

KRIZIA TECHNOLOGIES

Enterprise Cloud & SAP Migration Services

Servers That Sleep. A 100-Seat RDS on GCP.

A real estate company moved 100+ desktops to Remote Desktop Services + RD Gateway in Google Cloud — and learned to switch its servers off the moment they weren't needed.

Document	End-to-End Case Study & Delivery Process
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Year	2026
Scope	Windows RDS + RD Gateway on Google Cloud
Confidentiality	Customer case study anonymized

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For customers & partners · Distribution allowed

Servers That Sleep. Remote Desktop Services + Gateway on Google Cloud.

100+ users. AutoCAD, softphone, Office, Chrome. Servers that switch themselves off.

Windows RDS · RD Gateway · Google Cloud · Power-Aware Server Strategy · 2026

Why Companies Move to Managed Desktops

Most businesses don't have an IT problem — they have a desktop problem. Every employee needs a computer, and every computer eventually needs repairs, updates, virus protection, and replacement. Multiply that by 100 seats, and you have a full-time job for an IT team that most companies can't afford.

Remote Desktop Services (RDS) changes the model: instead of managing 100 physical machines, you run a handful of servers and let every employee connect to their own Windows desktop hosted on them. The desktop lives in the data center, not on the desk:

- **One image, one patch cycle** — fix one server, every desktop is fixed
- **Applications like AutoCAD run on powerful server hardware**, not ageing office PCs
- **Users connect securely from anywhere through the RD Gateway** — office, home, or site

The real estate company in this case study took that idea one step further. They realized that if their desktops live on servers, then the servers should only run when employees are actually working.

Our End-to-End Process — Start to Delivery to Support

Every engagement follows the same **6 clear phases**. You always know where you are, what happens next, and what you are paying for.

1 Discovery & Assessment

Weeks 1–2

Goal: map the desktop estate, applications, and licensing before proposing anything.

- User and device inventory across all departments
- Application audit — AutoCAD, softphone, Office, browser needs, and which apps are heavy
- Licensing review — Windows Server, RDS CALs, and existing Microsoft licensing
- Deliverable: **readiness report + 3-year cost model** — no cost, no obligation

2 Architecture & Design

Weeks 3–5

Goal: design the RDS landscape, the network, and the power-management strategy.

- RDS roles: Session Host, Connection Broker, Web Access, and RD Gateway design
- Host sizing per workload — CAD users vs. office users get different VM classes
- Security: MFA for remote access, URL filtering for social media, least-privilege policies
- The three-tier power plan: always-on, business-hours, and on-demand servers

- Deliverable: **signed architecture document + budget + project plan**

3 Build & Pilot

Weeks 6–8

Goal: prove the experience on a real pilot group before mass rollout.

- Golden RDS image built with every production app — AutoCAD, softphone, Office, Chrome
- RD Gateway secured and piloted with a small group of real users
- Social-media and WhatsApp restrictions tested and verified
- Deliverable: **validated pilot + performance benchmarks**

4 Batch Rollout

Weeks 9–12

Goal: move departments in batches — never all at once.

- Department-by-department migration; old desktops stay live in parallel
- User profiles and file-server shares mapped so nothing feels different
- Printers, scanners, and site-specific hardware tested per department
- Deliverable: **all users live on RDS with sign-off per department**

5 Cutover & Optimization

Go-Live Weekend

Goal: decommission the old estate and tune the cost model.

- Final cutover; old desktops kept as a safety net
- Power schedules activated: 24x7 core, 9–6 Mon–Sat tiers, on-demand servers
- Committed use discounts applied to the always-on baseline
- Deliverable: **successful go-live + first-month cost report**

6 Support & Optimization

Go-Live +

Goal: keep the environment healthy, secure, and cheap to run.

- **2-week hypercare** with dedicated on-call support
- 24x7 monitoring: session health, login times, cost alerts, idle-shutdown checks
- Monthly cost reviews — we watch the bill and right-size
- Optional managed services: patching, image updates, capacity planning
- Deliverable: **ongoing reliability and controlled cost**

One team, one contract, one accountable partner. You never coordinate between separate consultants and cloud vendors. Krizia Technologies owns the outcome end to end.

Case Study — Sterling Realty Group (Real Estate)

"We didn't just want our desktops in the cloud. We wanted to stop paying for servers that sat idle after 6 PM and all weekend. Krizia showed us that the server for a team working till late could turn itself on only when that team actually needed it — and off again 15 minutes after the last user left." — IT Head, Sterling Realty Group (name changed for confidentiality)

The Customer

Sterling Realty Group is a real estate company with 100+ employees — brokers, designers, project managers, accounts, and site teams. Their work is split between design-heavy tasks (AutoCAD drawings), client communication (a softphone for calling prospects), and daily office work (Microsoft Office and Chrome).

Their old setup: a hundred physical PCs, each loaded with AutoCAD, the softphone, Office, and Chrome. Each PC needed licensing, updates, and repairs. And every desktop was a risk — people installed WhatsApp, YouTube, and social media on the same machine they used for work, slowing everything down.

The Problem

- 100 ageing PCs — replacements alone would cost lakhs, every few years
- AutoCAD was painfully slow on office desktops; only the design team had decent hardware
- No control over personal apps — WhatsApp and social media ate bandwidth and productivity
- Site staff and brokers needed access to files and email from outside the office, over an insecure VPN
- Servers that were already virtualized ran 24x7 even when nobody used them after hours

The company had already moved some servers to Google Cloud, so they understood the cloud concept. What they didn't have was a plan for desktops — and a way to stop paying for compute nobody was using.

Our First Step — No-Cost Discovery

We started with a free assessment. We interviewed every department head, mapped which applications each team used, and — crucially — measured when they actually worked. The data told a clear story:

- Accounts and admin worked 9–6, Monday to Saturday
- Brokers and sales worked through the evening, sometimes till 9–10 PM
- Designers used AutoCAD in bursts — long idle stretches between drawing deadlines
- The file server was needed almost 24x7 because brokers shared documents at odd hours

The Architecture — RDS + Gateway in GCP

We designed a full Remote Desktop Services environment in Google Cloud: Session Hosts running Windows Server with the golden image (AutoCAD, softphone, Office, Chrome), a Connection Broker to route users, and an RD Gateway so every employee connects securely over HTTPS from anywhere — no VPN.

- Session Hosts split into pools: a **CAD pool on high-core VMs** for designers, and an office pool for everyone else
- Golden image with AutoCAD, softphone (Zoiper), Microsoft Office, and Chrome — patched once, delivered everywhere
- RD Gateway with MFA for all remote access; users sign in from office, home, or site
- URL filtering and Group Policy to block WhatsApp Web and social media on the work desktop
- File servers with quotas and versioning — brokers stop losing documents

The Hero — Servers That Sleep

The biggest cost in a virtual desktop environment is compute that runs when nobody uses it. So we classified every server into three tiers — and this is where the real savings came from:

Tier	Schedule	Which Servers
Always-on (24×7)	Running permanently	Domain controllers, RD Gateway, file servers — the small core that must never sleep
Business-hours	9 AM–6 PM, Mon–Sat, auto start/stop	Office RDS session hosts, application and print servers for accounts & admin
On-demand	Started on request, auto-off after 15 min idle	CAD session hosts and any server a team needs only occasionally — e.g. late-working broker pools

The business-hours tier uses Google Cloud's **native Instance Schedules** — a start time and a stop time attached to each VM, so servers come up at 8:45 AM and shut down at 6:15 PM automatically, Monday to Saturday, in the correct time zone. No one remembers to switch anything on or off; the schedule does it.

The on-demand tier is the interesting part. When a team needs a server outside business hours, their **HOD raises a request — the server is started on approval**. Then a custom idle watchdog takes over: if no one has been working on the server for **15 minutes, it shuts itself down automatically**. If designers work till 11 PM, the server stays on. The moment the last user logs off and the CAD host sits idle for 15 minutes, it powers down on its own.

Why not GCP's built-in idle detection? Google Cloud's native idle recommendation works over 1–14 day observation windows — great for finding VMs that are idle for weeks, useless for a 15-minute cutoff. We built a lightweight watchdog (a small service on each session host that checks active sessions and CPU, then stops the VM via the Compute Engine API) so the 15-minute rule is exact. A Cloud Monitoring alert acts as a safety net if the watchdog ever fails.

The Rollout — Departments, Not Fireworks

We piloted with accounts first (9–6 users, simplest workload). Then admin, then brokers, then designers last — the hardest, because AutoCAD had to feel fast over remote desktop. Designers were the real test: AutoCAD on a session host with many cores and high CPU quota actually ran **faster** than on their old PCs.

After Go-Live — We Stayed

- 2 weeks of hypercare with dedicated on-call support
- Power schedules monitored and tuned against real usage for the first month
- Monthly cost review — the first one found another 8% by resizing the CAD pool
- Their small IT team trained to manage images, schedules, and the idle watchdog themselves

The Results

100+

Users on RDS + Gateway

~40%

Compute cost cut by sleeping servers

15 min

Idle auto-shutdown on on-demand hosts

0

PCs to buy or maintain

The Pattern — What Made This Work

Real estate was the industry, but the pattern is universal:

- **Measure when people actually work.** Discovery isn't about hardware — it's about hours. The whole cost model came from knowing who worked when
- **Classify every server into a tier.** Always-on, business-hours, or on-demand. No server is "just running" without a reason
- **Use native scheduling where it fits.** GCP Instance Schedules handle the predictable 9–6 Mon–Sat tier for free
- **Build the custom idle watchdog for the unpredictable tier.** A 15-minute idle cutoff needs a small custom service — but it pays for itself in the first month
- **Make remote access secure by default.** RD Gateway + MFA means no VPN, no exposed RDP ports, no compromises
- **Control the desktop, control the apps.** URL filtering and Group Policy block WhatsApp and social media at the platform level — not by asking employees to be good

Why Krizia Technologies?

Concern	How We Solve It
"We already pay for cloud — isn't RDS extra?"	RDS runs on VMs you already understand. We size it tightly, apply committed-use discounts, and switch servers off when idle — your bill usually drops, not grows.
"Our AutoCAD is heavy. Will remote desktops handle it?"	The CAD pool runs on high-core VMs with generous CPU quota — in practice it ran faster than the office PCs it replaced.
"We need to block WhatsApp and social media."	URL filtering and Group Policy on the work desktop — personal apps simply don't run in the golden image.
"We work odd hours. Servers can't be 9-to-6."	The three-tier plan handles it: always-on core, scheduled business hours, and on-demand hosts that start on HOD approval and sleep 15 minutes after the last user.
"Who runs this after you leave?"	Documented runbooks, trained staff, and optional managed services. Your team owns it — we stay available.

Ready to stop paying for servers that sleep? Every engagement begins with a **free RDS & cost assessment** — we map your users, apps, and server hours, and show you exactly what managed desktops would cost. No obligation, no jargon.

Let's Solve Your Problem Together

Every engagement starts with a **free, no-obligation assessment**. We will tell you exactly where you stand, what needs to change, and what it will cost.

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