologies such as Citrix's GoToMyPc®, all you need to connect to your personal desktop is an existing PC/laptop and an internet connection. But with this single tenant option there are draw backs and we examine the differences of GoToMyPc® with ThinkGrid's Hosted Desktop model.

Why use Remote Access

Home Working

Allow your employees to work from home by giving them remote access to their work desktop, enabling the use of the same applications and data.

Travel

Use your own desktop whilst on the move, in airports, hotels, internet cafes etc or anywhere with an internet connection.

Out of Hours

Access to work desktops are no longer be restricted by office hours

Access Your Files , Print Your Documents

Immediately access you own files and documents from anywhere and be able to print them out at your remote location.

Simplicity

Not having the ability to maintain and manage two separate PC's, one for travel and one for the office.

What is GoToMy® Pc ?

GoToMyPc® from Citrix® provides one answer to the problem of getting anywhere access to your desktop by allowing you to remotely access your existing PC from any other Internet-connected computer. Charged at a monthly subscription rate, GoToMyPc® installs a client onto your PC allowing it to be accessed remotely, over a secure, encrypted connection, provided that your PC is switched on and connected to the internet.

GoToMyPc® – The Pros & Cons

Whilst GoToMyPc® provides a relatively simple and straightforward means of remotely accessing your PC, there are a number of weaknesses with this approach. Chief among these are that the whole system has a **single point of failure**, namely the PC you are attempting to access. Though you can in theory use GoToMyPc® to access your PC from anywhere, it is entirely reliant on your PC being both switched on and connected to the internet.

Whilst this may sound easy enough, in practice it means that if there's any failure at your PC in your absence – be it software, hardware or internet - resulting in a loss of connectivity, then the whole remote-access solution falls down. Moreover, these problems cannot be addressed remotely – either by you or by GoToMyPc® – meaning either you won't be able to access your computer until you can return to it and fix the problem yourself or that you're reliant on an IT Manager / Administrator. And, you're not just dependant on one, but two working internet connections, one at your point of remote access and the other to your PC itself. In terms of speed/performance, this chain is only as strong as its weakest link and if it breaks at either end, then the solution falls down.

In addition, GoToMyPc® is a very energy inefficient approach as it requires your PC to be switched all the time, even if you only want to access it for two minutes. Not only is this environmentally unfriendly but , particularly with rising energy costs, very expensive. For one employee to decide, off-the-cuff, to work from home after hours, all of the businesses PCs would have to be running through the night. If the employee had turned his PC off on leaving the office, GoToMyPc® simply wouldn't work, meaning no remote access.

Features, Benefits and Costs	Hosted Desktop	GoToMyPc® Desktop
Anywhere Access	X	X
24x7 Support	X	
Requires Internet Connectivity to Access Desktop	X	X
Securely Encrypted Data Transmission	X	X
Usage Security and Protection	X	
Secure, Centrally Housed Data	X	
99.99% Desktop uptime	X	
Full Desktop Support	X	
Hardware Independent Access	X	
Software on Demand	X	
Microsoft Licensing Included	X	
Energy Efficient	X	
Removes IT Administration	X	
Requires In-House IT Infrastructure		X
Single Point of Failure		X

Why Hosted Desktops Rather Than GoToMyPc®?

Whilst remote access is the benefit of GoToMyPc®, it's just one of the many benefits of Hosted Desktops

Hosted Desktop technology is an innovative new method for delivering desktops to end-users. A hosted desktop looks and behaves exactly like a traditional PC but, instead of residing locally, all software and data are housed in ThinkGrid's state-of-the-art datacenters. Hosted Desktops offer numerous advantages in terms of cost savings, security, resilience, flexibility and reduced management

As well as anywhere access, all this means there's no longer any need for;

- A pre-existing hardware infrastructure
- Capital expenditure on desktop hardware which rapidly becomes obsolete
- Unavailability of desktops due to hardware or software problems
- Confidential data to be lost or stolen
- Daily management and administration
- Complications around new applications

Solutions for Business

ThinkGrid Hosted Desktops have the simplicity of a consumer solution but with the power, functionality and scalability of enterprise class IT , making them perfect for businesses of all sizes. With Hosted Desktops you can seamlessly add users, new applications and even hardware capacity at the touch of a button

ThinkGrid Hosted Desktops have guaranteed 99.99% uptime, based on a fully redundant, state-of-the-art infrastructure, with integrated backup-and-restore capabilities. With simple and flexible deployment, hosted desktops are a solution for 1 – 1,000 users, a comprehensive business infrastructure available on demand , at a fixed, affordable, transparent price.

Whilst other solutions offer partial, piecemeal answers to the questions posed by today's IT demands – mobility, flexibility, scalability, simplicity, affordability, security, speed and resilience - only Hosted Desktops offer a comprehensive solution for these demands.

For business desktops with true anywhere, anytime access, Hosted Desktops are the only answer.

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