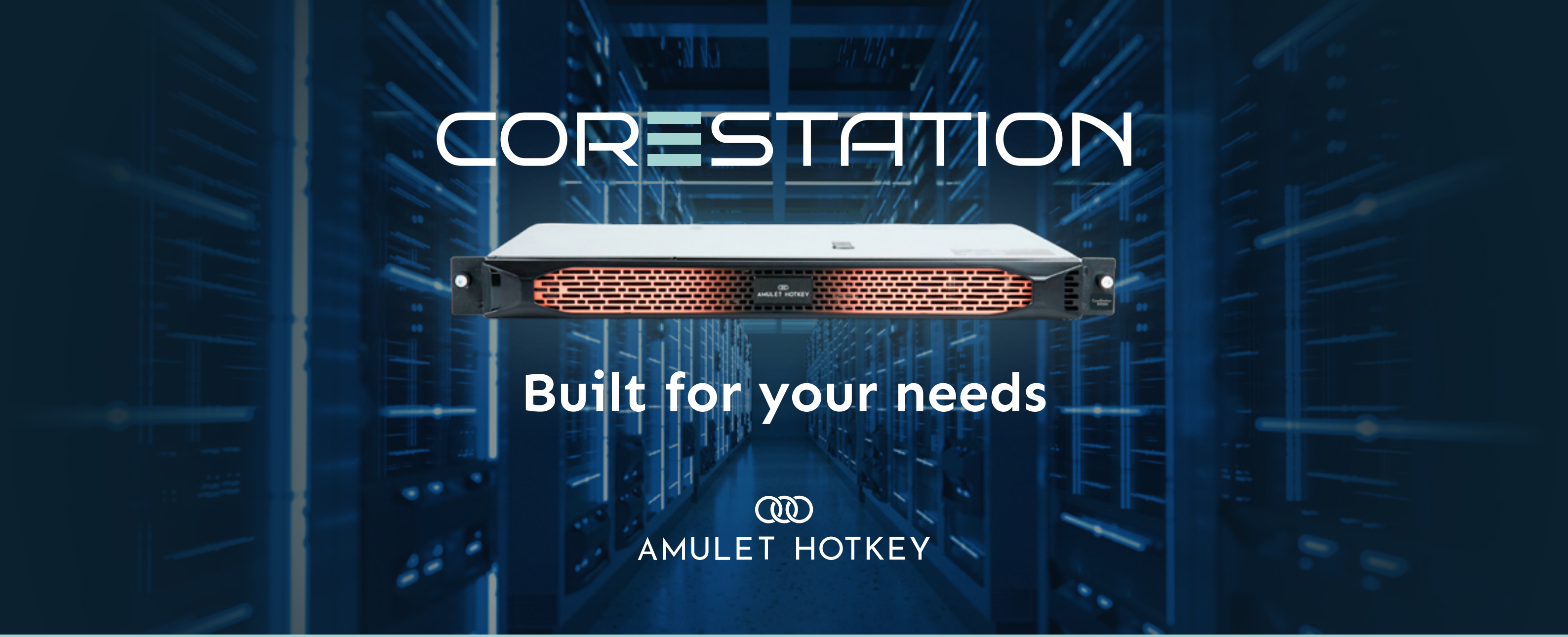

Reshaping remote trading

Mandatory social distancing may now be resigned to the history books, but remote trading remains an appealing proposition for many. Having secure access to trading platforms from anywhere, at any time, gives traders enhanced agility and can reduce long-term operational costs. COVID-19 changed the way many sectors work and figures from The Buy-Side Trading Community show around half of traders are working from home 60% of the time.

Remote trading does, however, come with a number of challenges, from compliance and mental wellbeing, to trader workstation architecture. How can traders ensure secure, resilient access to business-critical platforms without prohibitive costs?

Let's look at the three main compute options available for traders and how they are deployed.

Compute on the desk - high performance desktops

The first option is to house all the power on the desk, using high-performance workstation computers that are built to deliver the processing power needed for trading.

With faster processors and more memory, these workstations can process data quickly and efficiently so traders can make decisions in real time – but they are not conducive to flexible working. High performance workstations are not portable and have significant dedicated resources that are not easily shared with any other systems or services.

Users would need one desktop in each working location, which is not always practical for hybrid workers due to the cost of each desktop.

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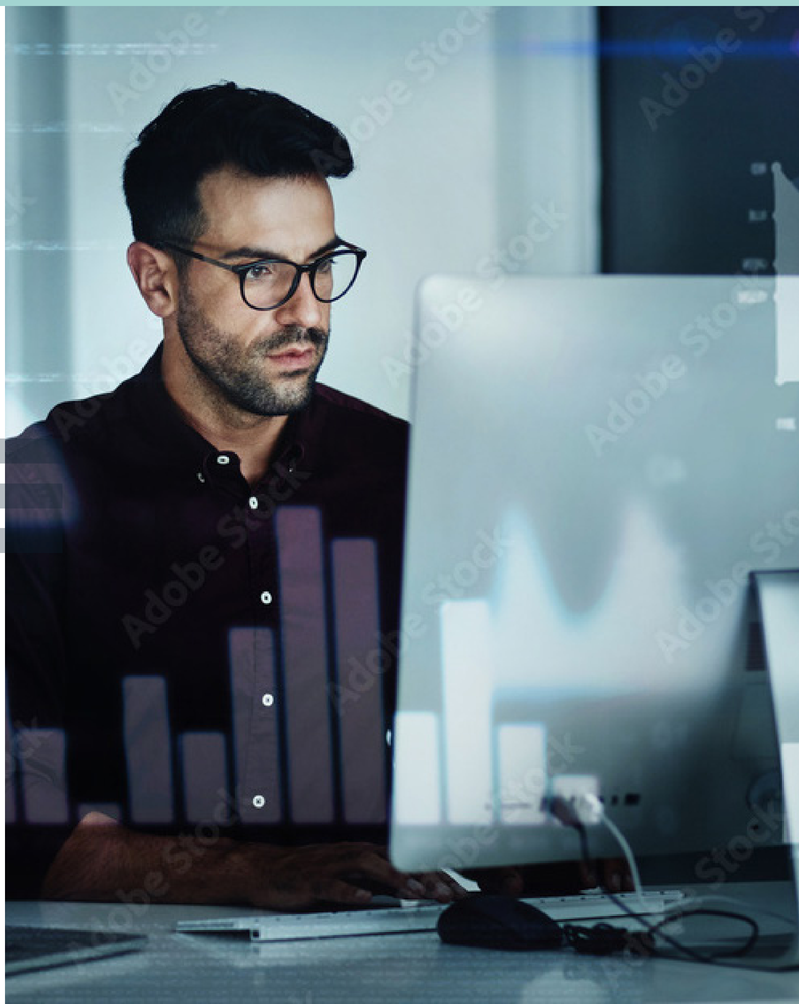

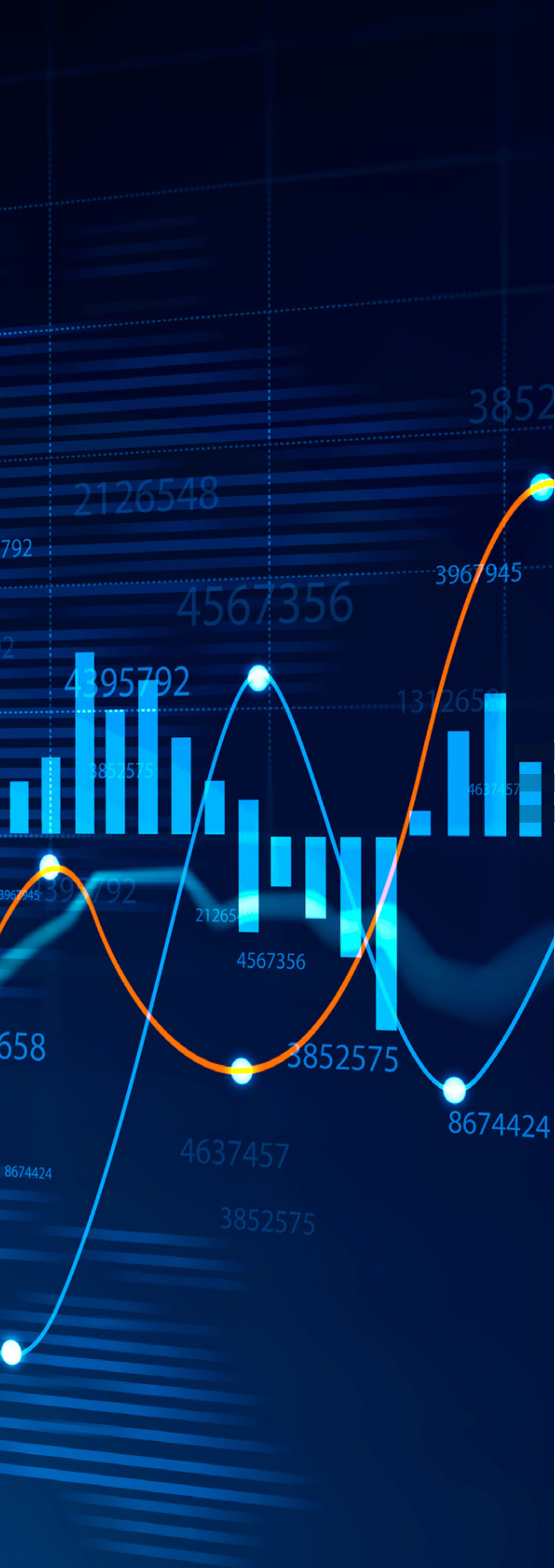

Compute in the cloud

For greater mobility, products and applications can be deployed in the public cloud. Cloud compute can rival the performance of on-premises solutions without the hardware capital requirements, centralising trader activity from a single location.

However, in the heavily regulated financial sector, there are challenges to consider. Public cloud compute is more susceptible to data security and data privacy concerns, while access to mission-critical platforms is dependent on service providers.

Private cloud with centralised workstations

The other solution is to have centralised remote workstations, rack mounted in a local data centre or equipment room. Individual traders can then operate a Zero Client or Ultra Thin Client desktop, with PCoIP Host Card in each centralised workstation, giving seamless remote access and maximum flexibility. Additional Zero Clients can be deployed at home without prohibitive costs.

Remote workstations move the compute away from the user without impacting performance, enabling remote working whilst securing all the data within the data centre. Crucially, it also means users have the resources they need with a lower power and cooling requirement.

Providing remote access from any location to a centralised function needs careful consideration over how the end-to-end architecture is secured and centrally managed, because remote working can introduce variables such as external devices which are not under the control of the IT teams.

However, if deployed correctly it provides a flexible, secure and efficient solution for high performance remote working.

Want to know more about compute infrastructure solutions for financial trading?
Speak to our team.

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