

Cloud Migration & Modernization Action Plan

This checklist walks you through the initial steps you can take to build momentum in your move to the cloud. With these steps in mind, learn more about the end-to-end migration and modernization process in the [Microsoft Cloud Adoption Framework for Azure](#).

Start with business strategy and planning

Know your goals and triggers

First, define your business goals. What is driving your move to the cloud? Consider whether it's needing faster time to market, lower costs, or the ability to quickly scale web applications and infrastructure.

Identify and involve stakeholders

Reach out to key stakeholders on both the IT and business side. Early engagement and support will lead to a smoother, faster migration process.



Assess your migration and modernization readiness

Use the [Strategic Migration Assessment and Readiness Tool](#) to evaluate your readiness for cloud and determine areas that need attention.

Create your plan

Establish your objectives and prioritize assessments for cloud migration. Plan around major business events and identify quick wins, like moving applications with just a few dependencies to expedite your migration.

Decide the sequence for migration and modernization

Migrating first and modernizing later quickly reduces the datacenter footprint and immediately reduces costs.

However, modernizing while you migrate makes sense when your priority is productivity and increasing application innovation.

Estimate costs

Create a personalized business case for your migration and modernization, plan for migration-related costs, and estimate your potential savings. Learn more about [financial considerations](#).



Need more help?

Estimate Azure costs with the [pricing calculator](#) >

Get guidance on [building your business case](#) >

What is cloud modernization?

Cloud modernization is the process of transitioning an organization's applications, processes, and data management to a cloud-first approach using PaaS, containers, low-code apps, and database-as-a-service architectures.

Migrate IaaS

Modernize Containers, PaaS

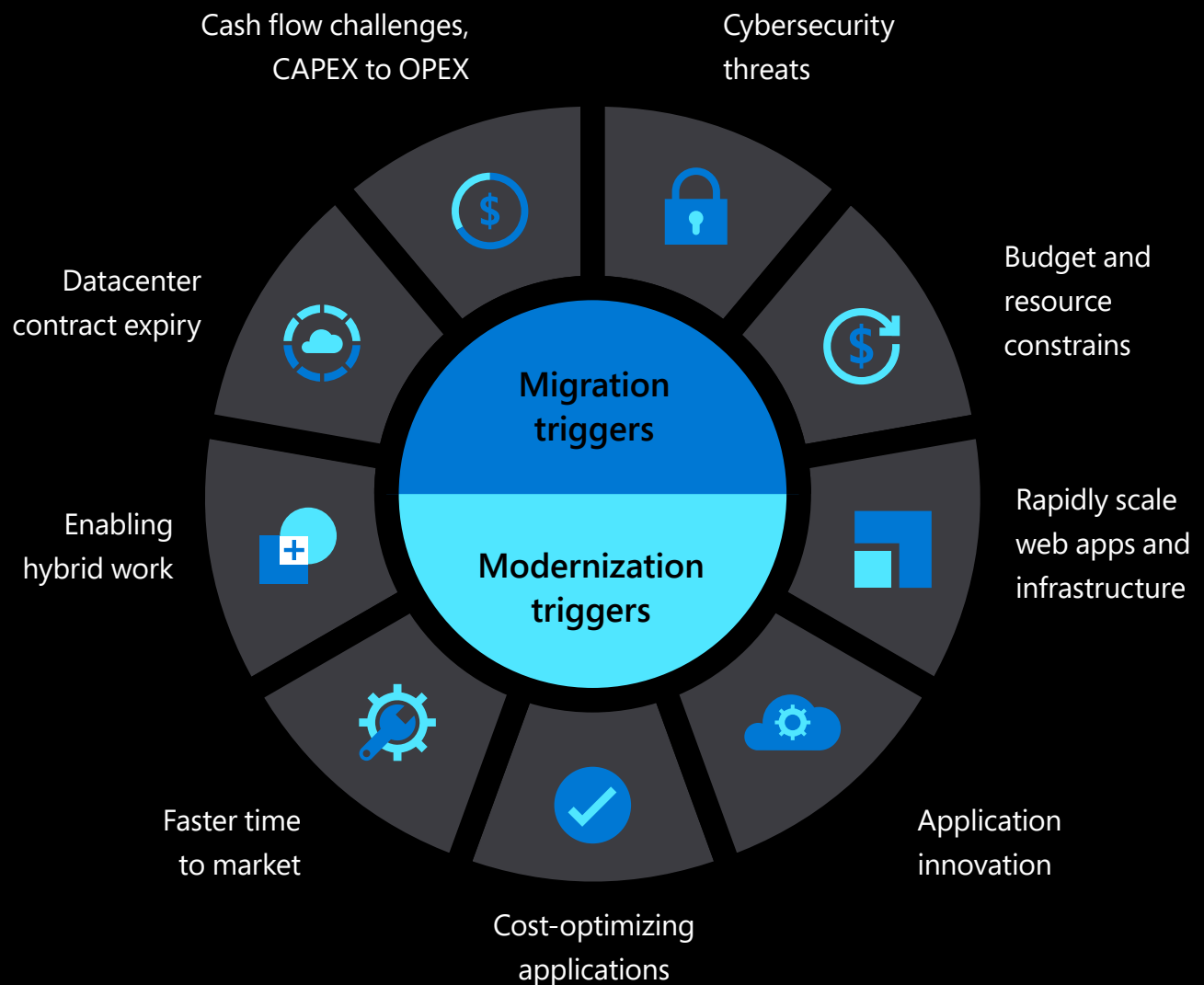
Migrate first, Modernize later

Modernize during the move

- ✓ Reduce datacenter footprint **quickly**
- ✓ **Immediate** cost savings
- ✓ Immediate **compatibility** - IaaS VMs
- ✓ Test, optimize to ensure **cloud-readiness**

- ✓ **Faster** time to market
- ✓ **Increased app innovation**
- ✓ Enhanced productivity
- ✓ Greater app dev velocity

Common reasons for cloud migration and modernization



Get ready for migration and modernization

Build your team's skills

A solid training foundation is important for successful organizational change. Check out the free training available on [Microsoft Learn](#), including courses on Azure fundamentals, solution architecture, and security. Encourage your team to explore [Azure certifications](#) as well.

Discover and assess on-premises applications

Before migrating and modernizing, inventory all on-premises servers and assess dependencies. With Azure Migrate, you have an inventory mechanism to help you as you move into subsequent steps. Use Azure Migrate to better understand VMs and app dependencies on-premises, along with Azure readiness, estimated costs, and recommended sizing.

Know your migration options

There are several different migration strategies, including rehosting, refactoring, and rearchitecting. [Read about your options](#) for migrating and modernizing your digital estate. Learn more about the [modern application platform](#) and how to prepare your environment.

Learn, optimize, and innovate

Start with just a few workloads

Build a foundation for success by assessing and migrating low-complexity workloads as a pilot. This way you can learn best practices and make process improvements along the way.

Test your approach, then run your pilot

Use Azure Migrate to run a test migration without affecting on-premises machines. Then migrate groups of virtual or physical servers at scale. Choose to shut down machines during cutover to eliminate downtime and data loss. Migrate databases from on-premises to Azure using Azure Database Migration Service.



Tools to help with migration

Find out how [Azure Migrate](#) helps simplify the process with testing >

Learn how [Azure Database Migration Service](#) accelerates migration >

Discover the benefits of modernization

Begin your modernization process to realize even more cost savings and get to market quicker. A fully managed modern platform helps you innovate faster.

You can migrate and modernize in phases comprised of a defined set of workloads. Read about the [5 pillars of architectural excellence](#)—reliability, security, cost optimization, operational excellence, and performance efficiency—as you plan your environment.

Monitor and enhance security

Security should be a top consideration in choosing a cloud provider, as well as an ongoing priority once you have migrated. Read about [security and management best practices](#) offered through the Cloud Adoption Framework.

Choose a cloud provider that offers tools to help you achieve operational excellence and reduce costs.

[Azure Arc](#) helps you simplify how you manage across your cloud, on-premises, and edge environments.

[Azure Advisor](#) provides recommendations to improve reliability, security, and performance.

For other ways to ensure you are optimizing costs, explore additional resources available through [Azure Cost Management](#).

For help with your migration or finding a partner, join the Azure Migration and Modernization Program.

[Join now](#)



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