



# Cloud Migration Simplified

A Guide for Migrating Infrastructure,  
Databases, and Applications

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# Introduction

Cloud computing allows organizations to reduce expenses associated with datacenters, including real estate, power, servers, storage, and networks—but that’s just where the benefits begin.

Today, more organizations are taking advantage of the many benefits that the cloud offers:

- Improved cost efficiency and ROI
- Code-to-cloud security
- Enhanced agility
- Broader access to AI tools and capabilities

Despite the obvious benefits of migration, the journey to the cloud involves several key considerations. Leaders don’t want to launch a migration until they fully understand the time and costs required, the potential security risks, and the overall durability of cloud technology and management.

Those leaders are right to be thoughtful about their migration, so Microsoft developed the Microsoft Cloud Adoption Framework for Azure. This framework guides teams through a structured and successful migration, from strategy definition and planning to governance and management.

If you’re an IT decision maker looking to migrate your infrastructure, databases, or apps and need support figuring out which to move and how, this e-book is for you. In it, you’ll find proven methods from the Microsoft Cloud Adoption Framework for Azure, plus strategies and steps for planning and executing your cloud migration.

# Why migrate now?

Cloud migration enables a better way to operate your business and serve your customers. To start, you must consider the kinds of operational advantages that you can take advantage of once you've migrated to the cloud. Advantages like AI adoption, rapid scalability and innovation, support for hybrid work, and streamlining complex business processes are critical to compete in today's landscape.

There are many advantages to adopting the cloud, including lower running costs, faster modernization capabilities, and heightened security. However, each organization typically experiences a unique catalyst that sparks the migration conversation.

## Common catalysts for migration

A growing pressure to innovative with AI, machine learning, and cloud-scale analytics

The need to lower expenses by optimizing processes and replacing aging datacenters and hardware

A call for greater ability to respond swiftly to market changes and shifting customer demands

An evolving threat landscape that requires cloud-scale vigilance, security, and compliance

If you find your organization regularly having discussions around these topics, it's safe to say that now is a good time to migrate and modernize in the cloud.

## Migration and innovation: What's the connection?

Migrating to the cloud holds huge potential for organizations looking to innovate with AI. With the ability to dynamically scale resources based on demand, companies can easily provide the computational power necessary to train sophisticated AI models. Whether it's analyzing large datasets for insights, powering natural language processing algorithms, or enhancing computer vision capabilities, the cloud's scalability accelerates AI innovation by providing the computational resources needed to handle those complex processes.

The cloud also allows organizations to shift their focus from infrastructure management to strategic initiatives. Freed from the costs and maintenance of physical servers, companies can allocate more resources toward AI-driven projects that drive efficiency and create new opportunities. Cloud-based data lakes and analytics platforms enable businesses to process vast amounts of data, uncover patterns, and derive actionable insights, facilitating informed decision-making across various domains.

For these reasons, many companies view migration as the first step to gaining limitless opportunities for innovation, essential for driving growth and staying competitive in today's business landscape.

## Why Azure?

### AI tools and services

With Azure, you can build and deploy innovative apps how and where you want. Access machine learning and AI models and tools for any skill level, build and scale without constraints using hyperscale relational and fast NoSQL databases with open APIs, and deliver agile applications that adapt to your organization's needs over time, supported by industry-leading service level agreements.

Build with the language and tools of your choice and take advantage of built-in support for Azure in popular development environments.

### Code-to-cloud security

Azure provides a secure foundation to protect your customers and organization with multilayered security and investment of over USD 1 billion in research and development, backed by 3,500 security experts monitoring your data.

With Azure, your data will never be used for marketing or advertising. Azure also streamlines compliance and protects your data with over 100 compliance certifications—more than any other cloud provider.<sup>1</sup>

### Cost savings and ROI

Azure hybrid cloud solutions provide the flexibility to operate seamlessly across on-premises, multiple clouds, and the edge. Provision your resources according to demand and manage costs by only paying for your needs.

Plus, using your Windows Server and SQL Server on-premises licenses through the Azure Hybrid Benefit lets you bring cloud innovation to your workloads while saving money on your existing license investments.

### Agility from anywhere

Azure cloud infrastructure provides the scalability to adjust computing power, storage, and networking according to demand. This flexibility enables rapid response to growth and shifting market conditions.

Plus, with data centers worldwide, Azure helps ensure apps and services are accessible, and teams are connected, providing the agility crucial for modern businesses.

<sup>1</sup>[Why Azure vs. AWS | Microsoft Azure](#)

## What projects can you migrate?

The following migration scenarios can all follow the same basic framework for migration and modernization.



# Build a migration roadmap

Whether you're looking to migrate your Windows Server, SQL Server, SAP, or other workload, follow an organized framework to facilitate secure and successful migration. To help create your migration roadmap, Microsoft offers proven guidance and tools to assist you with everything from initial strategy, planning, readiness, and migration to ongoing innovation, governance, management, and organizational alignment.

This roadmap guide provides a catalog of resources to help both Unified Contract and Unmanaged Azure customers at any stage in their cloud adoption journey.

The roadmap is broken down into three phases, with each phase involving multiple action steps:



Make sure to explore the resources and channels of support included with each phase. Some are self-serve, while Microsoft and its partners assist others. Resources are provided along with their descriptions at the end of each chapter and the end of the e-book.

## Resources

### For tech-savvy customers

Customers who are just getting started with Azure or want to rely on their own internal IT teams can use Azure Customer Enablement Resources. Available to all Azure customers, this free library of online materials, tools, and resources is designed to help you get started with building and deploying applications and optimizing your usage of Azure services. Resources included documentation, training videos, webinars, forums, and other self-paced learning materials.

[Learn more about Microsoft Azure customer enablement](#) >

### Resources for Unified Contract customers

In addition to Azure Customer Enablement Resources, Unified Contract customers have access to Services Hub, a portal providing all-day access to on-demand learning and personalized recommendations. It also provides tools for assessing and managing IT health, customized reports and insights, and unlimited end-to-end managed support from Microsoft.

[Visit Microsoft Services Hub](#) >

# Strategize

Begin by documenting your business strategy in a way that resonates with cloud technicians and business stakeholders. Engaging with partners early in the strategy phase will help you maximize your cloud migration project and reap the most benefits. Use the following steps to document your business strategy efficiently and outline the business value of your migration model. Then, map your cloud adoption strategy to specific cloud capabilities. You can also map business strategies to reach your expected state of transformation.

## Steps to launch your strategy

### 1. Define and document your motivations

Meet with key stakeholders and executives to establish the drivers of cloud adoption.

### 2. Document business outcomes

Engage motivated stakeholders and executives to document specific business outcomes.

### 3. Evaluate financial considerations

Learn how to use the cloud to make your IT cost structure more flexible. Then, build a business case to adopt the cloud.

### 4. Understand technical considerations

Identify the efficiencies and capabilities that help you build a business case to adopt the cloud.

## Assess your cloud strategy

The Microsoft Cloud Adoption Strategy Evaluator helps you assess key areas of your strategy, such as motivations, expected outcomes, and financial and technical considerations. Based on your responses, the assessment provides a personalized strategy score and guides you through the relevant areas. It also offers curated guidance, recommendations on specific tools and templates, and advice on cloud economics and organizational alignment principles.

[Cloud Adoption Strategy Evaluator](#) >

## Get stakeholder buy-in with a compelling business case

Migration involves coordination between multiple functions, including leadership, lines of business, IT, security, and the application owners who will be affected. Establishing the root business case for migration, along with its urgency and timelines, will drive alignment between these groups of people. Distinguishing between business, technical, and timeline drivers supports flexibility in migration approaches.

To get buy-in from executive leadership, set a strategy that includes the following:

Guidance on why the organization is migrating	Assigning people and teams	Allocating budget*
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\*(with the expectation to refine later)

## Build executive and stakeholder alignment

Crafting a business case for cloud migration can help gain buy-in from the finance team and accelerate the project.

**Key components of a business case typically include:**

### Environment scope

Consider how your environment scope is aligned to ensure the technical environment matches up to the financial data.

### Baseline financial data

Find out how much it costs to run your current environment, how much you spend on servers in an average year, etc.

### On-premises cost scenarios

Forecast your on-premises costs if you don't migrate to the cloud.

### Azure scenario for on-premises costs

Forecast your on-premises costs after migrating to the cloud, considering the resources and time spent shifting to the cloud.

### Migration timelines and costs

Forecast the migration timeline and estimated costs for a given environment using the Azure Hybrid Benefit calculator.

### Cloud savings opportunities

Choose from various ways to reduce costs so you can reinvest those savings in innovation initiatives.

## Resources

### Build a strategy that maximizes ROI

[Azure Hybrid Benefit savings calculator](#) | Find out how you can save more by using on-premises licenses on Azure.

[Azure Migrate](#) | Explore business considerations for different migration scenarios.

[Spot virtual machines](#) | Identify discounts for workloads that don't have a specific timeframe.

[Reservations](#) | Reserve resources in advance to get discounts on your workloads of up to 72%.<sup>2</sup>

[Azure savings plan for compute](#) | Find a flexible cost-saving plan with pay-as-you-go prices that could help you to save up to 65%.<sup>3</sup>

[Azure dev/test pricing](#) | Take advantage of discounted rates for nonproduction workloads.

[Extended security updates](#) | Get ongoing support for servers that reach their end of support lifecycle.

<sup>2</sup>The 72% saving is based on one M32ts Azure VM for Windows OS in US Gov Virginia region running for 36 months at a Pay as You Go rate of ~\$3,660.81/month; reduced rate for a 3-year Reserved Instance of ~\$663.45/month. Azure pricing as of 10/30/2018 (prices subject to change). Actual savings may vary based on location, instance type, or usage.

<sup>3</sup>Customers may see savings estimated to be between 11 percent and 65 percent. The 65 percent savings is based on one M64dsv2 Azure VM for CentOS or Ubuntu Linux in the East US region running for 36 months at a pay-as-you-go rate of ~\$4,868.37/month vs. a reduced rate for a 3-year savings plan of ~\$1,703.44/month. Based on Azure pricing as of October 2022. Prices subject to change. Actual savings may vary based on location, instance type, or usage.

# Plan

Cloud adoption plans lead to an actionable roadmap that outlines your approach, the potential costs, and the expected timeline.

This includes adapting existing roles and skills to support your transition and prepare teams for a new way of working.

## Planning exercises

Use the following exercises to document your organization’s technology strategy. These exercises assist your cloud adoption endeavors by outlining prioritized tasks. Upon completion, your cloud adoption plan will align with the metrics and motivations specified in the strategy.

### Digital estate

Rationalize your digital estate based on your organization’s motivations and business outcomes.

### Initial organization alignment

Establish a plan for initial organizational alignment to support the adoption plan.

### Skills readiness plan

Create a plan for addressing skills readiness gaps within your organization.

### Cloud adoption plan

Develop a plan to manage change across skills, the digital estate, and your organization.

## Define your migration approach

After assessing your goals and requirements, choose the migration method that aligns with your business and IT needs. Your migration could involve parallel and iterative processes as you move apps and workloads to the cloud.

### Five migration approaches

- 1

**Rehost**  
Move existing assets from their current state with minimal changes to the architecture. Benefits include cost savings, security, increased reliability, and lower TCO.
- 2

**Refactor**  
Optimize cost, reliability, and performance using additional cloud provider services. With minor code/configuration changes, enjoy lower costs, easier management, and compatibility.
- 3

**Rearchitect**  
Make code-level changes to optimize the application for the cloud. Improve agility, bring new capabilities to existing apps, and cost-effectively meet scalability requirements.
- 4

**Rebuild**  
Create a new application version by adopting platform as a service (PaaS) or software as a service (SaaS) architecture. Build new cloud-native applications, accelerated development, and use innovative technologies like AI, blockchain, and IoT.
- 5

**Replace**  
Retire existing applications and replace them with a SaaS solution. Simplify maintenance, reduce technical debt, and use specialized SaaS capabilities.

## Critical decisions: Migrate or modernize?

Each workload will require deciding whether to migrate (rehost) or modernize (re-platform) your existing application. The answer will likely depend on the type of application or workload and your business goals for moving it to the cloud.

**With a modernization approach**, the application is rebuilt and enhanced for the cloud, delivering better performance and cost-efficiency. This PaaS approach enables faster deployment, enhanced development productivity, and increased potential for innovation. You're not just moving the application but modernizing your databases and processes. A DevOps methodology accelerates your workload modernization efforts, and PaaS solutions help you scale and reduce your management overhead.

**Migrating an existing application** is generally faster and less expensive, but that adoption approach doesn't take advantage of opportunities to innovate in the cloud.

### Which option is right for you?

#### Consider a migration approach...

if the source code is likely to remain stable and the workload currently supports business processes and will continue to do so.

#### Consider a modernization approach...

for workloads that drive market differentiation or where data and AI can create new experiences or service offerings.

## Plan costs

Planning costs involve collecting resource usage data, as on-premises virtual machines (VMs) are often over-provisioned but underused. By analyzing historical resource usage, cost analysis tools can recommend the most suitable Azure VM series for your workloads. Migrating Windows or SQL Server workloads to Azure can maximize benefits, and the assessment solution can identify suitable programs for budgeting and forecasting.

Evaluate potential cost savings by comparing Azure's total cost of ownership (TCO) with that of a comparable on-premises deployment. Estimate migration project costs, including professional services, development, and training. Use the TCO estimate and business case to guide migration planning and refine them as needed throughout the process.



Azure VMware Solution has only 25% of the hardware refresh cost, reducing our total cost of ownership. That's just the capital cost. There would still have been more costs with an on-premises solution for cooling, maintenance, and all the other things that come with a local server."

**Tony Hyman**, IT Infrastructure Manager, Netstar

## Define migration timelines

Create a clear timeline for your cloud migration project. Use project management tools like work breakdown structures (WBS) to outline dependent tasks and their completion times. Iteration duration will depend on technical effort, administrative overhead, and team preferences. For added flexibility, adopt agile and iterative methodologies, allowing you to adjust the project scope as needed.

## Adapt roles and skills

As you shift to the cloud, roles will likely change. Datacenter specialists might be replaced with cloud administrators or cloud architects. IT staff members may need to learn different skills to support cloud solutions. Begin introducing learning materials and resources during the planning phase to ensure your workforce is agile and willing to adopt new cloud technologies.

### Resources

#### Build a cloud adoption plan

[Strategic Migration Assessment & Readiness Tool \(SMART\)](#) | Understand your level of readiness across all dimensions of migration, from initial strategy to ongoing management.

[Azure Migrate: Discovery and assessment tool](#) | Assess whether your on-premises servers, SQL Servers, and web apps are ready for migration to Azure.

[Azure Database Migration Service](#) | Get guidance on how to simplify and automate your database migration with near-zero downtime.

[Cost optimization](#) | Discover tools and offers that can help you optimize your Azure costs.

[Skills readiness path](#) | Map existing skills to IT roles in a cloud-hosted environment and browse hands-on learning paths in Microsoft Learn.

# Ready

Before adoption, you'll have to create a landing zone to host the workloads you plan to build in or migrate to the cloud. To do that, you must define your operating model.

## Operating model overview

Adopting the cloud offers a chance to rethink how you manage technological systems. Cloud operating models differ from traditional IT models as they shift focus from physical assets to digital ones, such as operating systems, applications, and data. This change affects success metrics, security, and the pace of managing changes.

A cloud operating model aims to ensure consistent operations while balancing architectural principles like cost optimization, operational excellence, performance efficiency, reliability, and security.

Typically, a cloud operating model is driven by two factors:

- Strategic priorities or motivations
- Scope of the portfolio to be managed

[Compare common operating models](#) >

## Landing zones overview

An Azure landing zone provides a scalable and modular environment to support application migration, modernization, and innovation in Azure. This code-based, pre-provisioned environment ensures consistency and efficiency, offering a comprehensive solution for both IaaS and PaaS.

### Landing zone tools

- Familiarize yourself with the tools and approaches to create a landing zone with the [Azure setup guide](#).
- Give developers and architects references on deploying solutions within a landing zone in the [Microsoft Azure Well-Architected Framework](#).

#### Resources

##### Establish cloud adoption readiness

[Azure Monitor](#) | Use a single unified hub for all monitoring and diagnostics data in Azure.

[Azure Service Health](#) | Get a personalized view of the health of the Azure services and regions you use.

[Azure Advisor](#) | Receive personalized assistance and recommendations to help you implement best practices for Azure deployments.

# Adopt

The Adopt methodology helps you navigate the cloud adoption journey by offering guidance on migration, modernization, innovation, and relocation of workloads in Azure. Each of these four stages has unique objectives, solutions, and benefits.

## Migrate and modernize

Migrate	Modernize	
Move workloads to the cloud or between clouds.	Enhance existing workloads, typically by moving a workload toward PaaS solutions.	
Meet business needs, transition away from on-premises environments, and adhere to Well-Architected Framework principles.	Minimize technical debt, update applications, and revamp data platforms.	Goals
Implement cloud solutions based on business requirements.	Integrate additional services and modify code to achieve business objectives.	Solutions
<p>Enhance security, reliability, performance, and operations using managed solutions.</p> <p>Simplify integration of new solutions and design patterns and eliminate hardware management and security.</p>	<p>Optimize cost, security, reliability, performance, and operations for higher productivity.</p> <p>Focus on core business without managing the underlying infrastructure.</p>	Key benefits

## Innovate and relocate

Innovate	Relocate	
Adopt AI and cloud-native technologies to develop customer-centric solutions.	Move Azure workloads to other Azure regions.	
Reposition your business and technical solutions and explore innovative data and AI opportunities.	Adapt to business changes, expand global reach, address data sovereignty and residency requirements, and reduce latency for end users.	Goals
Embrace data, AI, and application capabilities to foster adoption and create predictive tools.	Use a new Azure region's location, services, and features.	Solutions
Enhance predictive analytics, AI, performance, and adaptability.	Respond to business shifts, increase global presence, comply with data sovereignty and residency requirements, and provide lower latency to end users.	Key benefits

### Resources

#### Build a cloud adoption journey that fits your needs

[Azure App Service](#) | Quickly build and scale web apps and APIs in the cloud.

[FastTrack for Azure](#) | Get customized guidance on migration from Azure engineers.

[Azure migration guide](#) | This guide is a baseline for most workload migrations.

[Azure Database Migration Service](#) | Simplify and automate your database migration at scale.

# Govern

Adopting cloud technology is an ongoing journey with milestones and tangible business benefits. Cloud governance creates guardrails that ensure a safe path throughout this journey. The Cloud Adoption Framework provides governance guides based on real customer experiences to help navigate the process.

## Five Disciplines of Cloud Governance

Adopting the cloud offers a chance to rethink how you manage technological systems. Cloud operating models differ from traditional IT models as they shift focus from physical assets to digital ones, such as operating systems, applications, and data. This change affects success metrics, security, and the pace of managing changes.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <div style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; border-radius: 10px; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-bottom: 20px;">1</div> <p><b>Cost management</b><br/>Enable cost efficiency and optimization in the cloud environment.</p>                          | <div style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; border-radius: 10px; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-bottom: 20px;">4</div> <p><b>Resource consistency</b><br/>Implement consistent policies and processes for resource deployment and management.</p> |
| <div style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; border-radius: 10px; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-bottom: 20px;">2</div> <p><b>Security baseline</b><br/>Provide a baseline of security controls and ensure compliance with industry regulations.</p> | <div style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; border-radius: 10px; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-bottom: 20px;">5</div> <p><b>Deployment acceleration</b><br/>Optimize deployment processes to increase agility and reduce time to market.</p>     |
| <div style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; border-radius: 10px; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-bottom: 20px;">3</div> <p><b>Identity baseline</b><br/>Ensure secure and constant access to resources for users and services.</p>                   |  |

## Minimum Viable Product governance approach

Adopting a minimum viable product (MVP) approach early and responding rapidly to changing risks allows your cloud governance team to have a more clearly defined path forward that allows them to “lay the tracks” for your migration and implementation teams. This approach makes risk management and operations much easier to accomplish without introducing layers of complexity or unwanted features.

### Resources

#### Governance tools

[Governance Benchmark assessment](#) | Identify discrepancies between your current state and your business priorities and get resources to help you fill in the gaps.

[Cloud governance checklist](#) | See a step-by-step breakdown of the tasks included cloud governance.

# Manage

Establishing good operational practices allows you to avoid disruption and promote optimal application delivery. As with governance, management is an ongoing process. Well-defined guidance can help your organization expand its IT management and operations to use secure, cost-effective methods and modern, cloud-first tools for your cloud-based solutions. The business and technical approaches you develop are key to cloud management. These approaches include establishing and expanding the management baseline by defining the criticality classifications, cloud management tools, and processes required to deliver your minimum commitment to operations management.

## Define business commitments

Start by documenting supported workloads and cloud management investments for each workload. Also, the advanced operations for platforms or workloads with a higher level of business commitment should be considered. These workloads might require a deeper architecture review to deliver on resiliency and reliability commitments.

For simplified and optimal cloud management and operations, consider the following best practices:

### Align business and operations

Classify workloads by criticality, impact, and commitment to ensure workloads deliver the most business value.

- **Criticality:** Document the criticality and relative business value of each workload.
- **Impact:** Establish clear performance expectations and business interruption time/value metrics.
- **Commitment:** Document, track, and report on commitments to cost and performance.

### Implement cloud operations disciplines:

Make decisions along each of the following disciplines to make business stakeholders a partner in finding the right balance between cost and performance.

- **Inventory and visibility:** Create a list of assets across multiple clouds and develop visibility into each asset's run state.
- **Operational compliance:** Establish controls and processes to ensure each state is configured correctly and running in a well-governed environment.
- **Protect and recover:** Ensure all managed assets are protected and can be recovered using baseline management tooling.
- **Enhanced baseline options:** Evaluate common additions to the baseline that might meet business needs.
- **Platform operations:** Extend the management baseline with a well-defined service catalog and centrally managed platforms.
- **Workload operations:** Extend the management baseline to focus on mission-critical workloads.

## Improve your workloads over time

Workload optimization helps ensure you get the most value from your cloud investment.

Follow the five pillars of the Well-Architected Framework to ensure optimal design for workloads deployed on Azure:

- 1

**Reliability**  
Make workloads resilient, available, and recoverable.
- 2

**Security**  
Maintain confidentiality, integrity, and availability to protect workloads.
- 3

**Cost optimization**  
Deliver sufficient ROI and keep spending within budget.
- 4

**Operational excellence**  
Streamline operations, eliminate issues, and enhance observability.
- 5

**Performance efficiency**  
Scale horizontally and test often to keep up with shifting workload demands.

### Resources

#### Resources: Simplify management in the cloud

[Azure cloud management capabilities](#) | Explore integrations for cloud, hybrid, and multicloud operations on Azure.

[Azure Monitor SCOM Managed Instance](#) | Learn how existing customers of the System Center Operations Manager can maintain their investment while moving monitoring infrastructure to Azure.

[Azure Arc](#) | Improve ROI and simplify management with Azure Arc-enabled services and infrastructure.

# Secure

Security is a complex organizational discipline that can be difficult to define and map in detail. Aligning to widely accepted frameworks can simplify the process.

## Security frameworks to consider

### Zero Trust

Microsoft follows the [Zero Trust principles](#) of assuming breach, verifying explicitly, and using least privilege access, which underpin any sound security strategy.

### The Open Group

Microsoft security disciplines closely align with the Zero Trust components in [The Open Group's core principles white paper](#), except for elevating DevSecOps to a top-level element.

### NIST cybersecurity framework

Microsoft highlights where its security disciplines most closely align with the [National Institute of Standards and Technology framework](#), with modern access control and DevSecOps mapping broadly to the full framework spectrum.

## Zero Trust principles

### Assume breach

Design security by considering the possibility that other resources within the organization are compromised, reducing the attacker's ability to expand access.

### Explicit verification

Validate trust using all available data points instead of assuming trust, such as verifying user identity, location, device health, service or workload, data classification, and anomalies.

### Least-privileged access

Minimize risk from compromised users or resources by providing just-in-time and just-enough access (JIT/JEA), risk-based adaptive policies, and data protection to help secure data and productivity.

#### Resources

#### Secure your cloud workloads and applications

[Microsoft Defender for Cloud](#) | Secure multicloud and hybrid environments to protect workloads against cyber threats and develop secure applications.

[Microsoft Sentinel](#) | Security information and event management (SIEM) that provides proactive threat detection, investigation, and response.

[Azure Network Security](#) | Implement a Zero Trust security model and save costs on security infrastructure.

# Summary

An optimal migration approach can reduce costs immediately, allowing you to focus on future cloud modernization and getting AI-ready. Processes for assessment, optimization, security, and management can also help throughout your continuing adoption of cloud resources.

Ultimately, cloud migration allows organizations to optimize ROI, drive innovation with AI, enhance business agility, and maximize security. Wherever you are in your journey today, the Cloud Adoption Framework offers a structured method for migration to help ensure a successful move.

Whether you're looking to migrate your Windows Server, SQL Server, VMware, or other workload, Microsoft provides the integrated services, programs, partner ecosystem, and proven guidance to help you navigate a well-forged path to minimize your business's risk.

Here are a few other helpful starting points when diving into the Cloud Adoption Framework:

- [Get started with the Cloud Adoption Framework](#)
- [Understand cloud operating models](#)
- [Introduction to migration](#)

Get expert guidance and unlock funding for your move to Azure.

[Azure Migrate and Modernize](#) >