



# 5 Ways to Lower Desktops-as-a-Service Costs when Hosting in AWS

## A Quick Tip-Sheet for Keeping Costs in Check



A Publication by Leostream Corporation

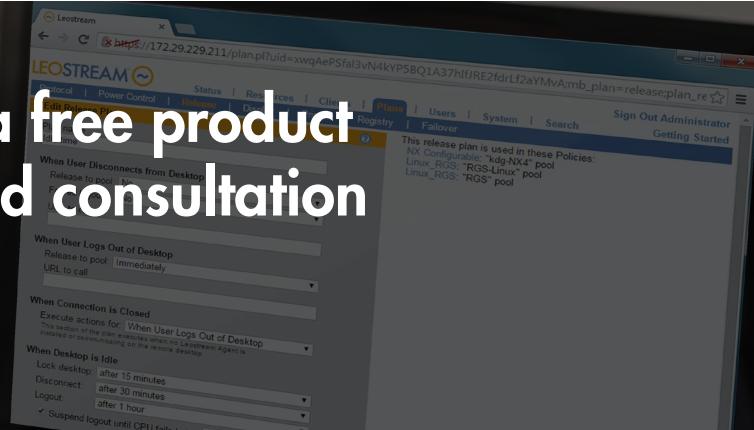
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## Introduction

The desktops-as-a-service movement is gaining momentum and maybe, as an MSP, you're hoping to join the fray. How can you quickly offer a DaaS solution without building a datacenter or investing in Windows licensing? Simple, put your desktops in a public cloud such as Amazon Web Services (AWS) EC2.

Public clouds offer the advantages of global reach (AVS has data centers around the world) and a built-in SLA. What's the catch? Variable cost.

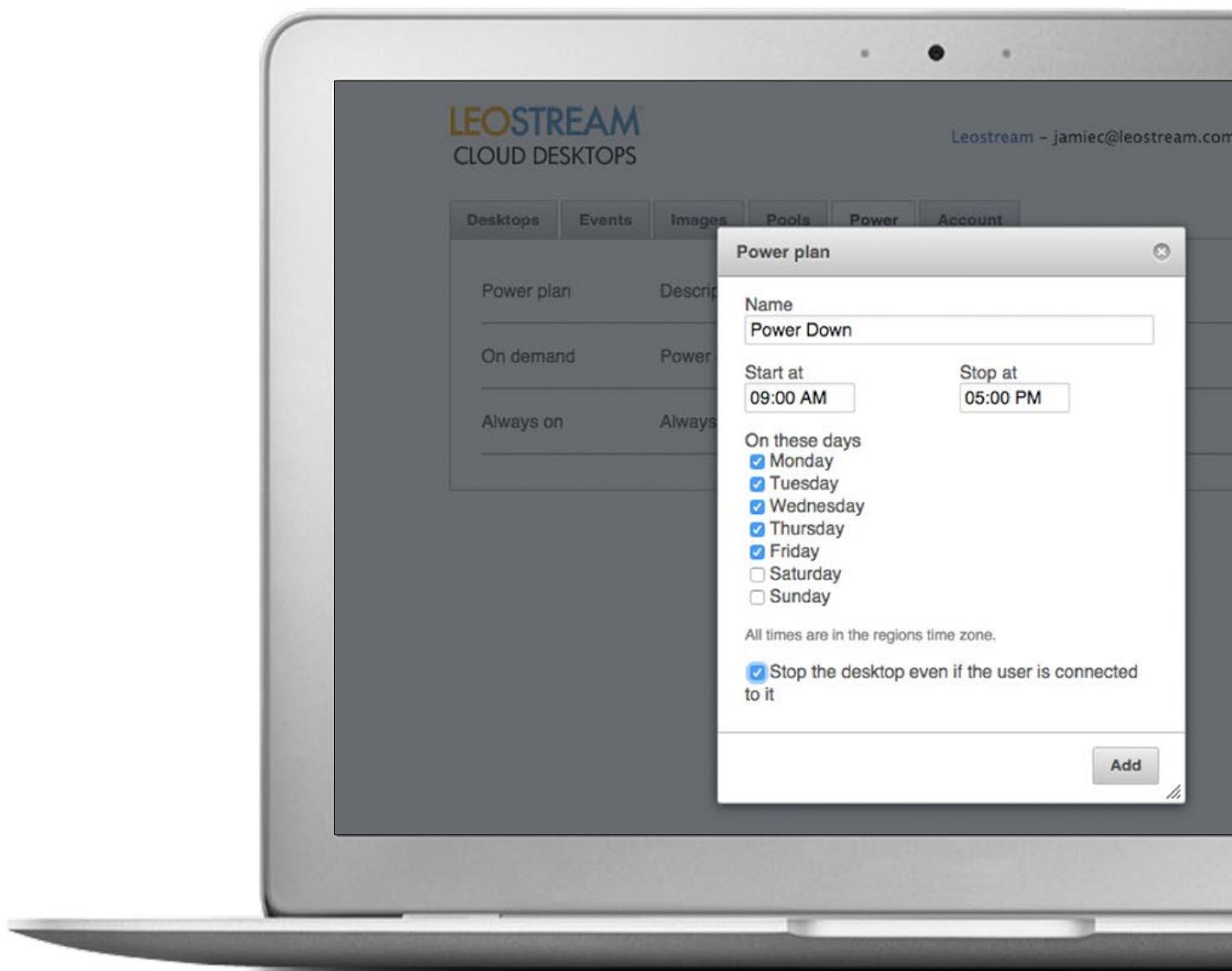
Essentially, you rent compute and storage by the hour, which can be tricky to estimate and keep in check. Thankfully, there are tools that can help you track and bill your AWS costs, such as Cloudyn or CloudCheckr. But, what can you do to mitigate the cost in the first place?

Here are five things to think about when it comes to controlling public cloud costs for desktops-as-a-service.

1

## Power it Down

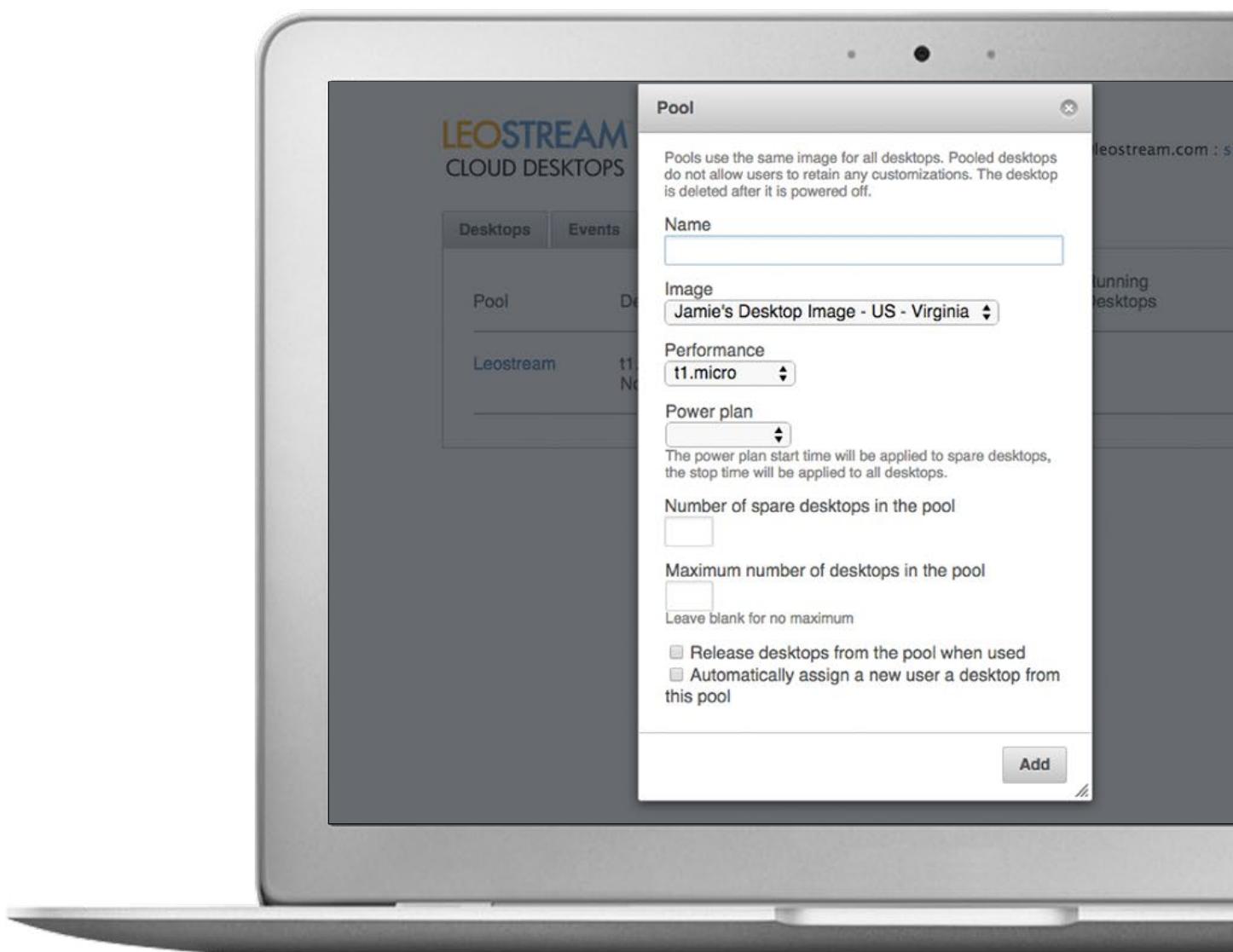
When hosting desktops-as-a-service in AWS, costs come at you from a number of direction, namely storage, bandwidth, and compute. Compute costs are charged by the hour. Therefore, to minimize your compute costs, run your desktop for fewer hours by powering it down when it's not in use. Granted, it's unlikely you can train your users to shut down their desktops, and you don't want to monitor desktops and turn things off manually. Instead, look for a desktops-as-a-service management tool that can do that for you. Even better, to maximize the end-user experience, look for a tool that can schedule power down and power up, so users aren't waiting for their desktop to power on, but you're not paying for compute when they are asleep.



## 2

## Terminate When You're Done

Even when the desktop is off, you're paying storage fees for the block volume. Storage fees are typically low, but if you want to save every penny, look for use cases where you can terminate desktops when they are no longer in use. A desktops-as-a-service management tool that includes pooling can automate the process for you. User's log in and grab a desktop out of the pool. After they log out, the desktop is deleted and perhaps a clean desktop is spun up in its place.



## 3

### Use the Lowest Instance Size Needed for the Job, and Burst Up Only When Necessary

Hourly compute costs increase as the size and power of the instance, i.e., desktop, in the public cloud increases. Make sure you default to the smallest instance size required to provide the performance your users need. For users that need only bursts of additional power, look for a DaaS management tool that allows you to switch desktops between different instances sizes, allowing you to use a larger (more expensive) instance when more performance is needed, but dropping back down to a smaller instance when it's not.

## 4

### Leverage Reserved Instances

Are you migrating desktops for an existing customer base to the cloud? Perhaps reserved instances are for you. If you have, or will have, a known number of desktops hosted in AVVS for a number of years, purchasing Reserved Instances provides significant discounts on your compute costs.

To learn more about Reserved Instances, visit <http://aws.amazon.com/ec2/purchasing-options/reserved-instances/>

## 5

### Consider Linux vs. Windows

Sure, Amazon provides the Windows operating system license, but that doesn't mean the license is entirely free. Look closely at the hourly rates for different operating systems. Typically, the hourly rate for an instance running a Windows OS is higher than one running a Linux OS. Inventory the applications you need to offer to your users, and see if perhaps you can use a Linux instance instead. Are all your applications accessed from a Web browser? If so, Linux may work just fine. Even if only a subset of your desktops can be satisfied by Linux, that will help you lower your costs.

## Conclusion

With a little care and planning, public clouds such as AWS become perfect places to host desktops-as-a-service. By being diligent about how and when you rack up compute costs, you can offer a DaaS solution at competitive rates and still earn a healthy margin. In this tip-sheet we covered five ways to keep your costs in check. To learn more about delivering desktops-as-a-service, check out the following recommended resources.

## Suggested Resources



eBook: Everything You Need to Know about Cloud Desktops as a Virtualization Solution  
[Download Now](#)



Webinar: Conquering VDI Demands with Cloud Desktops  
[Download Now](#)



Webinar: Cloud Desktops, Can you Deliver?  
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Webinar: How to Make OpenStack VDI and DaaS a Reality  
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## About Leostream

Leostream, a vendor-independent software company, is a driver in the evolving virtualization space and a leader in the management of end-user resources hosted in the data center. Our Connection Broker product provides a comprehensive and scalable solution for organizations to deliver and manage desktops, remote sessions, and hosted applications to end-users. With the Leostream DaaS solution, we revolutionized the desktop delivery model, by providing easy-to-use, risk-free, cloud-based Windows desktops.

Discover Leostream Desktops-as-a-Service at [leostream.com](http://leostream.com).

## Contact Leostream

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