

NezdieoCon

2025

— PALM SPRINGS





NerdioCon

2025
— PALM SPRINGS



The Great Image Pipeline Bake Off



Agenda

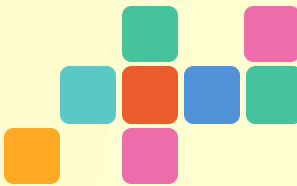
Intro

Why

Comparisons

Bake off

Tips and tricks



Aaron Parker

Senior Staff Engineer, Office of the CTO

 @stealthpuppy.com



Image Pipeline Bake Off

1



Custom Image Templates

Custom Windows gold images via the Azure Virtual Desktop portal

2



HashiCorp Packer

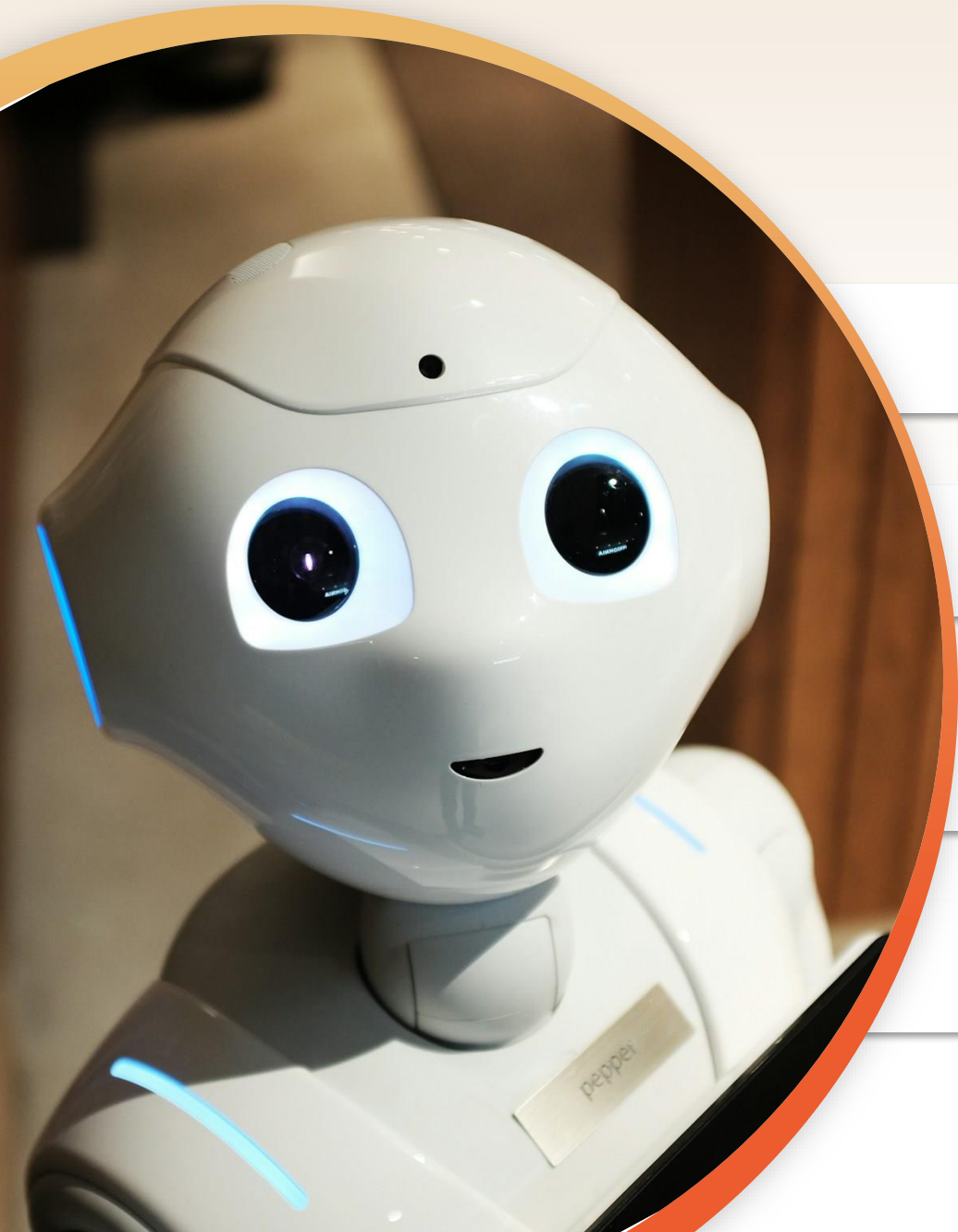
Roll your own gold images for Windows & Linux in the cloud & on-premises

3



Nerdio Manager

Azure Virtual Desktop & Windows 365 gold images made easy



Why automation

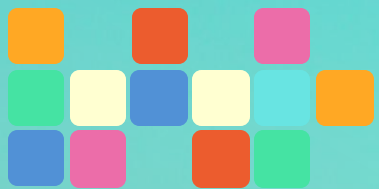
Why does user experience matter?

Repeatability

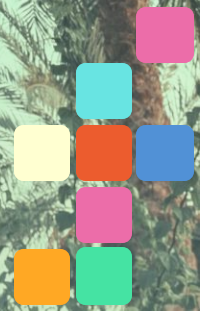
Consistency

Predictability

Speed



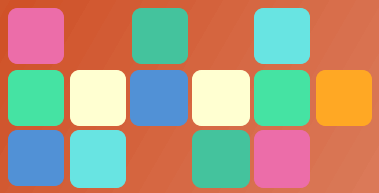
Custom Image Templates



Azure Virtual Desktop Custom Image Templates

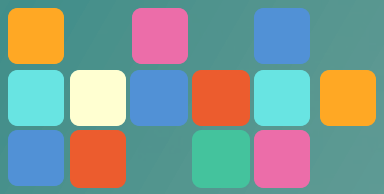
- Based on Azure Image Builder
- Uses Packer under the hood
- Built into the Azure portal
- Automation via Bicep
- Requires PowerShell
- Supports scheduling
- Modifications require recreation



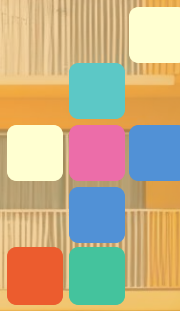


Demo time





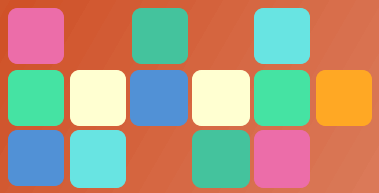
HashiCorp Packer



HashiCorp Packer

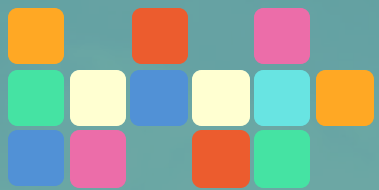
- Steep learning curve for newbies
- Roll your own image management
- Ultimate flexibility but you build everything
- Simple to make updates and changes
- Orchestration via Azure Pipelines, HashiCorp Cloud Platform, etc.





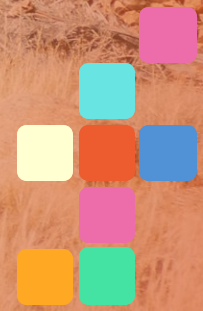
Demo time





★ *NerdioCon* ★
2025
PALM SPRINGS

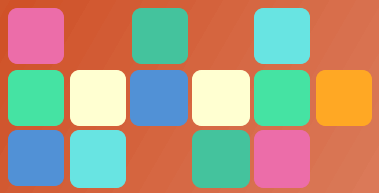
Nerdio Manager



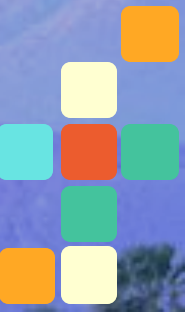
Nerdio Manager

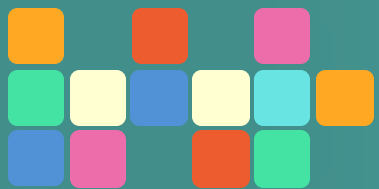
- Integrated UI for image management (creation, scheduling etc.)
- Creates persistent VMs from which images are created
- Can run scripts or app installers via UAM/Intune
- Uses the script extension to run commands (WinRM is not required)
- Enhanced management capabilities of all endpoints (ie backups, analytics, remediation)



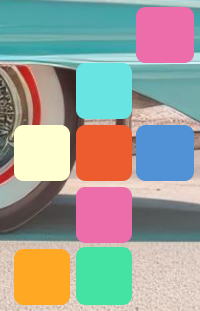


Demo time





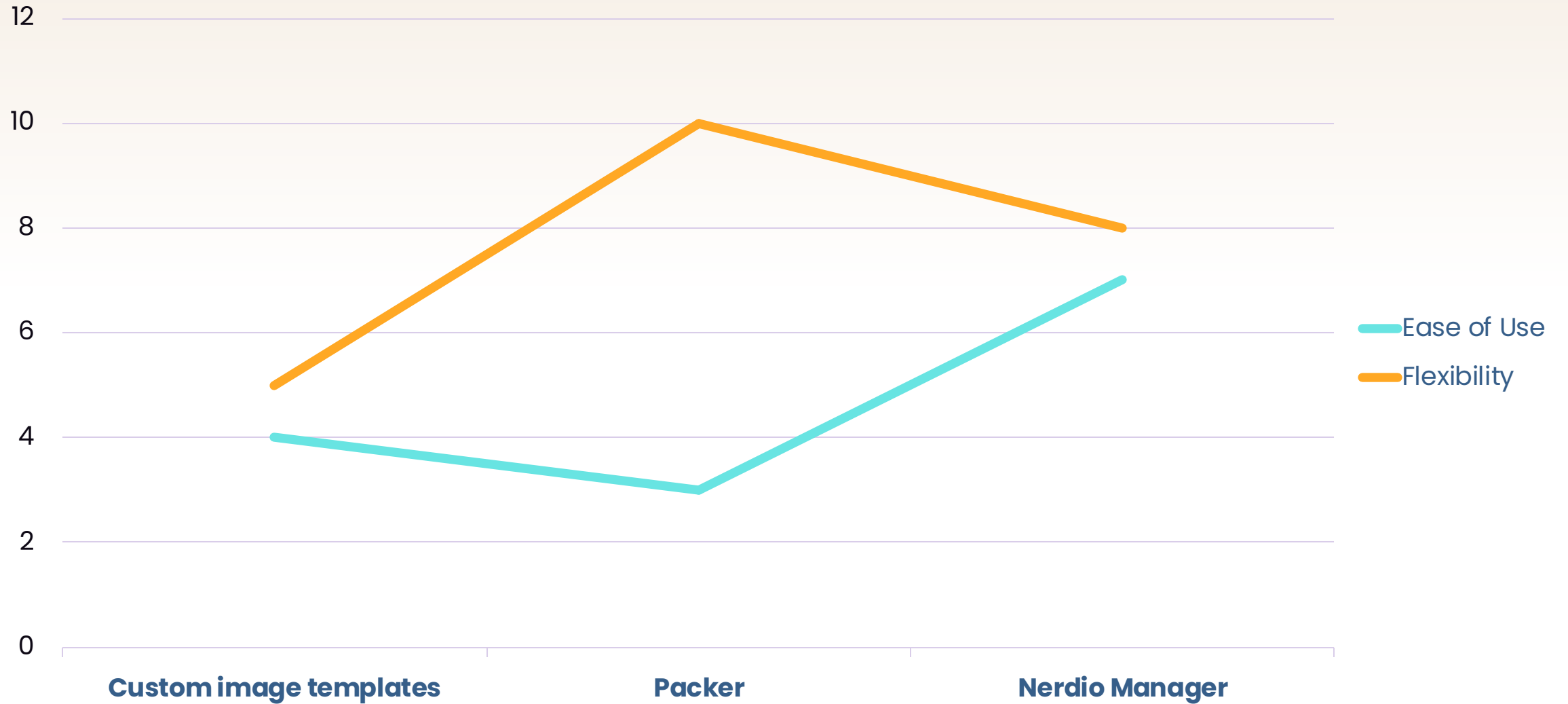
Bake off

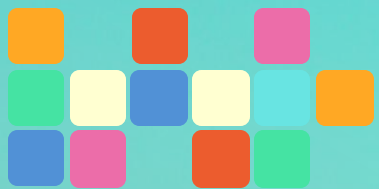


Bake off

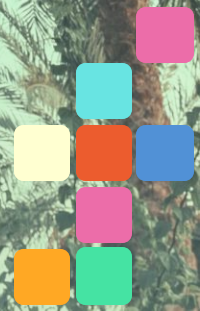
FEATURE	CUSTOM IMAGE TEMPLATES	HASHICORP PACKER	NERDIO MANAGER
SETUP	Manual setup or Bicep	HCL code with orchestration tools	Desktop images, Scripted Actions & UAM
WINRM	Yes	Yes	No
AZURE COMPUTE GALLERY	Yes	Yes	Yes
VERSIONING	Yes	Yes	Yes
TRUSTED LAUNCH	Yes	Yes	Yes
WINDOWS 365 IMAGE IMPORT	Manual	Manual	Automatic
SCHEDULING	When marketplace image is updated	Yes, via orchestration tool	Yes
LOGGING	Container image, storage account	Console log + output artifacts	Script extension output
APPLICATIONS	Microsoft provided or custom scripts	Custom scripts	Scripted actions, UAM
SUPPORT FOR MANUAL STEPS	No	No	Yes
AUTOMATICALLY PROVISION STAGED IMAGES	No	No	Yes
FLEXIBILITY	Limited	Ultimate flexibility	Yes, with caveats (e.g. UAM runs after Scripted actions)
MAKING CHANGES	New image template	Modify code	Scripted actions and Application groups

Bake off





Tips and tricks



Tools

1

Script code management and versioning

2

Microsoft Desktop Optimization Tool

3

Base Image Script Framework

4

Customized defaults

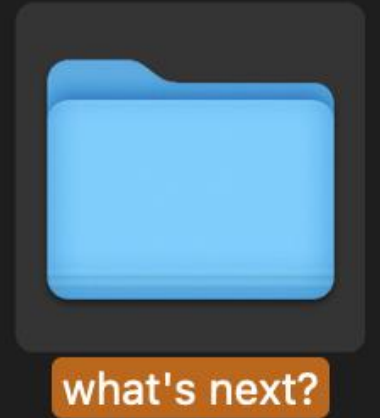


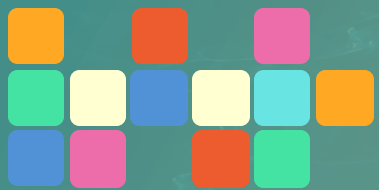
What's next?

Gold images are still useful

Creating gold images should be simpler

No code gold images should be possible





Thank you

