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Step Into Modernised Cloud Infrastructure with Transparency

Using Microsoft's Cloud
Adoption Framework

 Microsoft
Solutions Partner

Digital & App Innovation
Azure

Specialist
Migrate Enterprise Applications
to Microsoft Azure

Could Cloud Modernisation Help Your Organisation?

Your organisation's technological infrastructure could be holding you back from achieving your overall business objectives.

When there are too many on-premises legacy systems in place, businesses may find themselves behind the curve in flexibility, security and cost-effectiveness. This should serve as motivation to consider greater engagement with contemporary cloud solutions, such as the Azure suite from Microsoft.

The Azure technologies, designed and consistently updated by Microsoft's experts to provide enterprise-grade infrastructure, are capable of carrying the weight of your business's computing needs. And migration of your workloads may prove to be easier than you suspect.

Working with an Azure expert MSP partner, such as Transparency, allows you to take a personalised route into the cloud, one that suits your specific business and technical objectives. Furthermore, your organisation may be eligible for financial or upskilling support from Microsoft through the Azure Migrate and Modernise (AMM) funding programme.



While working with Transparency, you can use Microsoft's AMM offering to assess the advantages of updated Azure infrastructure and the projected effect on your total cost of ownership (TCO) before making the move.

What Does Azure Cloud Infrastructure Offer Organisations?

Moving to the cloud means committing to a specific provider's infrastructure and services. So, why choose Microsoft Azure in particular as your cloud infrastructure partner?

Azure's offerings, overseen by Microsoft's capable team and corporate might, are mature and constantly updated for performance, reliability and security. In addition to the direct efforts of Microsoft, Azure is also maintained by a group of high-quality Managed Services Partners, including Transparency.

Specific advantages of selecting Azure for your cloud infrastructure journey include:

- **Easy scalability:** You can scale your cloud investment up or down as needed to meet demand, giving you budget freedom and resource flexibility.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** Not only are Azure cloud resources right-sized for your needs, they're also optimised for greater efficiency.
- **Comprehensive security:** Azure assets come with a strong fundamental security posture and numerous features for security personnel.
- **Built-in governance and compliance:** Specialised offerings from Microsoft allow companies in regulated industries to comply with demanding requirements.



- **Backup and recovery functionality:** Built-in business continuity features give peace of mind regarding data and other workloads.
- **Improved resilience:** Compared to on-premises or less-developed cloud solutions, Azure infrastructure can deliver reliability and uptime, with **SLAs guaranteeing 99.9% uptime and higher** across key Azure services.
- **Efficient management and monitoring:** Microsoft offers a centralised management portal to help Azure users oversee their chosen cloud resources and applications.

All the major motivations for moving to the cloud are accounted for. Whether your organisation intends to become more efficient, secure, flexible, resilient or compliant, Azure infrastructure can fast-track your efforts.

Operating modernised cloud computing infrastructure based in Microsoft Azure can help your organisation compete. Reaching this point can also be remarkably simple when you have assistance from Transparency's expert team.



Transparency's Migration Methodology: Cloud Adoption Framework (CAF)

Transparency's approach to Azure migration involves following the tried and tested Cloud Adoption Framework (CAF). This process has been developed directly by Microsoft. Adherence to these principles is what allows Transparency to be part of the AMM Programme and have Azure Expert MSP status, and we pass the resulting benefits on to our clients.

The CAF is designed to be a clear, comprehensible approach carried out as a close partnership between Transparency's experts and an organisation's own stakeholders. This collaboration ensures every company receives the exact cloud modernisation experience it requires to meet its business objectives.

AZURE MIGRATE RAPID ASSESSMENT

A Rapid Assessment from Transparency is a great start for your migration or modernisation process, and worthy of a closer look.

This process is designed to give a view of compatible workloads, possible cloud journeys, required setup costs and the TCO of Azure usage.

There are two phases to the Rapid Assessment:

PART 1:

Assessment Tool: Certified consultants install an assessment tool within your infrastructure. It runs for 14 days to gather clear information about your specific use cases.

PART 2:

Assessment and Planning Workshops: During the workshop the Transparency team will discuss Migration Methodology and the Cloud Adoption Framework, reviewing your workloads based on assessment output. Consultants will provide visibility of potential costs for running in Azure and discuss migration and funding options.

Key phases within the CAF

STRATEGY

During this early phase of the project, the Transparency team runs workshops with your personnel to determine your motivation for the cloud move, along with your criteria for success. You'll also collaborate to set the financial model, determine the most basic technical requirements and align the implementation strategy with your needs.

STRATEGY PHASE:

Understand the motivations, justification and intended business outcomes of the migration, along with the priorities of the project.

PLAN

Sessions during the plan phase involve reviewing the rapid assessment output, determining which applications will migrate and setting a timeline. This is when you discover your need for upskilling and to target your intended operating model. By the end of the phase, you and your Transparency team will have a fully documented migration plan to follow.

PLAN PHASE:

Rationalise the company's current digital assets, align the organisation internally and develop plans for upskilling and overall cloud adoption.

READY

The ready phase crystallises the strategies that came together during the previous phase, ending with the deployment of an initial landing zone and creation of a handover document. By setting technical requirements and determining key design considerations, you gain a clear vision of your organisation's path regarding:

- Networking.
- Governance.
- Security.
- Access and identity.
- Business continuity and disaster recovery (BCDR).
- Management.

READY PHASE:

Set up Azure infrastructure, establishing your first landing zone, expanding the blueprint and validating use of best practices.



ADOPT

In the adopt phase, your stakeholders and Transparency's experts work together to follow the migration plan, building out more workloads and following the cutover rules set during previous steps. Knowledge transfer is another important part of this step, equipping the internal team with the necessary best practices to become self-sufficient. Alternatively, it's possible to continue to work with Transparency in a managed services capacity, governing the new cloud resources.

ADOPT PHASE:

Migrate workloads or expand cloud scenarios, depending on the organisation's existing cloud posture, as well as its objectives and requirements.



MANAGE

When you continue to engage with a cloud partner through the manage phase, you collaborate on implementing an IT management and operations model that is designed to suit cloud workloads. This means prioritising workloads based on their criticality to the business, impact on performance and commitment to cost and performance.

MANAGE PHASE:

Create a cloud-focused IT management and operations framework to drive optimised ongoing value for the organisation.

GOVERN

The Azure managed service offering from Transparency also includes the govern phase, which is concerned with creating and following guidelines for the secure and effective oversight of cloud resources. Microsoft's CAF governance best practices cover all industries and set out rules for establishing cloud usage policies, as well as enforcing those rules to keep cloud usage within acceptable parameters.

GOVERN PHASE:

Produce policies that define acceptable cloud usage and enact mechanisms to ensure adherence to those rules.

Routes to the Cloud

The CAF is not one monolithic set of options or paths for companies to take. It encompasses a variety of “Migrate or Modernise” journeys, depending on your organisation’s needs, as detected by the Rapid Assessment and workshop conversations.

Migration generally means finding a new hosting location for your virtual machines. Modernisation options touch on the way you manage other pieces of digital infrastructure, including file storage, databases, web applications, virtual desktops and more.

Some options you may take advantage of based on your needs include the following examples. These are just a few of the countless potential approaches:

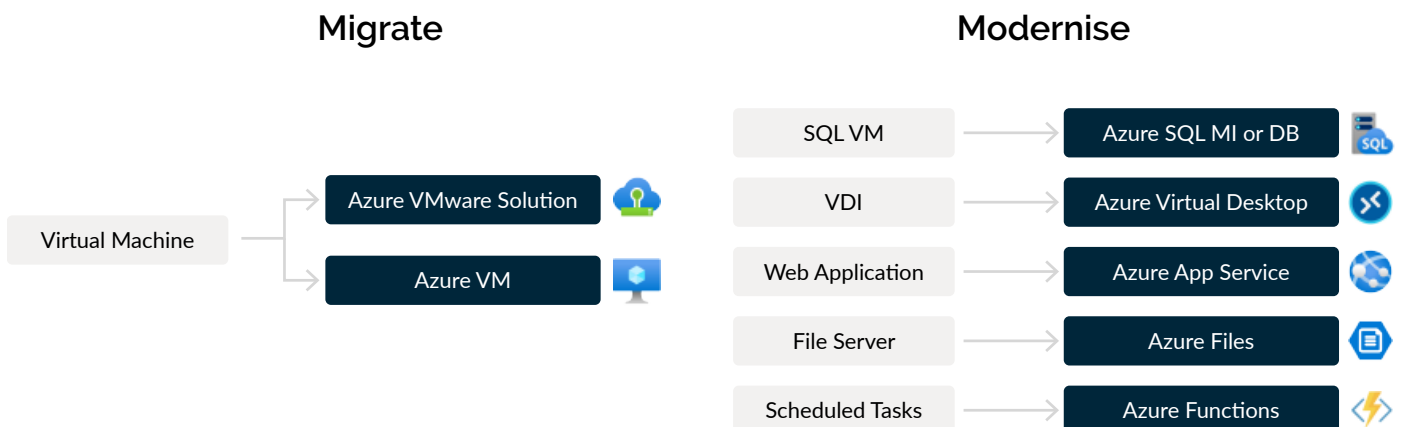
MIGRATE

- **Azure VMWare Solution:** A quick, low-complexity solution for your virtual machines.
- **Azure VM:** A full-compatibility (but still relatively quick) virtual machine option.

MODERNISE

- **Azure SQL MI or DB:** A database option for your SQL virtual machines.
- **Azure Virtual Desktop:** A native virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) option.
- **Azure App Service:** Modernised hosting for your web applications.
- **Azure Files:** A cloud-native replacement for your organisation’s file servers.
- **Azure Functions:** A modern approach to your integration processes.

Depending on your current digital infrastructure and long-term goals, you may choose any combination of these options or go beyond them. For every workload, there’s a corresponding Azure solution that can represent an efficient, optimised option for your business.



How Does Azure Migrate and Modernise (AMM) Help Your Organisation?

Based on your alignment with criteria set by Microsoft, your organisation may qualify for direct support modernising or moving your key workloads.

This assistance can take the form of funding assistance or upskilling and guidance. Transparency, as an Azure Expert Managed Services Partner, is the key link between your organisation and the AMM programme. By collaborating with your team and engaging with Microsoft, Transparency ensures your results match your needs around AMM and the cloud in general.

Multiple types of cloud journeys are eligible for the programme. Companies from many different maturity levels and objectives all potentially qualify. No matter where you stand on the curve of cloud modernisation, it's worth investigating your options.

AMM may be able to offer assistance if you're considering moving or modernising:

- Infrastructure.
- Virtual desktop infrastructure.
- Desktops.
- Web applications.
- Data and files.

Some of the specific types of projects highlighted by Microsoft that may fall under the umbrella of AMM include:

- Migrating Windows Server and SQL Server to Azure, in whole or as a hybrid deployment.
- Migrating SAP runtime environments.
- Migrating enterprise apps built on .NET and Java.
- Building and modernising intelligent applications that take advantage of Azure AI and other advanced capabilities.
- Developing business intelligence and analytics in the cloud.
- Accelerating developers' productivity through Azure DevOps, Git Hub and more.

Each of these projects, or any other your organisation may require, will demand a tailored best-practices approach.

Working with Transparency as your partner organisation gives you this level of service, allowing you to achieve your potential in the cloud.

What Makes Transparency an Effective Partner for Your Modernisation Journey?

Transparency's status as an Azure Expert Managed Services Partner demonstrates the level of expertise you can expect.

The direct relationship between Microsoft and its partners enables you to take advantage of programmes such as AMM. Furthermore, the knowledge and engagement of Transparency's team members can deliver tailored Azure solutions that suit your specific business objectives.

Specific benefits of working with Transparency on your cloud migration or modernisation journey include:

- Transparency grants your organisation the ability to access funding and upskilling opportunities from Microsoft as part of AMM and similar programmes. Your organisation will feel confident and supported with this level of assistance, and the exact nature of that support is tailored to your present situation and your needs.
- Following the CAF means you will receive a best-practice approach to implementation and migration. Microsoft has received and signed off on the CAF. The framework is flexible and covers a broad range of scenarios – no matter what your cloud needs or starting maturity level may be, there are approved practices to guide your way.
- Transparency operates specialist practices. These functional groups, covering Azure, Digital Workplace, Business Applications, Data & AI, App Innovation and Security, give you expertise on these subjects. All this high-level knowledge and experience is under one corporate roof, meaning that when you work with Transparency, you know who to turn to for your various needs.

Numerous organisations of various sizes and across industries have already converted to the cloud by working with Transparency. Each of these businesses took a customised journey and received tailored solutions based on their specific needs and business objectives.



Ready To Begin Your Cloud Modernisation Journey?

There's no need to delay if you're considering the beginning of a new chapter in the Azure cloud. By beginning the road to cloud implementation as soon as possible, you can take the quickest journey to receive the value of an Azure deployment.

Transparency is ready to be your partner at every step of the way. Delivering a customised experience based on long industry experience and direct connections with Microsoft, the collaboration can deliver lasting value.

Early on in the process, the Azure Rapid Migration Assessment will reveal the current state of your business's digital infrastructure usage. From there, you uncover the ideal next steps to shift or modernise your most important virtual machines, data, applications and more.

Rather than general information, you'll learn the specifics about your cloud migration needs and the best way to fulfil them. With a clear view of the necessary costs and technological requirements of migration, you can calculate TCO and determine the approach that's truly best for your organisation on both functional and financial levels.

Whether you're an existing cloud user interested in modernisation or you want to shift away from on-premises infrastructure, Azure may be right for you. With Transparency as your partner, you can put a stable framework in place for the shift and determine whether the AMM programme's offerings match your needs.

**If you're curious to learn more
or ready to begin your journey,
book a consultation.**

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