



# Kubernetes on the Edge

## MLOps Belgium meetup

Tom Claes – Microsoft

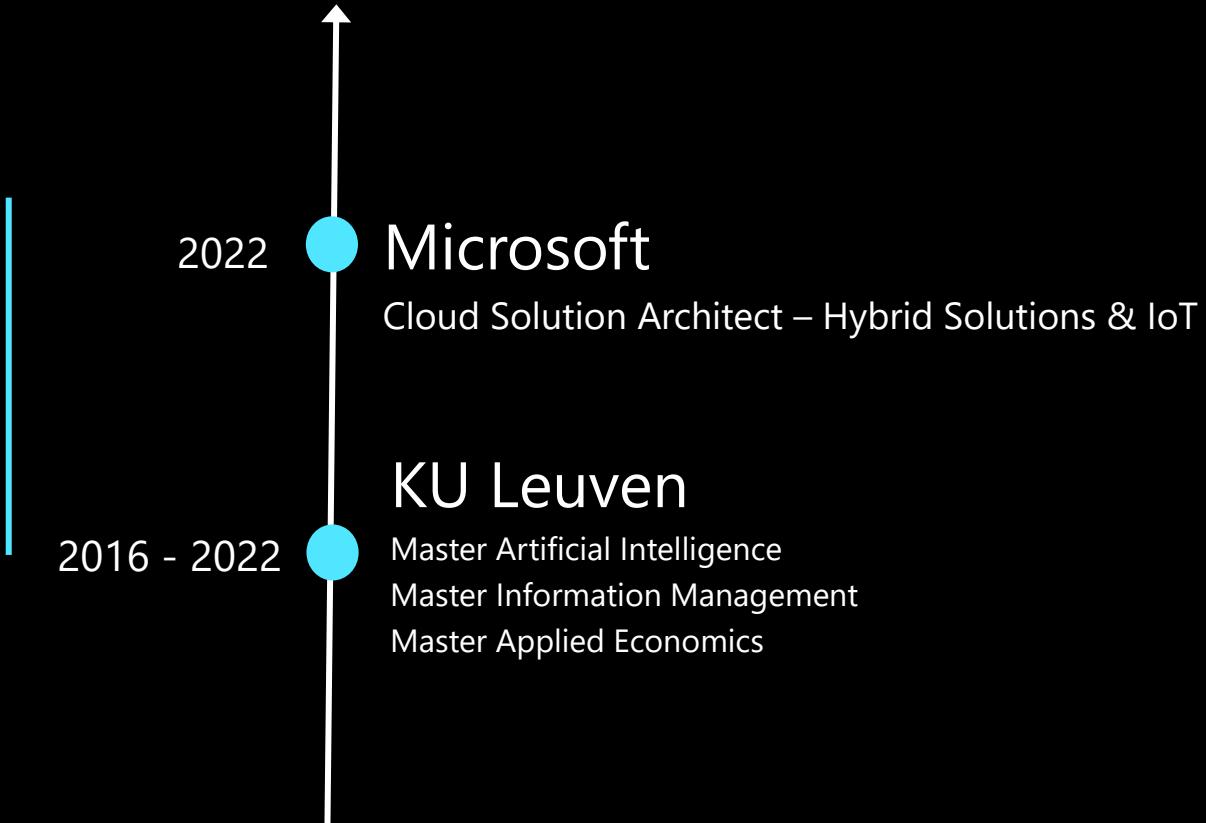




# Introduction



LinkedIn



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# Agenda

Why Kubernetes?

Research

Cloud native EVERYWHERE

AKS Edge Essentials

Use cases

Questions

# Benefits of Kubernetes



Container orchestration savings



Increased DevOps efficiency for microservices architecture



Deploying workloads in different environments



Automation of deployment and scalability



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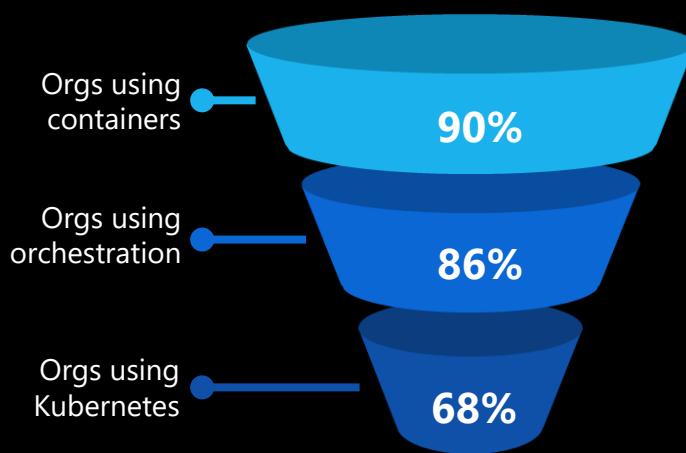
# Organizations are adopting containers and Kubernetes to meet their needs

- 90% of companies use containers and 68% use Kubernetes today. An additional 19% plan to use Kubernetes in the next years.
- 81% of companies manage their Lightweight Edge devices themselves and 71% of those devices already have a path to the cloud (an additional 22% are open to providing those devices with a path to the cloud).
- 68% of companies ranked “Easier to deploy new software or software updates” among their top 3 benefits with 42% ranking it #1.

# Most organizations are using containers, orchestration, and Kubernetes today

## CONTAINER & ORCHESTRATION USAGE

Most organizations are using containers, orchestration, and Kubernetes today to meet their needs at the edge and cloud



Of orgs are either using Kubernetes today (68%) or plan to in the next 12 months (19%).

n=418

## LIGHTWEIGHT EDGE DEVICE USAGE



72%

of organizations deploy Lightweight Edge Devices into the field at branch locations  
n=398

## QUANTITY OF LIGHTWEIGHT EDGE DEVICES

190

x 23

4,370

Average number of branch locations\*  
n=241

Average number of Lightweight Edge Devices per location\*  
n=241

Average total number of Lightweight Edge Devices

\*Responses capped using 1.5\*IQR methodology

## HOW IT'S HANDLED TODAY

IT Dept. manages the devices and pushes updates

62%

Running containers/Kubernetes at the edge

47%

Run traditional servers at each branch location

35%

Other

1%

n=195

# Customer Needs For OT Transformation

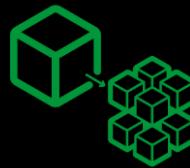
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**A common platform spanning cloud-to-edge for cloud-native workloads**



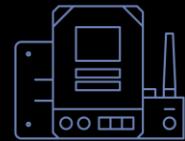
## Modernize Apps with Microservices

- Containerization
- OSS ecosystem
- AI/ML
- Re-use existing Windows & Linux code



## Increase Developer Efficiency

- Modern software practices
  - Agility
  - Microservices
- CI/CD & GitOps

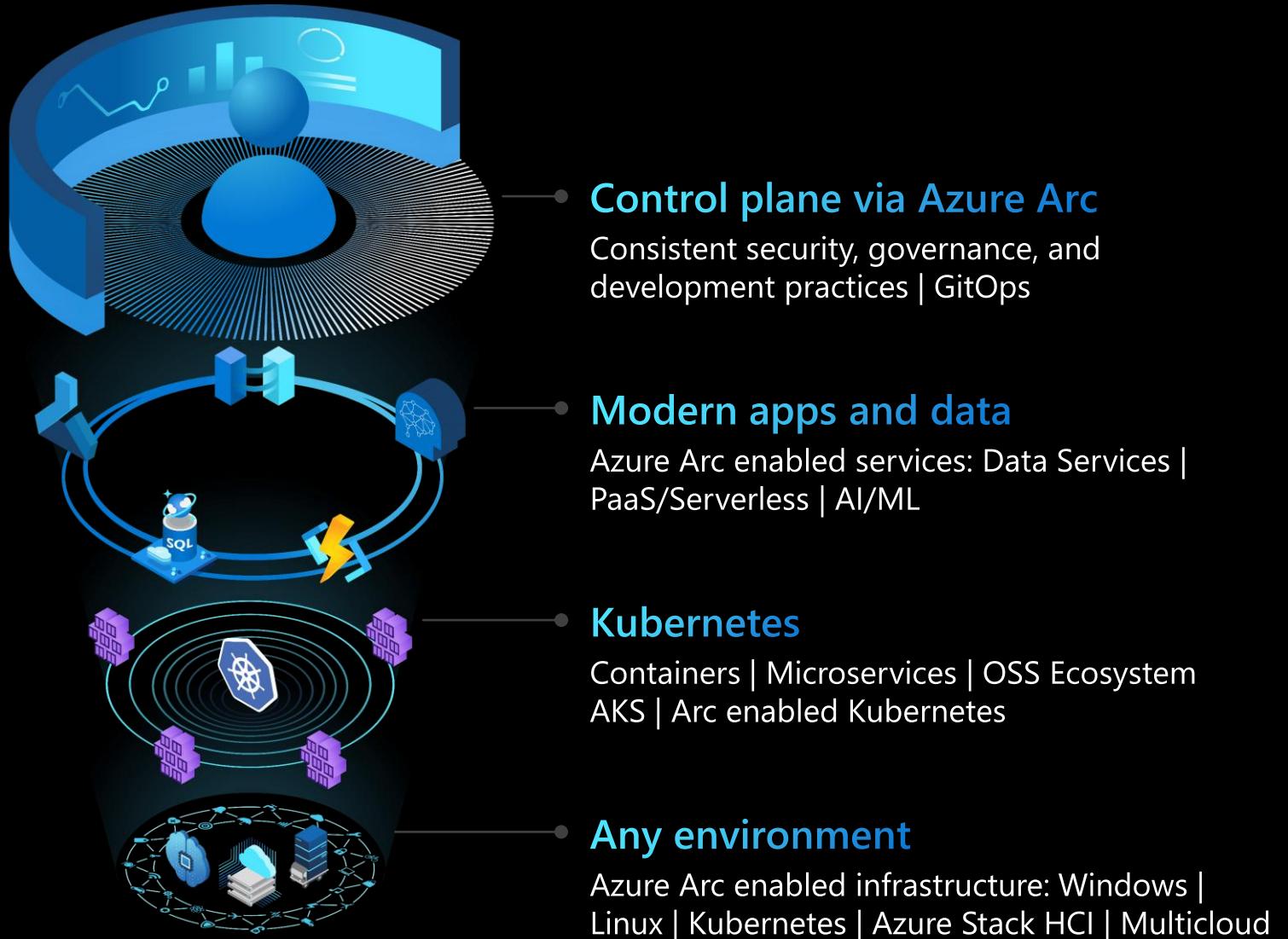


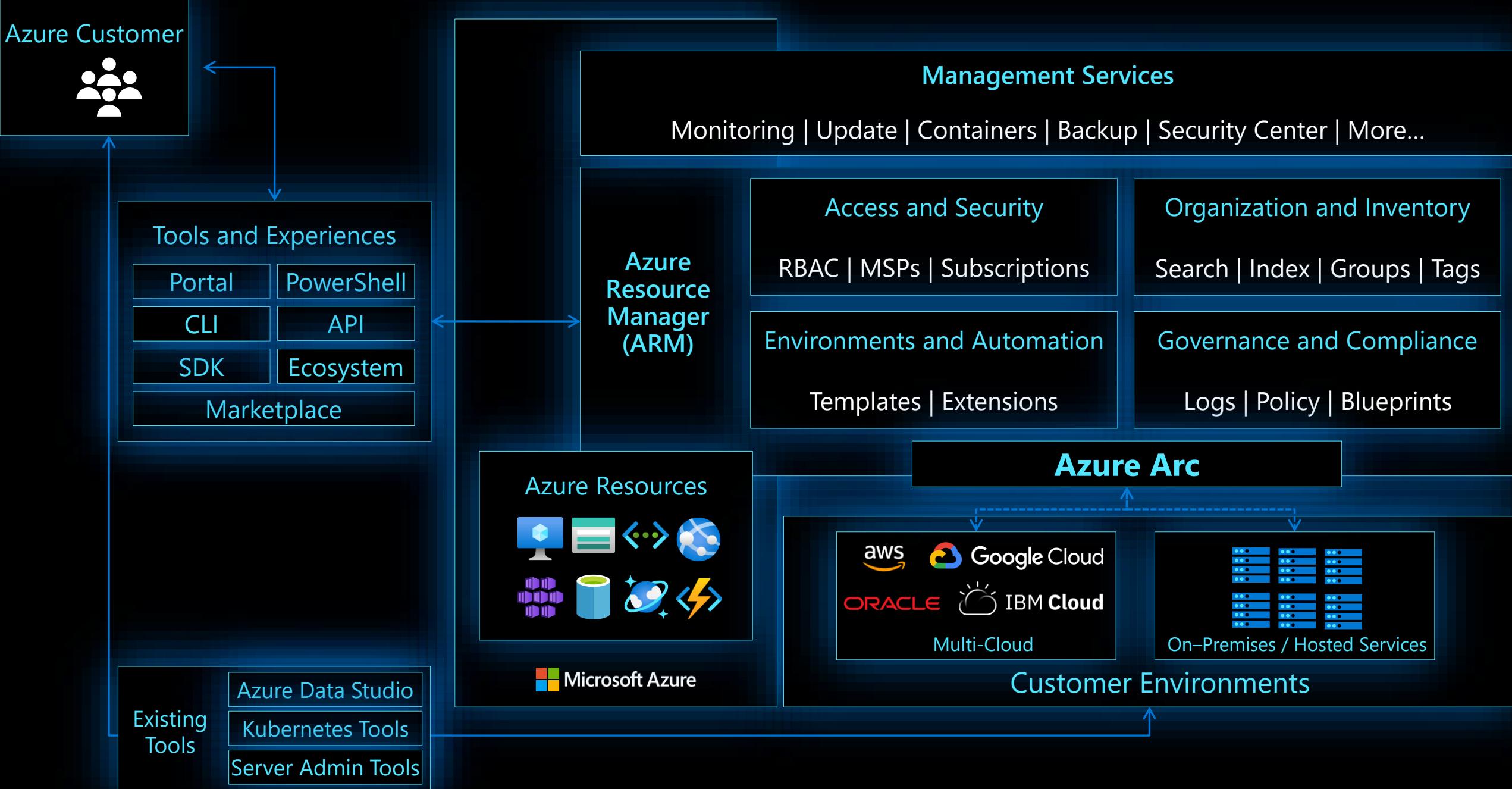
## Run Cost Effective Operations

- Bandwidth & resource constrained devices
- Pre-process signals and insights before sending to the cloud
- Lowest latency
- Maximize hardware investments with existing & new machines

# Cloud-native anywhere

## Azure Unified Blueprint





# Best practices to run Kubernetes commercially on Edge

Bring cloud-native best practices to edge



**Running Kubernetes on all your platforms is difficult**

You need to maintain same versions of Kubernetes distributions across cloud and edge

Technology

Keep your container infrastructure secure



**Adhere to security best practices**

Entire stack including host OS, clusters, worker nodes VM images need to incorporate layer specific security

Security

Deploy & Update Quickly at Global Scale

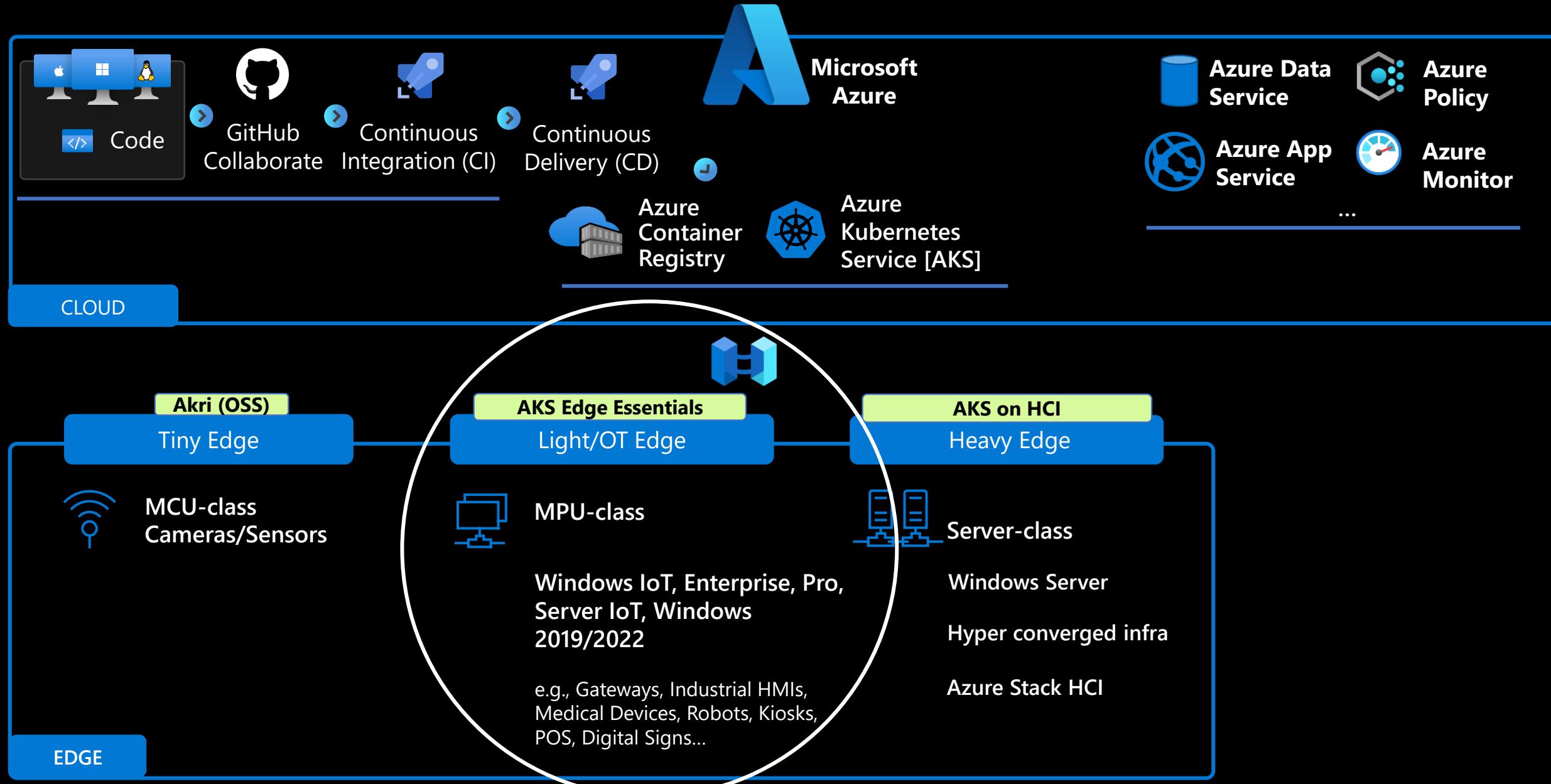


**Update infrastructure and efficiency is critical**

You must have the logistics and operational excellence to deliver, deploy updates globally to your machines in hours

Scale

# Consistent Cloud and Edge Developer Experience



# Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) Edge Essentials

Easily manage your application deployments across all clusters with Azure Arc.



**Microsoft managed lightweight Kubernetes distribution** runs with minimal 8GB memory and 2vCPUs compute



**Simplified installation experience** via an included Microsoft managed VM for easy cluster installation and configuration



**Ongoing monthly security updates** from Microsoft keep Linux and Windows VM images secured over time

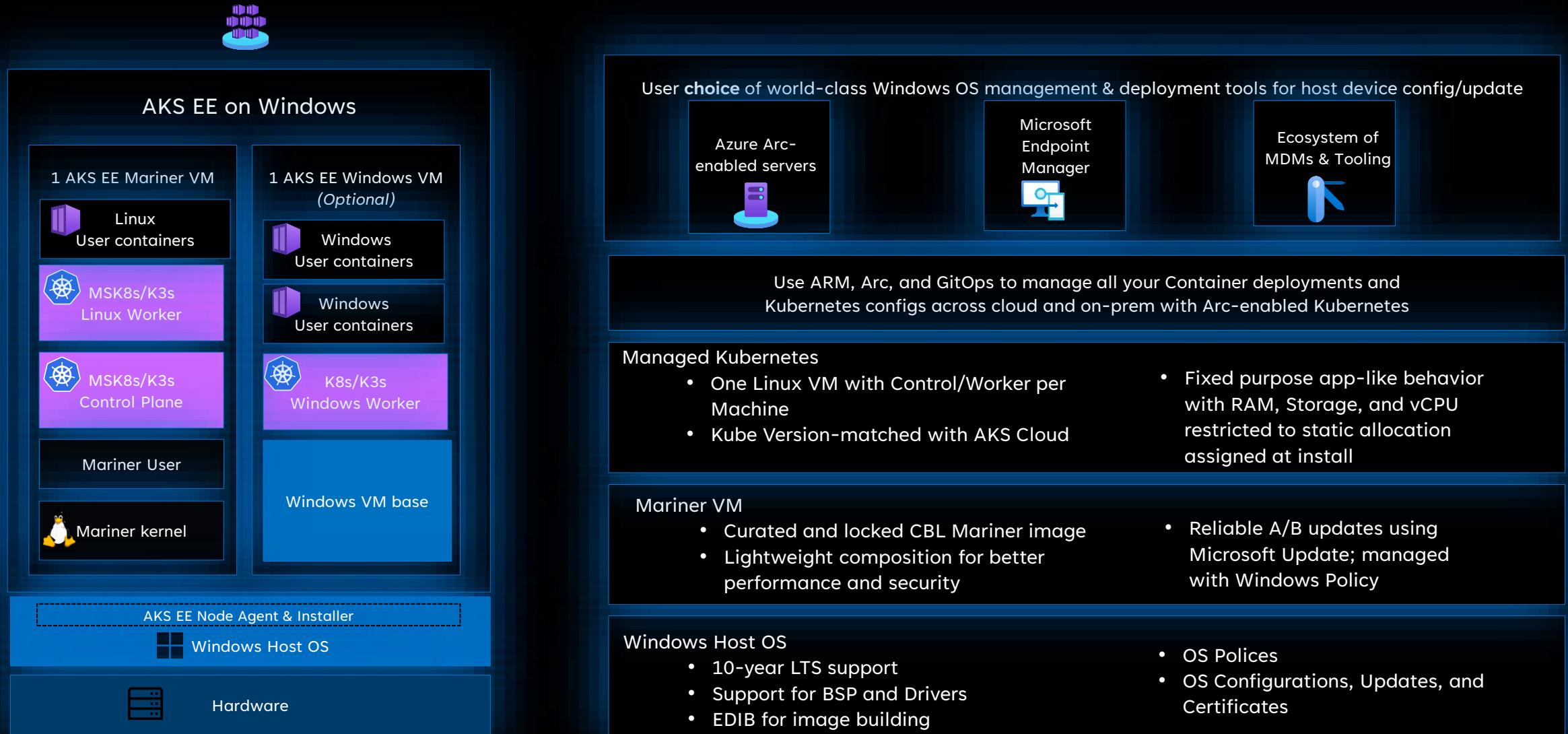


**Microsoft provides automatic updates** to stay aligned with your cloud Kubernetes version



**Choose to run Linux, Windows containers or both** when creating a Kubernetes cluster on AKS Edge Essentials

# AKS Edge Essentials: a fully managed stack from Microsoft

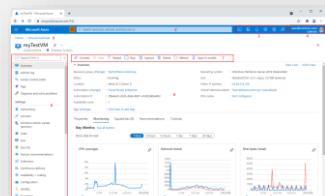


## Azure Resource Manager



### Azure Portal

Build & manage everything from simple web apps to complex cloud deployments



## Deploy Arc-Connected Services



### Azure Monitor

Monitor servers in Azure, machines on-prem or at other cloud providers.



### Azure Policy

Enforce organizational standards and assess compliance at-scale.



### Azure App Service

Quickly build, deploy, and scale web apps and APIs on Kubernetes or Azure.

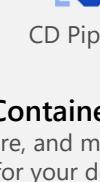
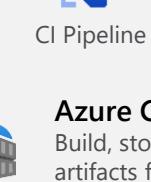
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## Deploy your own workloads



### GitOps

Manage the desired state of your Kubernetes cluster configurations with Git



### Azure Container Registry

Build, store, and manage container artifacts for your deployments

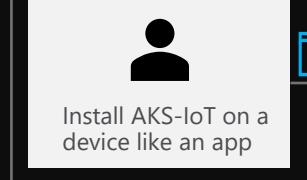
## OS and VM updates



### Windows Update

Get the latest fixes, updates and security improvements

## Azure Arc



Connect via Arc-connected cluster

Connect via Arc for servers

### Containerized Applications

Azure Services      User workloads

Flux  
Pull desired cluster state

### AKS-EE Kubernetes Platform

K8s / K3s

Linux VM      Windows VM

Hyper-V  
Windows Host OS

Hardware

### Disconnected on-prem



GitOps Repo



CLOUD

EDGE

# Flexible deployment options for cloud-native apps

Configuration	<b>AKS Edge Essentials</b>
Deployment Options	Windows 10/11 Pro/Enterprise Windows 10/11 IoT Enterprise Windows Server 2019/2022
Value	Small, easy to install, manage, and update, HA workloads & customer provided HA storage
Functionality	Fixed memory, networking, & compute, nodes are static & stay on each machine, basic HA support via workload failover and BYO HA storage
Target Devices	OT or IoT devices e.g., NUC gateway w/ core i3
Min HW Config	8 GB with at least 2.5 GB free RAM (8GB recommended), Core i3, standard NIC, 2 vCPUs
Supported OS	Windows 10/11 Pro/Enterprise Windows 10/11 IoT Enterprise Windows Server 2019/2022
Exists in Azure Resource Manager?	Yes, via Arc

# Use cases

# Cloud to edge use cases span businesses and industries



## Manufacturing

- Defect detection
- Worker safety & loss prevention
- Automated supply chain & assembly
- Damaged box detection



## Retail

- Space & assortment
- Traffic patterns
- Personalization
- Inventory management
- Optimal product placement



## Healthcare

- Medical imaging devices
- Digital health platforms
- Store data on prem
- Real-time analysis
- Online updates



## Sustainability

- Decarbonizing the Electrical Grid
- Waste Reduction in Supply Chain Ops
- Carbon Capture & Storage

## Core business systems

### Marketing

- Customer insights
- Dynamic pricing

### Sales

- Lead scoring
- Sales insights

### Finance

- Financial forecasting
- Risk management

### Workforce

- Employee insights
- Employee safety

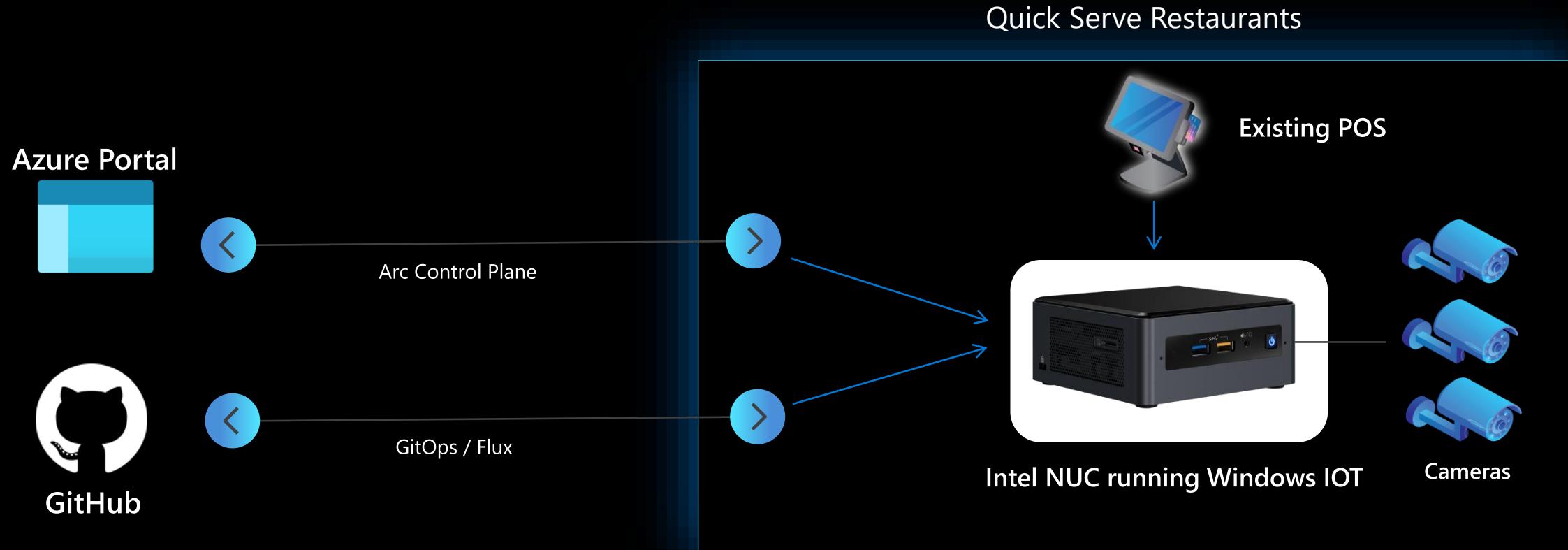
### Service

- Intelligent chatbots
- Virtual assistants

# Solving Order Accuracy with Edge AI

Business problem: Order Accuracy

Solution: AI to track and alert for the wrong food items added to the bags in real-time



AI models can support 3 cameras at 20fps (INT8) on Intel Core i5 Alder Lake x86 CPU

Thank You

# Resources

[About AKS Edge Essentials - AKS hybrid | Microsoft Learn](#)

[Azure Arc-enabled Kubernetes | Microsoft Learn](#)

[Overview | Azure Arc Jumpstart](#)

[Azure Arc-enabled Kubernetes | Azure Arc Jumpstart](#)

[Introduction to Kubernetes - Training | Microsoft Learn](#)

[AKS Edge Essentials - Pricing | Microsoft Azure](#)

[Pricing – Azure Arc | Microsoft Azure](#)