



# Kubernetes on the Edge

MLOps Belgium meetup

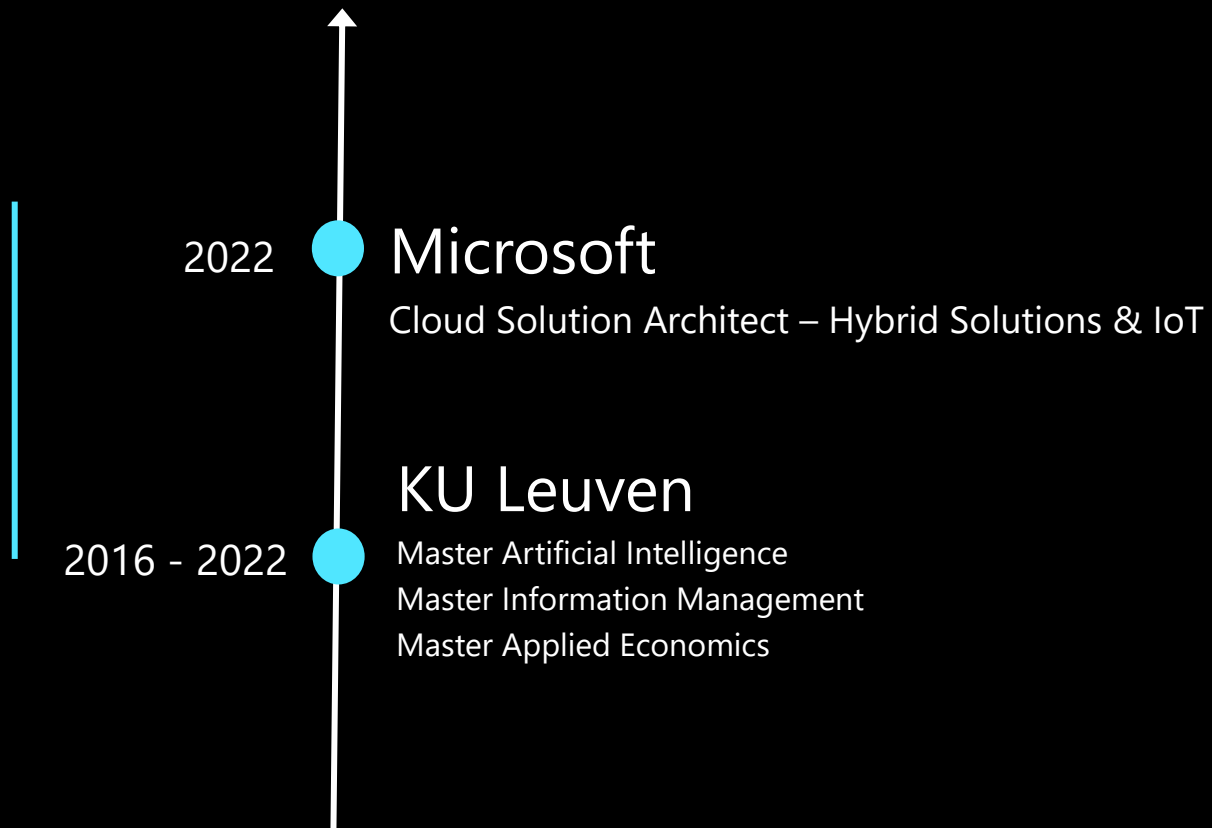
Tom Claes – Microsoft



# 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.

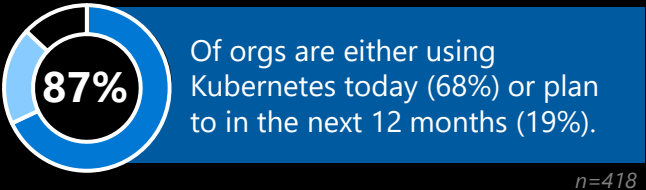
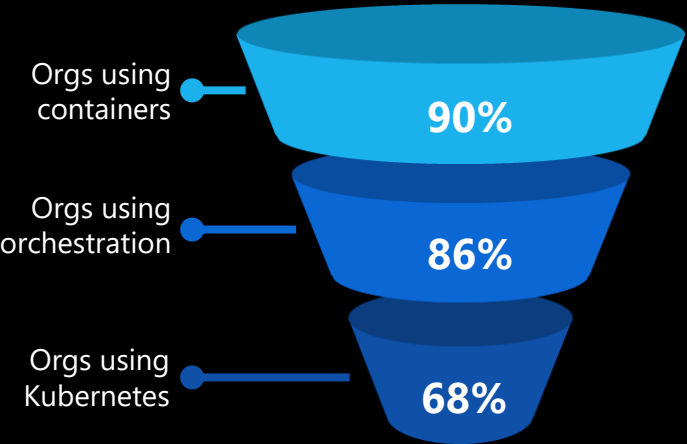
81% of companies manage their Lightweight Edge devices themselves and 71% of those devices already have a path to the cloud (an additional 22% are open to providing those devices with a path to the cloud).

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



## LIGHTWEIGHT EDGE DEVICE USAGE



**72%** of organizations deploy Lightweight Edge Devices into the field at branch locations  
*n=398*

## QUANTITY OF LIGHTWEIGHT EDGE DEVICES

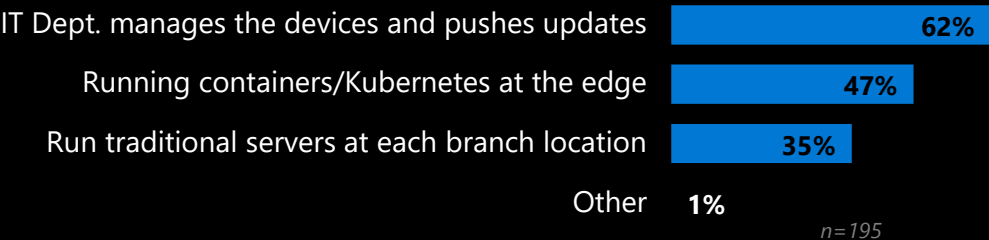
**190** Average number of branch locations\*  
*n=241*  
**x 23** Average number of Lightweight Edge Devices per location\*  
*n=241*  

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**4,370** Average total number of Lightweight Edge Devices

\*Responses capped using 1.5\*IQR methodology

## HOW IT'S HANDLED TODAY



# Customer Needs For OT Transformation

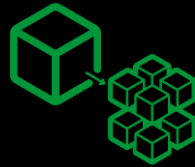
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**A common platform spanning cloud-to-edge for cloud-native workloads**



## 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

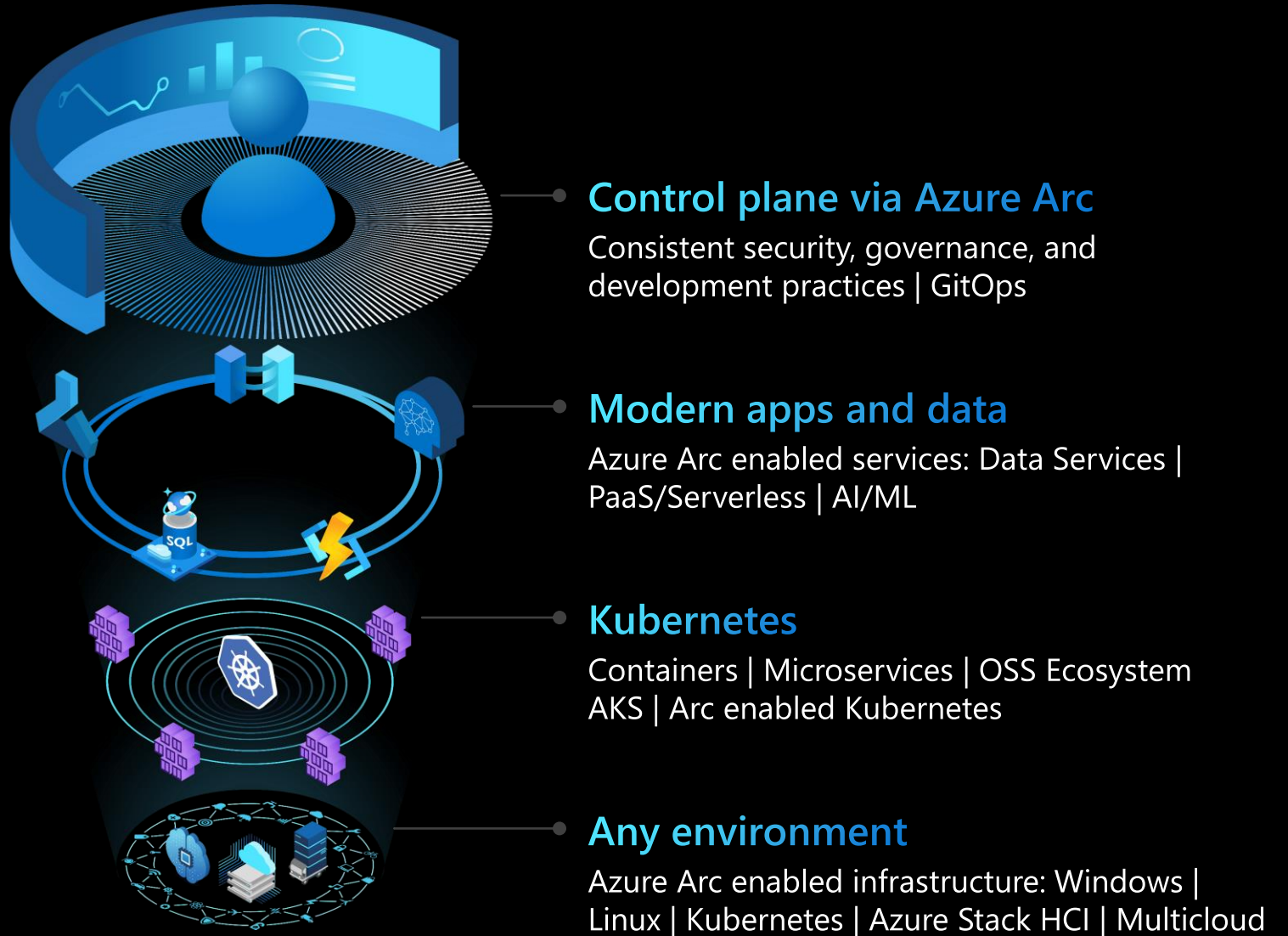


## Run Cost Effective Operations

- 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





Azure Customer



Tools and Experiences

Portal	PowerShell
CLI	API
SDK	Ecosystem
Marketplace	

Existing Tools

Azure Data Studio
Kubernetes Tools
Server Admin Tools

Azure Resources



Microsoft Azure

Management Services

Monitoring | Update | Containers | Backup | Security Center | More...

Azure Resource Manager (ARM)

Access and Security

RBAC | MSPs | Subscriptions

Organization and Inventory

Search | Index | Groups | Tags

Environments and Automation

Templates | Extensions

Governance and Compliance

Logs | Policy | Blueprints

Azure Arc

Multi-Cloud: aws, Google Cloud, ORACLE, IBM Cloud

On-Premises / Hosted Services

Customer Environments

# 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

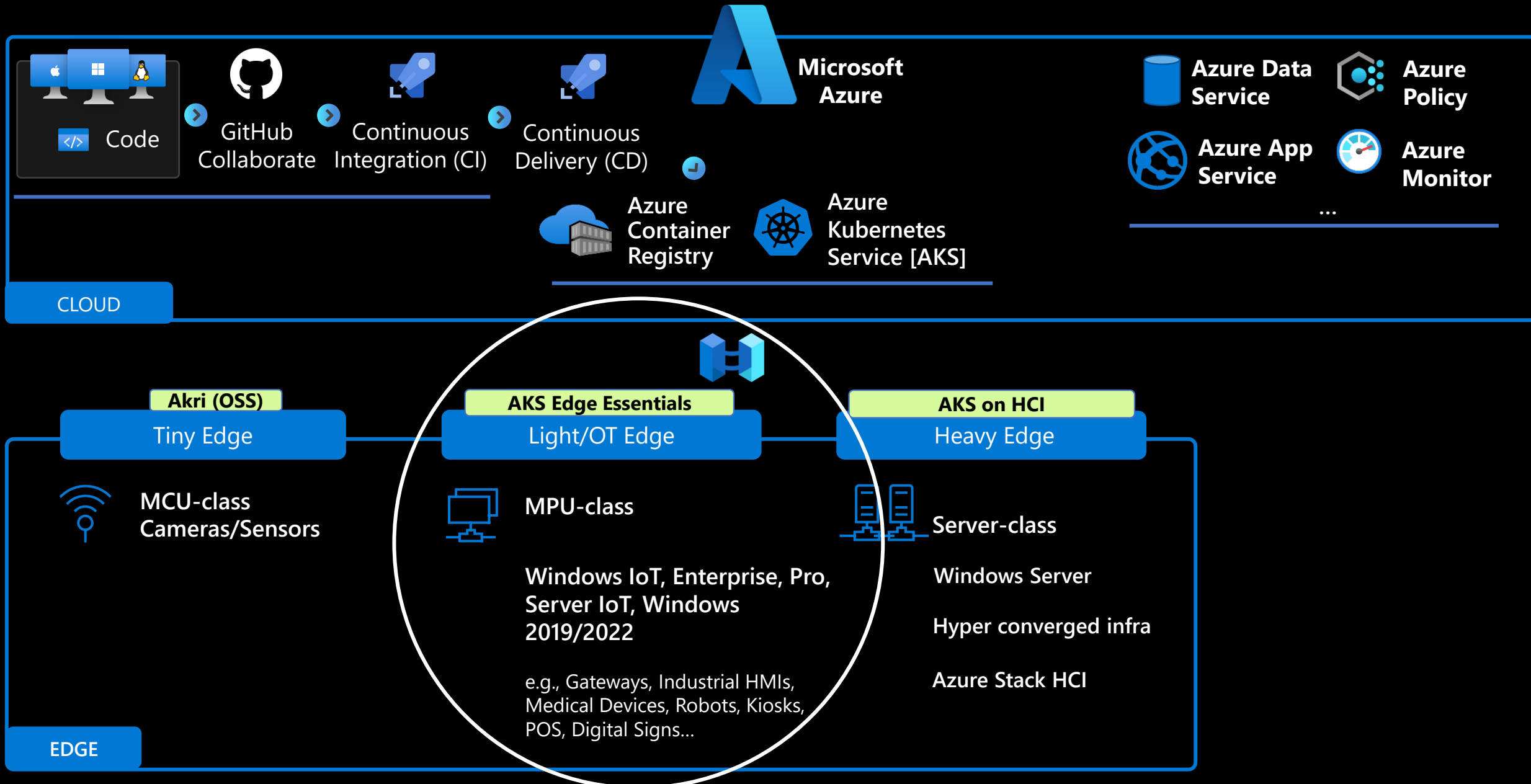


**Update infrastructure and efficiency is critical**

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



**Chose 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



## AKS EE on Windows



User **choice** of world-class Windows OS management & deployment tools for host device config/update

Azure Arc-enabled servers



Microsoft Endpoint Manager



Ecosystem of MDMs & Tooling



Use ARM, Arc, and GitOps to manage all your Container deployments and Kubernetes configs across cloud and on-prem with Arc-enabled Kubernetes

### Managed Kubernetes

- One Linux VM with Control/Worker per Machine
- Kube Version-matched with AKS Cloud
- Fixed purpose app-like behavior with RAM, Storage, and vCPU restricted to static allocation assigned at install

### Mariner VM

- Curated and locked CBL Mariner image
- Lightweight composition for better performance and security
- Reliable A/B updates using Microsoft Update; managed with Windows Policy

### Windows Host OS

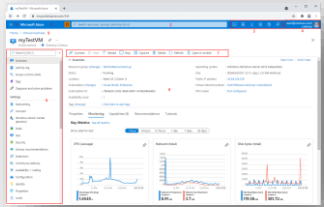
- 10-year LTS support
- Support for BSP and Drivers
- EDIB for image building
- OS Policies
- OS Configurations, Updates, and Certificates

## 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

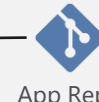
Quickly build, deploy, and scale web apps and APIs on Kubernetes or Azure.

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## Deploy your own workloads



PR Pipeline



App Repo

### GitOps

Manage the desired state of your Kubernetes cluster configurations with Git



CI Pipeline



CD Pipeline



GitOps Repo



### Azure Container Registry

Build, store, and manage container artifacts for your deployments

## OS and VM updates



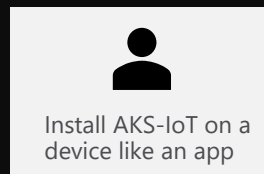
### Windows Update

Get the latest fixes, updates and security improvements

## Azure Arc



CLOUD



Install AKS-IoT on a device like an app

Connect via Arc-connected cluster

Connect via Arc for servers

### Containerized Applications



Azure Services

User workloads

Pull desired cluster state

Cache containers

Cache updates

### AKS-EE Kubernetes Platform

K8s / K3s

Linux VM

Windows VM

Hyper-V

Windows Host OS

Hardware

## Disconnected on-prem



### On-prem container registry

Set up private Docker registry



GitOps Repo



### WSUS

Windows Server Update Services enables IT admins to deploy Microsoft updates.

EDGE

# Flexible deployment options for cloud-native apps

Configuration	AKS Edge Essentials
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

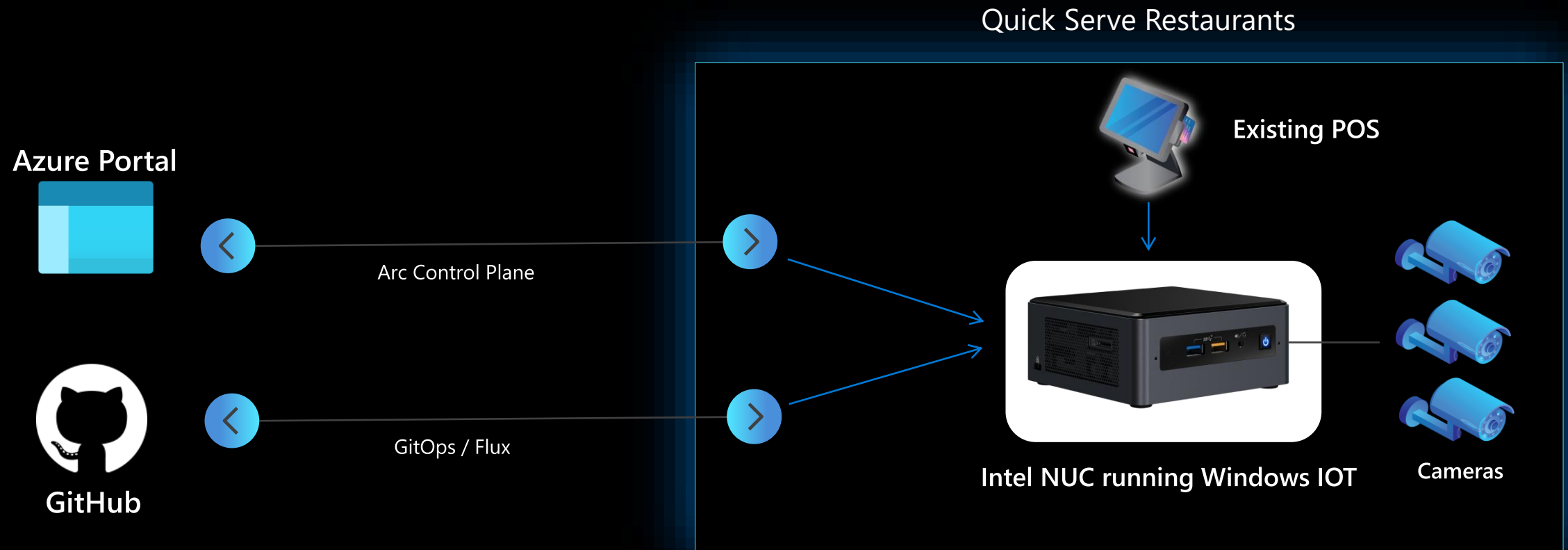
Intelligent chatbots

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](#)