



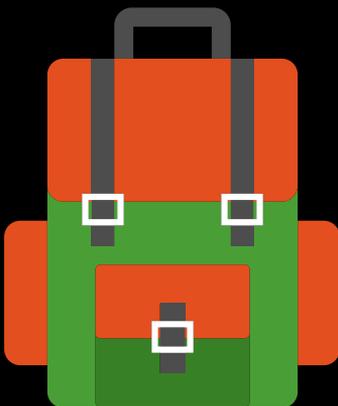
NAVIGATING YOUR MOVE TO THE CLOUD



With Microsoft having recently launched its two Australian data centres there's never been a better time to move your business to the cloud. However for some organisations, even though the benefits of the cloud are apparent and significant, starting the voyage can be daunting.

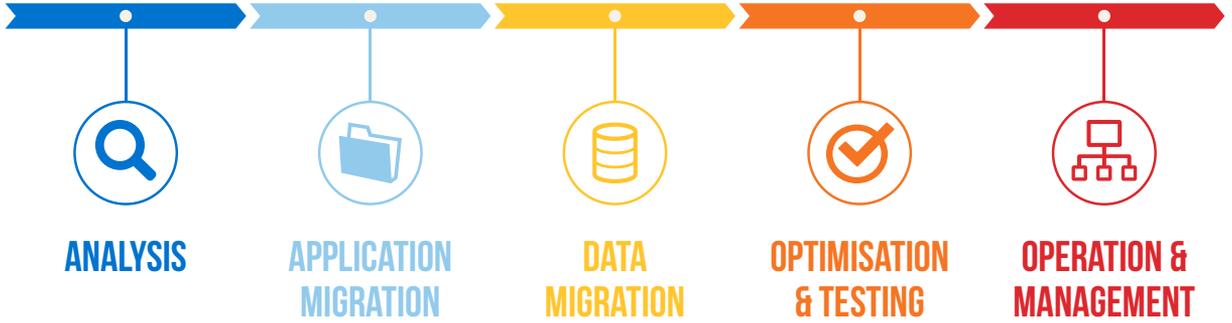
The following survival guide is designed to help you understand best practice approaches to migrating to Microsoft Azure. It is intended to help you conduct a thorough and effective evaluation of your organisation's requirements and have you maximise the success of your cloud migration.

Footnote: This is not a detailed guide for what to do when implementing the cloud in your organisation. We recommend that you contact Professional Advantage for more comprehensive information when considering any public or private cloud migration.



**SO HOW DO YOU
START THE JOURNEY &
NAVIGATE THE MOVE?**

NAVIGATION GUIDE



YOU ARE HERE



ANALYSIS & PLANNING

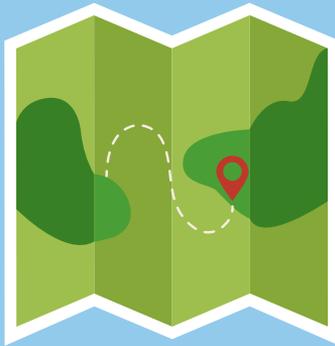


STOP, DROP AND ASSESS

So you've decided to make the journey, but is your business ready? The first step is to review your current status. What applications are you currently running on premise that are consuming unnecessary time and resources? With Microsoft Azure you can make a giant leap and move all your applications to the cloud, or start with just one or two. The choice is yours. And here's the best bit, you can add more at any time.

With Microsoft Azure you have the option to try it out first. Start with back-up or disaster recovery in the Cloud as a way to dip your toes in the water, trying a hybrid solution before jumping all in.

As you grow more courageous while you go through this guide, you can then decide which applications are best suited to being run in Azure.



MAP YOUR SURROUNDINGS

Like any good adventurer you need to know your environment before developing the best plan for your conditions. You need to understand your underlying application architectures, for example are they single tier, two tier, or three tier? Do they use web-based access, desktop applications, or do users directly log onto the server? Your business applications need to be classified in this way so they can be mapped to the Azure features and services.

You also need to identify dependencies, integrations and data flow between your applications so the dependencies and integrations can be planned. Azure has a 'service bus' and other integration tools that may need to be considered for more complex application migrations where there are dependencies between your applications.

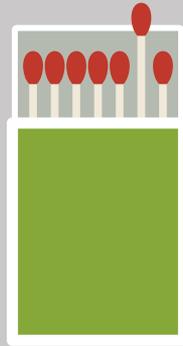


HOW WILL YOU GET THERE?

Just as with any new journey, you need to plan your travel route and travel connections. As part of the business applications review process you also need to look at your business user geography and access methods. You need to plan how your users will access your applications and correctly plan the size of your office or remote internet services.

Some of the questions you need to ask include:

- Are your business users centralised or distributed throughout several offices? Are they mobile users, or a mix?
- Do you want to access your applications from a web browser, a virtual desktop or from tablets and mobiles?
- Do your customers or business partners need access to your applications or websites?



SIZE UP

To prepare for this type of journey you'll need to size up and prepare your provisions.

As a starting point you will need to size your applications in multiple dimensions to ensure the best fit. Just as with your current servers you will need to size CPU, RAM, disk, database, files and backups.

Your existing servers are a good starting point and if they're already virtualised then the capacity of each virtual machine is a good starting point.

With the sizing done, you're almost ready to start designing the new Azure service so that it can be priced.



ORGANISE A SHERPA

Now that you've done the preliminary research and planning, you'll need to organise a sherpa to guide you through the terrain of your journey.

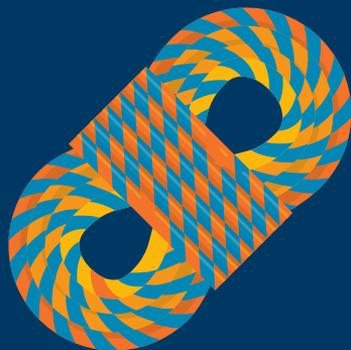
Based on the previous information gathered about user access methods and taking into consideration how your customers or partners interact with your systems, it's now possible to start designing the Azure network. This begins with mapping the applications to the Azure services.

Be aware that some of the design concepts for Azure are the same as those for virtual machines in a normal virtual server environment, however other aspects are considerably different.

This is where you need the skills of an Azure architect to map your application requirements to the Azure service and act as your guide on the journey.

Your route can take several paths depending on your business needs. You're now in the final stages of your journey preparation. While you're mixing your trail mix, you need to make a few decisions about your own route.

- Do you want to migrate your existing virtual machines or do you want to build new machines and migrate your data and applications?
- Do you want backups locally within a single Azure data centre, backed up to another Azure region, or do you want real-time resilience to move your applications to another region in real-time. (For example: Sydney to Melbourne backup or Melbourne to Sydney backup).
- Do you want disaster recovery based on backups or something more resilient with site to site automatic failover?
- Will you manage your Azure in-house or will you outsource?





READY?

Keep in mind that you don't need to make the journey alone. Your cloud guide can help along the way to make your expedition smoother. Find the right balance of on-premise and Microsoft Azure Cloud for your organisation and make your journey quickly and cost effectively based on fully informed decisions and with expert support and guidance from Professional Advantage.

And remember:

All roads lead to the Cloud. It's a journey well worth taking.

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