Microsoft Cloud Adoption Framework for Azure

# Getting started: Initial decisions

The [Cloud Adoption Framework](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/overview) can help organizations unlock a number of business, technical, and organizational benefits along various cloud adoption journeys. Regardless of what your team wants to accomplish, if your journey involves the cloud, then every team member involved in cloud adoption should understand a set of fundamental decisions. The following diagram outlines the phases of the Cloud Adoption Framework for Azure and the decisions within each phase:

Diagram

Description automatically generated

The initial decisions can improve consistency across your organization’s efforts to [accelerate adoption,](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/get-started/migrate) [align your portfolio hierarchy](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/reference/fundamental-concepts/hosting-hierarchy), [organize the hierarchy in Azure](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/reference/fundamental-concepts/hierarchy-azure-tools), and [align your teams](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/get-started/org-alignment) to support your cloud adoption lifecycle. These decisions can also inform activities within each cloud adoption methodology or phase.

## Initial decision checklist

This checklist outlines those initial decisions and provides clear guidance about how your organization can record your decisions to simplify future onboarding and getting started efforts:

* Every member of the team should have a [basic understanding of how Azure works.](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/get-started/what-is-azure)
* Every technical team member should have a basic understanding of [fundamental Azure concepts](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/ready/considerations/fundamental-concepts).
* The [portfolio of candidate workloads](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/get-started/cloud-concepts#step-3-review-the-portfolio) should be available to all team members to be used during strategic release planning and as technical tasks are completed within an iteration. Record references on the next page.
* The technical strategy should clarify which [levels of the hosting hierarchy](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/get-started/cloud-concepts#step-4-define-portfolio-hierarchy-depth-to-align-the-portfolio) will be used and what those terms mean in your business. Record decisions on the next page.
* A [naming and tagging standard](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/get-started/cloud-concepts#step-5-establish-a-naming-and-tagging-standard-across-the-portfolio) should be established, maintained, and enforced to guide implementation and how resources are organized.
* The hosting hierarchy should be reflected in a [resource organization design](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/get-started/cloud-concepts#step-6-create-a-resource-organization-design-to-implement-the-portfolio-hierarchy) or subscription design. Record the design requirements on the next page.
* [Align cloud capabilities, teams, and RACI structure](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/get-started/cloud-concepts#step-7-map-capabilities-teams-and-raci-to-fundamental-concepts) to the key concepts above. Record assignments and RACI references on the next page.

## Initial decisions

All decisions regarding cloud adoption start with an understanding of the portfolio of workloads that might be hosted in the cloud. That portfolio can influence the level of hosting and organizational hierarchies required. It can also clarify types of support needed to operate, govern, and secure your cloud environment. This page captures the decisions that can best fit your portfolio. See the prior page for links to guidance that can help your organization to make these decisions.

### Hosting hierarchy (cloud-agnostic terms)

**IT assets** will be deployed to the following clouds: Hybrid, Azure. Add any additional cloud providers for general reference to make the team aware of the scope of your cloud adoption platforms. All assets should be assigned to the workload that depends the most on that IT asset.

Those assets will support multiple **workloads**, which will each have a defined workload name, business stakeholder, business unit, and operations lead. These definitions help to inform required tags.

When multiple solutions (or distinct combinations of assets) are required to support a workload, they’ll be labeled as **solutions**. If those solutions drive some level of business value on their own, then they’ll also be labeled as **solutions**. At times, it’s possible for some companies to refer to these solutions as individual workloads.

Each workload will be hosted in a **shared landing zone that groups them** by application category. A workload separation model for subscriptions is discouraged but common. In that approach, each workload will be hosted in its own dedicated landing zone. See the [Subscription decision guide](https://docs.microsoft.com/azure/cloud-adoption-framework/decision-guides/subscriptions/) for more common variations.

An alternative workload separation model is when multiple solutions deliver distinct business value and they’re labeled as workloads regardless of common stakeholder and technical responsibility. Each workload is hosted in a dedicated landing zone, and each environment contains only one landing zone. In this model, the Business Development Operations team is responsible for operationally supporting all of their isolated workloads.

Each landing zone will be hosted in segmented environments with a **mixed model** to respect the boundaries drawn by **production versus nonproduction and business unit.**

The previous example is one of many. Less complex environments might only isolate production and nonproduction, but more complex environments could define boundaries for each cloud or establish other specific operational boundaries. These boundaries are defined to create consistency for policies and isolate exceptions in areas where development teams still maintain operational responsibility.

### Organization design in Azure

* Solutions will be represented by a tag.
* Workloads will be represented by a tag. All assets supporting a workload will be assigned to a resource group and inherit the same tags.
* Each landing zone will be in a dedicated subscription that hosts several similar workloads.
* The management group hierarchy aligns to the image above to preserve boundaries of the environment.

### Necessary references

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | File or URL | Accountable team | Assigned person | Current status | Last updated |
| Portfolio | [Template](https://raw.githubusercontent.com/microsoft/CloudAdoptionFramework/master/plan/cloud-adoption-framework-strategy-and-plan-template.docx) | <Cloud Strategy team>  Update the team name if a different part of the organization is accountable for the portfolio. | <Insert name here>  Insert the name of the individual currently managing the portfolio document. | <Discovery>  Common options for status of the portfolio include:   * Discovery * Evaluation * Assessment * Review * Updates in progress * Approved by stakeholder   Use the term that best describes the state so that the team can understand the level of confidence in the data. | <Insert data here>  Maintaining the last update date will help the team understand if they need to review the portfolio again before making decisions. |
| Naming & Tagging standard | [Template](https://raw.githubusercontent.com/microsoft/CloudAdoptionFramework/master/ready/naming-and-tagging-conventions-tracking-template.xlsx) | Cloud Governance team  Update the team name if a different part of the organization is accountable for the portfolio. | <Insert name here>  Insert the name of the individual currently managing the standard. | <Discovery>  Common options for status of the portfolio include:   * Discovery * Draft * Review * Updates in progress * Approved by stakeholder   Use the term that best describes the state so the team can understand the level of confidence in the data. | <Insert data here>  Maintaining the last update date will help the team understand if they need to review the standard again before making decisions. |
| RACI assignments | [Template](https://raw.githubusercontent.com/microsoft/CloudAdoptionFramework/master/organize/raci-template.xlsx) | Cloud Strategy team  Update the team name if a different part of the organization is accountable for the portfolio. | <Insert name here>  Insert the name of the individual currently managing the standard. | <Discovery>  Common options for status of the portfolio include:   * Discovery * Draft * Review * Updates in progress * Approved by stakeholder   Use the term that best describes the state so the team can understand the level of confidence in the data. | <Insert data here>  Maintaining the last update date will help the team understand if they need to review the standard again before making decisions. |