RedNight

EBOOK

LOWERING COSTS WITH
VIRTUAL DESKTOPS
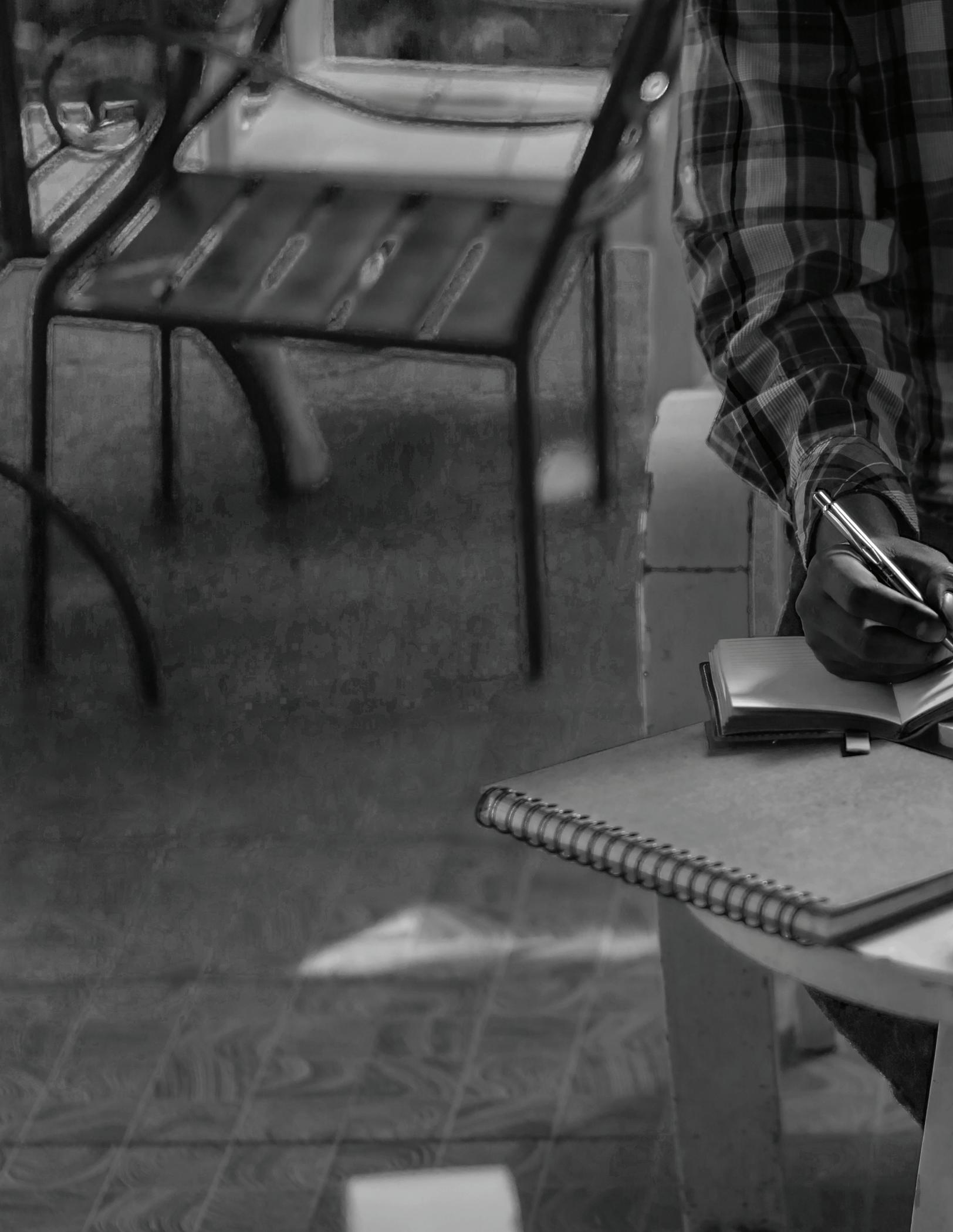
LOWERING COSTS WITH
VIRTUAL DESKTOPS

Maintaining your computer's desktop can be a hassle, especially when you have more than one computer to manage. How much time, effort, and dollars have you wasted on installing software multiple times? Reconfiguring program settings? What about when you leave for the day and suddenly think of an important point you could include in that report you've been working on, but you don't have access to your office workstation from home?

Virtual desktops address and solve all of these issues. First, you can access a virtual desktop from anywhere as long as you have a web-enabled device and an internet connection. So your midnight inspiration no longer has to wait until the next day. Second, you never have to worry about upgrading and maintaining your applications anymore - that'll be taken care of for you, automatically. And third, having a virtual desktop eliminates the need to buy high-priced workstations, opening the door to simpler devices like thin clients for accessing applications. Interested in learning more about virtual desktops and how they're made possible? **RedNight Consulting** is here to tell you all about it.

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ABOUT THE
COMPANY

The name "RedNight" is
derived from the sailor's saying:

*"Red sky at night – sailor's delight. Red sky in
morning – sailors take warning."*

In other words – a red, cloud-filled night
signifies smooth sailing ahead. And we feel as
though transitioning to the Cloud with RedNight
is a strong indication of smooth sailing for
your company. RedNight Consulting guides
small and medium-sized businesses through
transitioning data and information structures
to the cloud. We help our clients succeed
with managed services, Infrastructure as a
Service (IaaS), Desktops as a Service (DaaS),
and Cloud solutions while providing stability,
security, and efficiency now and for the future.
Our extensive technical and business
experience is paramount to achieving
our clients' goals.
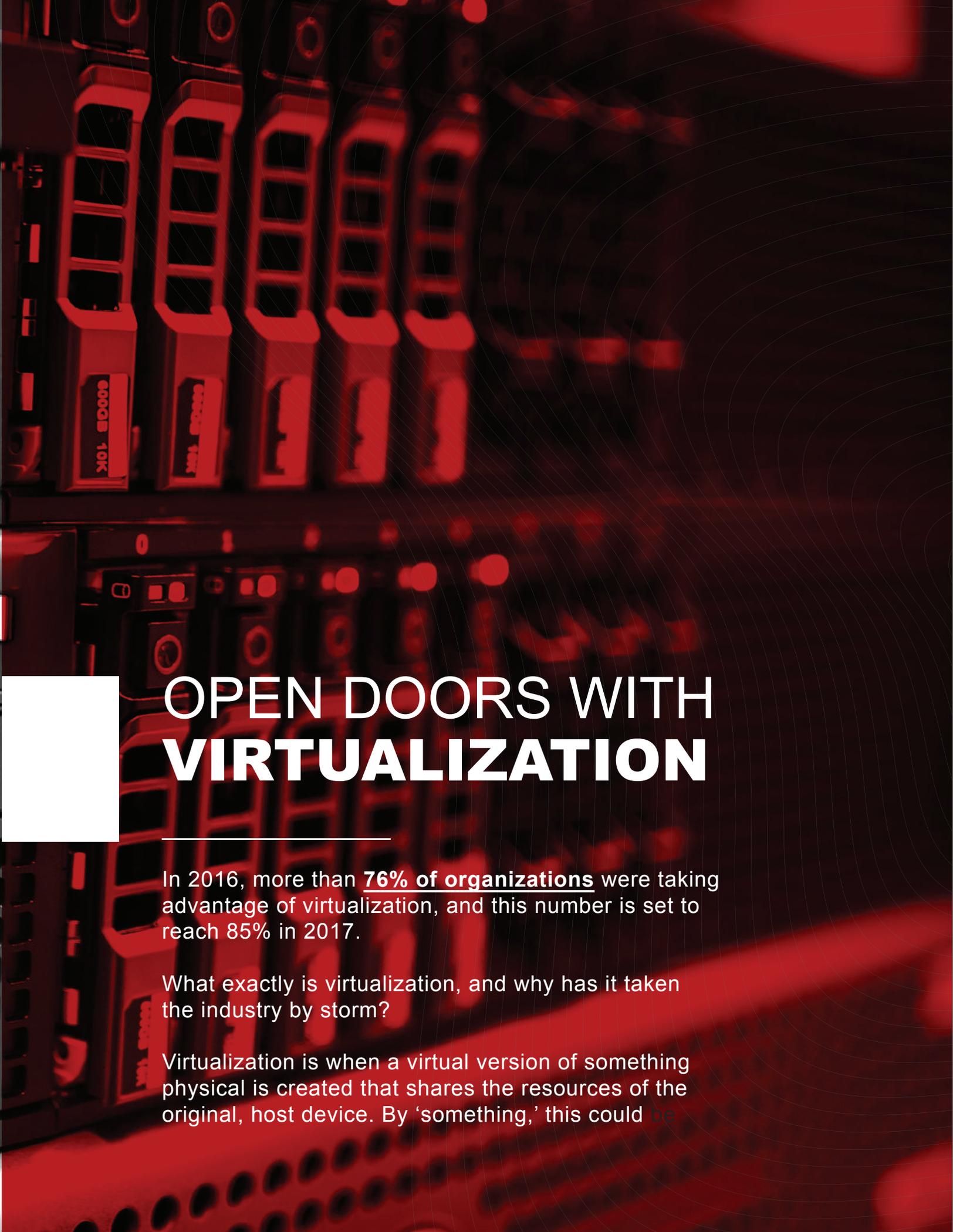
OPEN DOORS WITH
VIRTUALIZATION

In 2016, more than **76% of organizations** were taking advantage of virtualization, and this number is set to reach 85% in 2017.

What exactly is virtualization, and why has it taken the industry by storm?

Virtualization is when a virtual version of something physical is created that shares the resources of the original, host device. By 'something,' this could be

anything from an operating system to a server. Let's look at a server to illustrate exactly what we mean. Virtualization allows you to divide a physical server into several virtual ones. These virtual servers now work independently from each other, yet they are still part of the same system and operate off of that single, physical server.

Where do these virtual machines live? Well, they can be implemented on your on-premise server, or they can be created off-premise in a secure data center for a private cloud experience.

> **❝ Virtualization is one of the most effective ways to reduce IT expenses and boost efficiency, agility, productivity, scalability, and success for businesses everywhere"**

Virtualization brings many benefits. Primarily, the division of one physical server into multiple virtual ones maximizes the use of unused server resources. This means that the primary server is no longer limited to using only 5-15% of its resources for singular tasks. It goes without saying that this is highly inefficient. By virtualizing existing assets, it removes the need to invest in additional servers and the rack space footprint need to house, power and cool them.

A virtualized server can also expand opportunities available to a business. That server could now run multiple

virtual desktops in tandem from a single device as virtual machines with each have their own virtual OS, processor core, allocated memory, applications and scalable storage. And, because these virtual desktops are delivered via the network connection, the user is not bound to the office to use them. If the virtualized server was an on-premised, company owned solution, the user would only need to have a virtual private network (VPN) setup for their at home device to access their virtual desktop. In the event that the virtualized server was off-premise and the virtual desktops were delivered as a service, the user would simply logon via the internet from any web-enabled device. This opens up a new door of possibilities for your employees and your business,
as we will discuss below.

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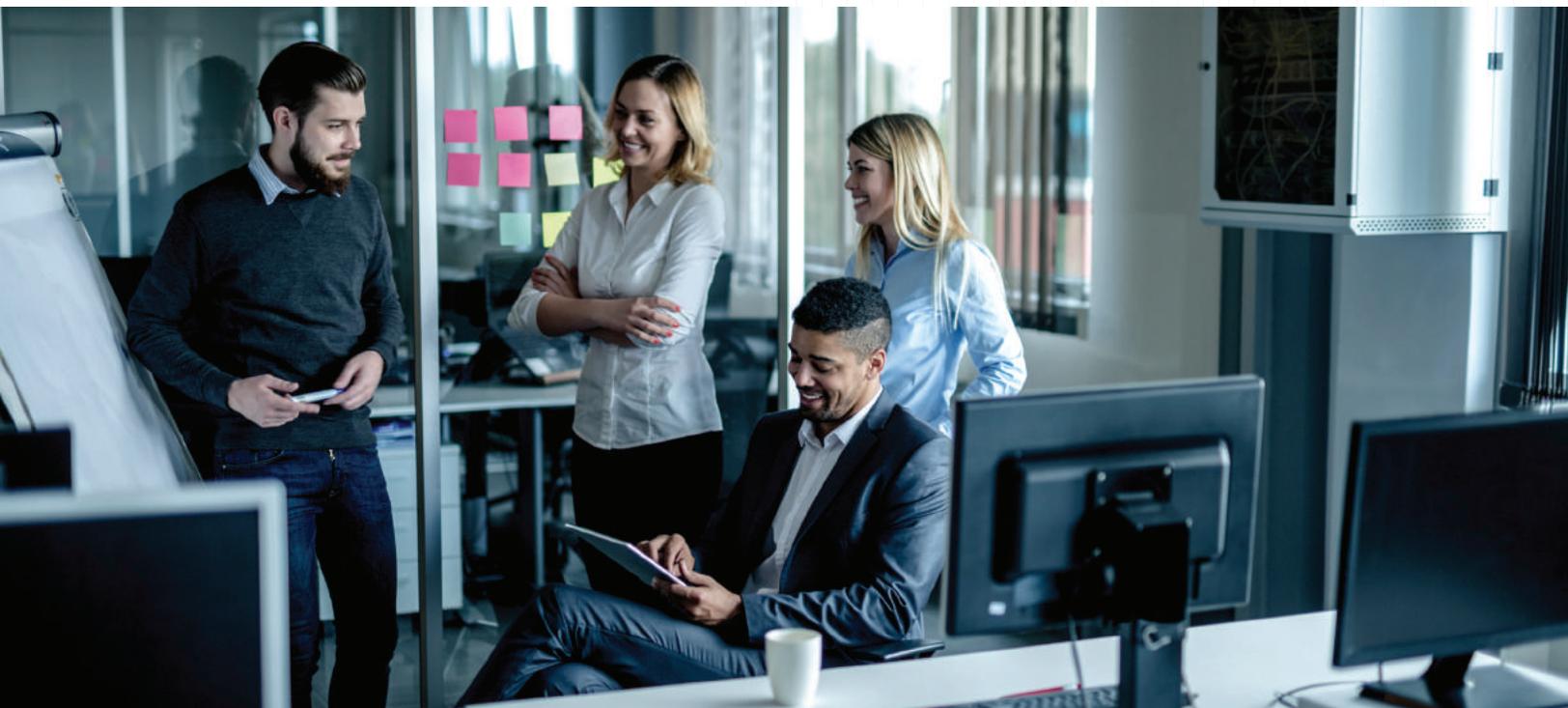
A BETTER COST SAVING IDEA   **BETTER SCALABILITY, MOBILITY AND SECURITY**   **CONTACT US**

DEPLOYING **VIRTUAL DESKTOPS**

One of the fastest growing virtualization solutions for business are virtual desktops. Previously, an on-premise solution, virtual desktops are now finding success as stand alone offerings from Cloud vendors.

Virtual desktops can benefit a business by reducing expenditures costs, increasing mobility and flexibility, and through automated maintenance giving you more time to focus on more important matters. With their speed of configuration and deployment, the transition

is seamless and smooth with little disruption to the business. To give you a clear image of how virtual desktops work, let's look at an example of a virtual workspace:

> " *Virtual desktops can benefit a business by reducing expenditures, increasing mobility and flexibility, and through automated maintenance giving you more time to focus on more important matters.* "

[Amazon WorkSpaces](#) (AWS), is a fully managed, desktop as a service (DaaS) solution. This service runs on the AWS Cloud, which means that you get all of the benefits of cloud computing such as automatic maintenance and unlimited scalability. By subscribing to this service, your data will be uploaded to a central location, and you'll be able to access your desktop (including your documents, applications, and resources) through the internet from any location on an unlimited number of devices including, but not limited to, Windows and Mac systems, Chromebooks, iPads, Fire tablets, Android tablets, smartphones, and thin clients via your web browser.

In addition to mobility and convenience, virtual desktops provide a simple to use, scalable, secure, and affordable solution that can be customized to every employee's specific needs. As mentioned previously, automatic updates, upgrades and patches are an integrated part of DaaS,

removing the responsibility of daily update management. This allows you to keep your IT partner focused on more complex issues, responding quicker to your changing needs and opportunities.

A BETTER COST SAVING IDEA

BETTER SCALABILITY, MOBILITY AND SECURITY

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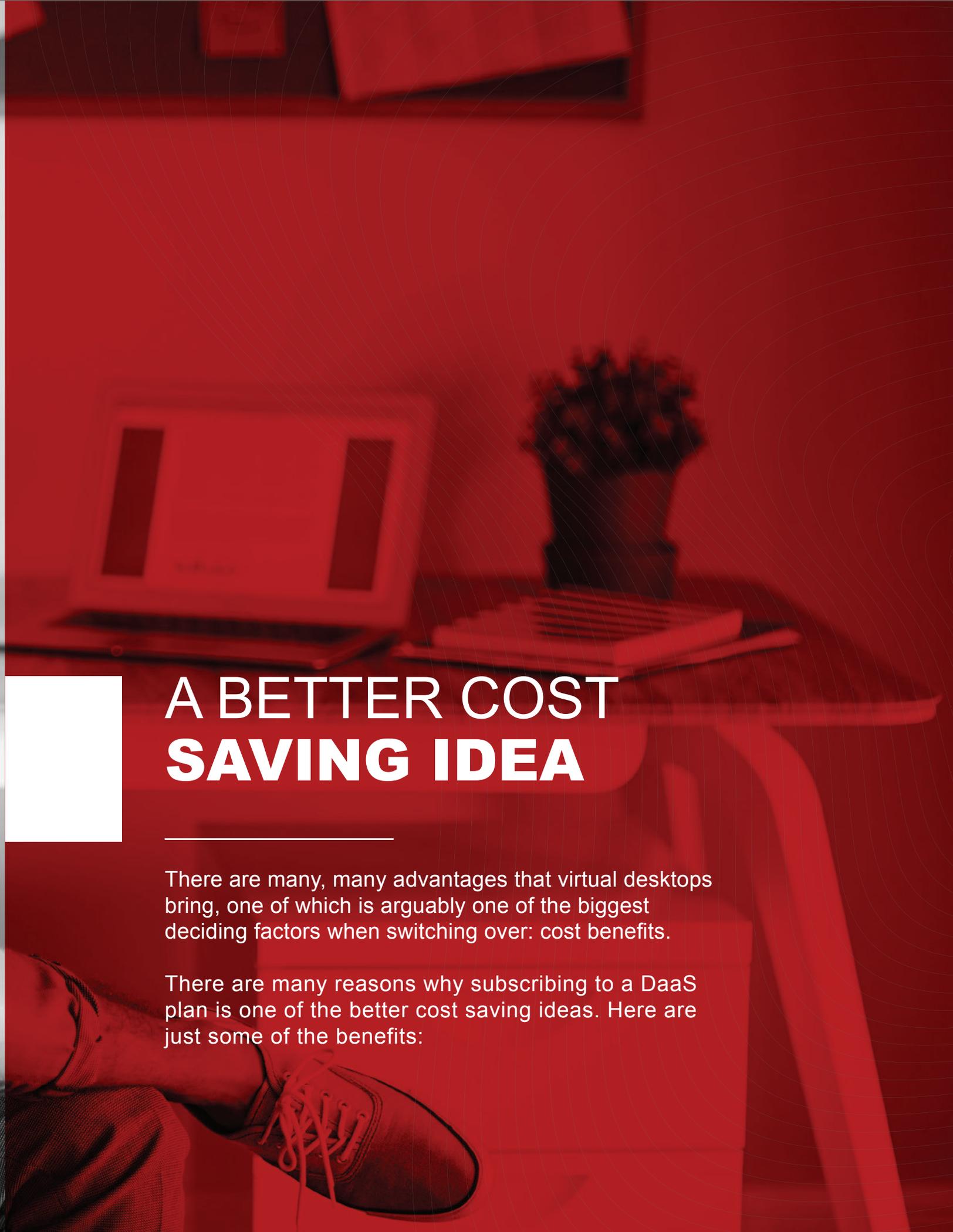
A BETTER COST
SAVING IDEA

There are many, many advantages that virtual desktops bring, one of which is arguably one of the biggest deciding factors when switching over: cost benefits.

There are many reasons why subscribing to a DaaS plan is one of the better cost saving ideas. Here are just some of the benefits:

Reduce CAPEX Costs

When your desktops are virtual, you no longer have to spend money on large capital expenditures like powerful PCs, workstations and laptops. Switching over to operational expenses (OPEX) and working out of the Cloud has been estimated to decrease the need for physical hardware by 56%, saving businesses a massive amount of money.

57-68%

" *With virtual desktops, user downtime and time spent dealing with an IT help desk are reduced by around 57-68%.*"

Traditionally, the buying and downloading of software would apply to one computer at a time. This means that if you wanted to have the same program on multiple computers, you would have to buy licenses for each device. With virtual desktops, instead of purchasing software for each device, you simply log into your virtual desktop account to access only the applications that you need. Now, rather than owning a multitude of programs so that you have access to just the pieces you use for business, you reduce software bloat and pay only for what you need and use on a monthly basis.

Save on Resource and IT Maintenance Spending

In the traditional desktop setting, software upgrades and security patching can be costly if not regularly applied. With RedNight as your DaaS provider, we'll maintain your applications and services so that you don't have to. Through your DaaS you'll also have the most up to date

and latest versions of the OS and applications you require.
This continual maintenance can reduce the need for on-site IT resource deployment or dedicated in-house desktop technical support. This means you lower your outsourced IT costs, remove downtime disruptions from random updates, and lessen your internal need for payrolled IT staff.

Greatly Reduce Costly Downtime

The productivity that businesses lose due to IT downtime can become costly the longer it takes to resume business activities. With virtual desktops, user downtime and time spent dealing with an IT help desk are reduced by around 57-68%.

Predictable Spending

Just like a Managed Services plan, DaaS lets you predict exactly what you're going to be spending every month on services. With known spending like this, businesses can better plan their budgets for future growth needs and avoid those unexpected costs that count against their bottom lines.

BETTER SCALABILITY, MOBILITY AND SECURITY

Not only are virtual desktops cost-effective, but they provide incredible benefits around scalability, mobility and security.

Scalability

As mentioned previously, virtual desktops can be implemented quickly. Instead of taking days to receive a new desktop, the software licenses and for your computer guy to get everything setup and configured, the deployment of a virtual system takes only minutes. Every configuration needed to coincide with your network accessibility and settings are preloaded and ready whenever you need another virtual desktop. For example, with Amazon WorkSpaces, you can pick and choose which applications you want to install. This helps you customize your desktop to how your company uniquely works. And, if anything changes in your business and you need to reflect that onto your desktop such as adding, removing, or changing applications, no problem! With unlimited scalability, you never have to wonder if your virtual desktop can keep up and adapt to your operations.

Mobility

One of the biggest perks of a virtual desktop is how you can access it from anywhere. With this solution, you could work from home, the coffee shop down the street, or your in-laws house so you can avoid those dreaded interactions. Studies have actually shown that flexibility in the work environment leads to happiness and increased productivity; in a Vodafone study, 86% of US respondents said that a flexible working environment led to an improvement in employee productivity. With AWS Cloud-deployed desktops your work is automatically

> **"86%of US companies who have implemented flexible working environments have seen an increase in employee productivity."**

saved as you make changes. This means that you are always accessing the latest version of your assignments and projects regardless of your location. For example, if you think of a great idea to add to your presentation while you're watching your Smart TV at home, you could just as easily open your TV's web browser, log into your virtual desktop, and add that idea to your presentation before you forget it.

This mobility can also help with your customer service. For example, if you have a desktop chat application tied to your your website for potential clients, making your desktop mobile can give your employees the ability to talk to them from anywhere at anytime if available, further strengthening client bonds through communication and retention. With one of the top 2 reasons for customer loss being taking too long to answer, this would be a great ability for any business to have.

Security

Recent research has found that the total volume of data loss at the enterprise level has risen to more than 400%. IT Web also predicts that the total cost of data breaches will be more than $2.1 trillion by 2019, with small and medium-sized businesses as the primary targets. These statistics clearly demonstrate the increasing

threat toward business data. In this regard it's important that companies extend their backup and disaster recovery plans to include their Cloud data. On average, 60% of companies that lose their data shut down within 6 months, but with a disaster recovery plan, your business doesn't have to be a part of that percentage.

Having a virtual desktop and Cloud storage does provide a higher level of security that will help you avoid data loss, but it is not a guarantee since the majority of data loss is attributed to human error. DaaS providers can provide you with a backup and recovery option to get your virtual desktops up and running ASAP after any disaster that may be incurred. With your data backed up in an off-site datacenter and not on endpoint devices that can easily be destroyed or stolen, your data will alway be safe and ready to access when it's needed, never letting your productivity suffer. DaaS providers do follow a strict set of security protocols to protect your data when your virtual desktop is deployed on potentially unsecure devices. So even in a virtual environment your security and data remain a top priority.

TAKE THE VIRTUAL STEP WITH **REDNIGHT**

Virtual desktops are the next step in the journey towards building your most efficient and productive business. With their cost effectiveness, endless scalability, advanced security, flexibility, and overall convenience, it's no wonder why a high percentages of businesses have adopted this solution. Ready to make the transition? **Get in touch** today and let's get started! keep up and adapt to your operations.

A BETTER COST SAVING IDEA

BETTER SCALABILITY, MOBILITY AND SECURITY

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