Secure Remote Access

The UKCloud Secure Remote Access service enables customers to securely connect to the UKCloud Elevated OFFICIAL (formerly IL3) cloud platform using CESG-approved internet virtual private network (VPN) technologies and the ‘walled garden’ architectural pattern using bastion hosts.

Information assurance and connectivity

The UKCloud assured cloud platform is designed and optimised to meet the unique information assurance needs of UK public sector organisations.

- Deploy on an established, trusted Assured or Elevated OFFICIAL cloud platform
- Connect via the internet, or via PSN, RLI, N3 or JANET networks
- UK-based telephone service desk and NOC function, with 24/7 support for high-priority incidents, including access to UKCloud’s technical subject matter experts
- Platform optimised for OFFICIAL and fully aligned with the 14 CESG Cloud Security Principles
- Multiple secure tier 3 UK data centres separated by more than 100km and securely connected by high-bandwidth, low-latency dedicated connectivity
- Extensive independent validation by recognised UK public sector authorities enhances the platform’s suitability for especially sensitive workloads for organisations such as health, police and defence
- UK sovereignty — assured cloud platform delivered across two UK sites by a UK-based company with UK government security-cleared staff
- Platform that hosts workloads exclusively for the UK public sector, creating a known and trusted community of neighbours
- A mature and expansive partner ecosystem, including system integrators, managed service providers, software development houses and consultants specialising in transformation projects

Key differentiators

- A secure remote access solution that uses CESG Assured VPN technologies and the secure ‘walled garden’ architectural pattern
- Flexible connectivity for remote administrators and mobile workers to the UKCloud Elevated OFFICIAL cloud platform
- Provided as a cloud service — no need to purchase and manage CESG-approved VPN hardware
- Comprehensive assurance wrap process with Cloud Architects to ensure data and access security
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Features and benefits

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<th>Feature</th>
<th>Benefit</th>
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<td>Flexibility and scalability</td>
<td>Scale the service as you wish — don’t be restricted by third-party suppliers of access devices. &lt;br&gt;Manage and assure the devices yourself rather than mandating the use of inflexible, locked-down devices managed by a provider.</td>
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<td>Cross-platform compatibility</td>
<td>Choose the access devices that are right for your workforce. &lt;br&gt;Secure Remote Access is compatible with a variety of end-user platforms including Android, Apple, Linux and Microsoft Windows.</td>
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<td>Cost-effectiveness</td>
<td>Take advantage of UKCloud’s ready-made solution to reduce your infrastructure and compliance costs. &lt;br&gt;Use a cloud service that provides secure access via a shared multi-tenant CESG-approved internet VPN solution.</td>
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What the service can help you achieve

- Increase workforce mobility
- Access secure workloads when secure network connections are not available
- Use existing devices without the need to lock them down
- Manage applications from a diverse set of devices
- Avoid implementing your own costly solution
- Use an assured and certified solution

Technical features

The service:

- Is based on CESG-approved CPA technology including Cisco AnyConnect and Cisco VPN gateways
- Provides secure two-factor authentication based on UKCloud-issued device certificates
- Has a ‘walled garden’ architecture which enables customers to deploy and manage appropriate systems in a DMZ, allowing secure, controlled onward access to workloads hosted on the UKCloud Elevated OFFICIAL cloud platform
- Is integrated with the UKCloud Protective Monitoring solution (aligned with GPG13).

Use cases

Secure Remote Access offers a simple way to provide connectivity to applications that require a higher level of assurance for sensitive data, without having to invest in expensive network solutions.

Example use cases include:

- Organisations whose developers, system administrators or mobile/remote workers need secure connectivity to workloads and data objects on the UKCloud Elevated OFFICIAL cloud platform
- Organisations who want to implement bring your own device (BYOD) initiatives to avoid the constraints of end-user devices that are too locked down for power users like developers and system administrators
- Organisations looking to avoid the cost and complexity associated with buying, managing and maintaining CESG-approved VPN hardware