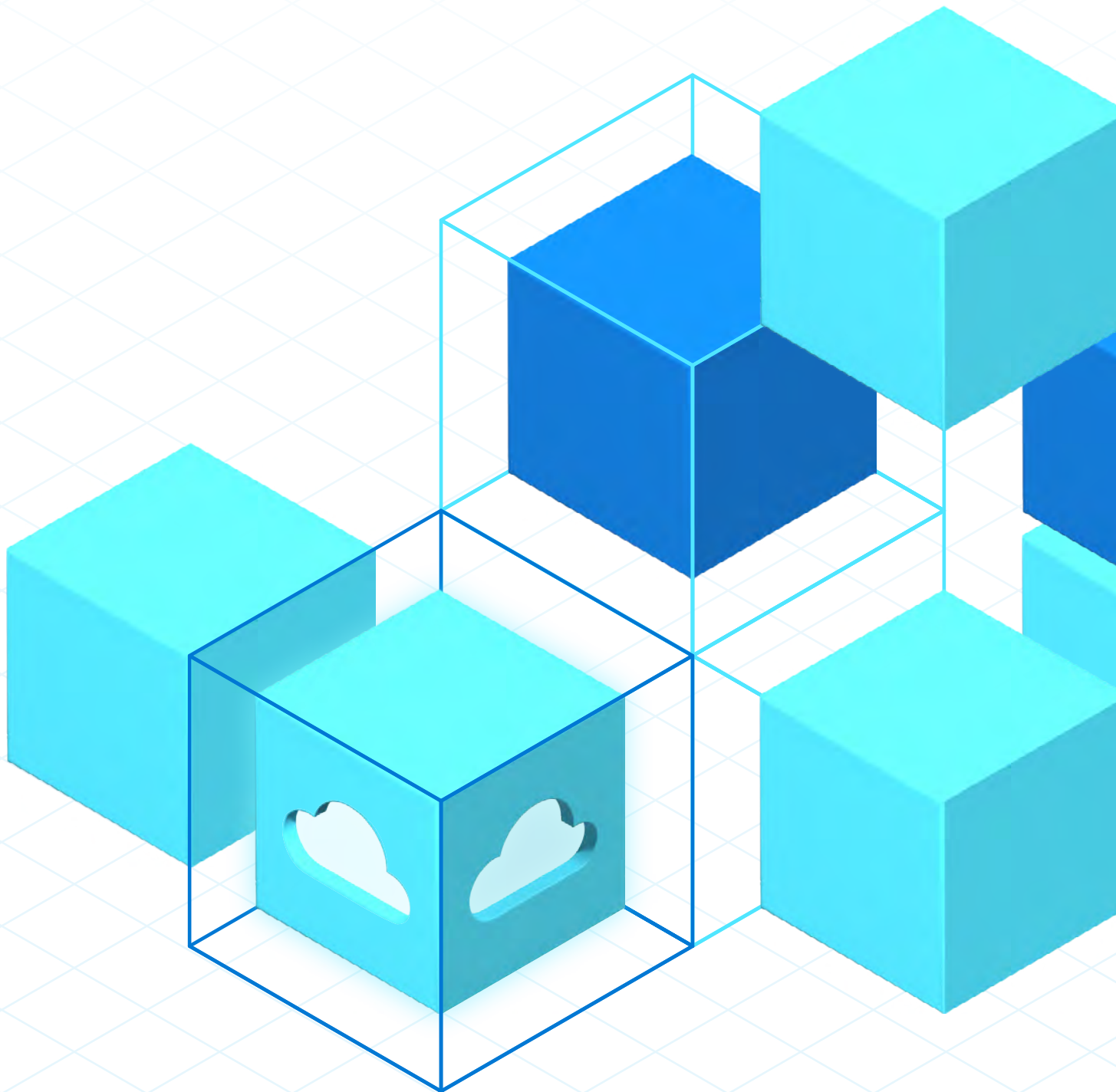Microsoft Azure

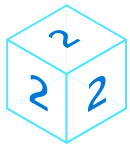# Azure Migration Readiness Toolkit

Build your team's cloud skills for database migration
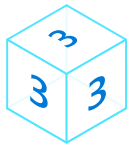
Contents

Data Migration Readiness Kit: Build your team's skills and strengths for migration

Successful cloud migration begins with your team's preparation and skills. From administration and testing to computing and monitoring, the investments you've made in your organisation's current skillsets are easily transferrable to cloud services. For a confident migration, it's important to take stock of your existing expertise – and to level up skills where there might be gaps in proficiency.

Apply your existing skillset and take advantage of expert support at Microsoft any step along the journey to launch successful migrations and start innovating on the cloud sooner.

Time to read: **10 minutes**
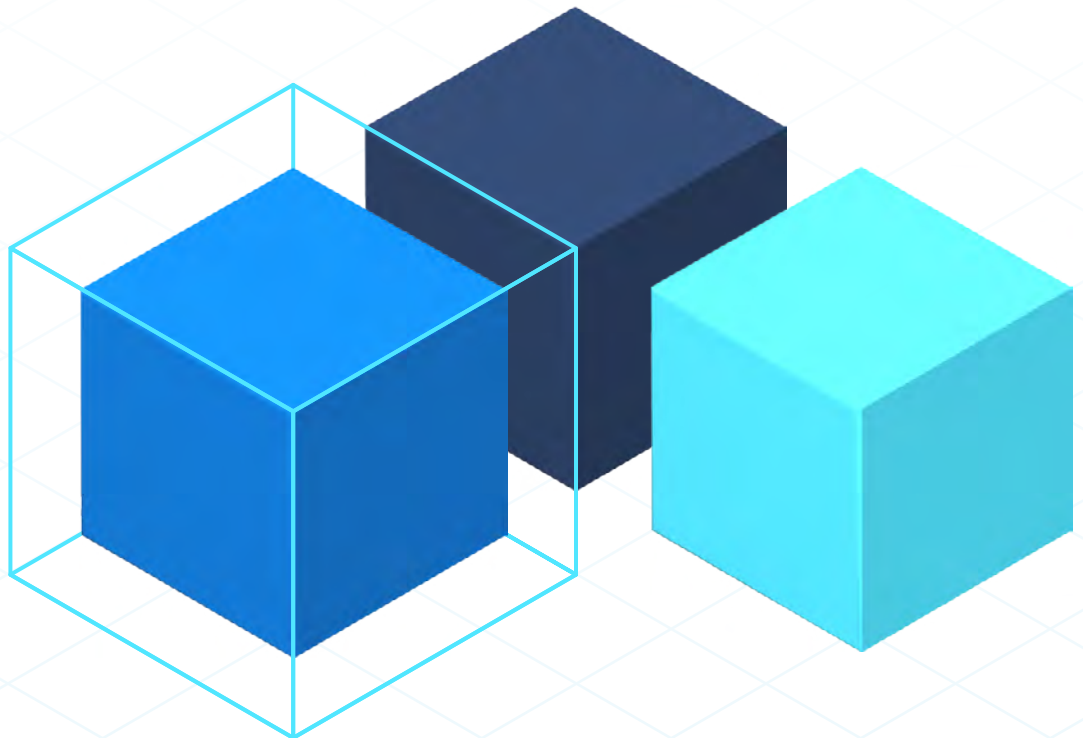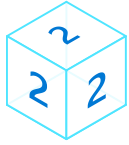
Prepare for common challenges

This toolkit is for data professionals, database administrators and IT decision makers in the early stages of migration planning. Whether you're looking for a full migration or a hybrid deployment, you can minimise risks and address roadblocks by preparing your teams with the right skills and tools for their data migration journey.

Learn how to prepare for common challenges with tools and planning that support your strategy.

Goals	Roadblocks and risks	Mitigations
Seamless migration	Disruptions in day-to-day operations	Phased planning that works with your existing data estate
Clear steps and accessible guidance	Complicated or unclear migration planning	Tools to help you discover and assess your data estate and expert help at each stage
Cost- and time-saving benefits	Unpredictable IT costs and slow ramp-up time to new technology	Cost planning and management tools that help you optimise continuously
Reliable security	Unexpected exposure to security threats	Cloud security that minimises risks with ongoing updates and protections
A unified data estate that optimises data value	Siloed data from legacy systems and spread across multiple platforms that don't add value	Data management and governance solution that keeps your data together
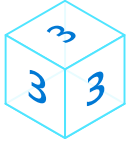
Enable team confidence and alignment

Defining your goals helps teams understand what is expected of them and how to prepare for what's ahead. From there, they can work with confidence regardless of their current skills or cloud experience levels.

By taking advantage of the knowledge and tools your team already has, you can develop a strong foundation of cloud skills that can continually grow and adapt. Many teams choose Azure for their cloud migration precisely because it lets them build on their familiarity with Microsoft tools, saving them from the time and expense of learning a new platform.

Next steps:

| Use this table to **define your motivations** for moving to the cloud.

| Identify, categorise and prioritise your **target outcomes.**

To align stakeholders and get the internal support you need, lay out the advantages for everyone to see. Learn how to describe the benefits of migrating to the cloud with this **17-minute learning module.**
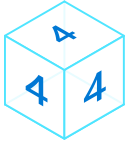
Align your strategy with team skillsets and strengths

To ensure a smooth execution, develop a migration strategy that maximises your team's existing skillsets and tools.

> "We are able to do much more on the database side with the same number of people. Their freed-up time has been utilised to do other important things."
>
> Manager, Enterprise Data Analytics, business services company,
> *Forrester Total Economic Impact™ of Migration to Microsoft Azure SQL Managed Databases*

Assess your data estate needs

Microsoft assessments offer personalised guidance and recommendations based on your organisation's specific needs, so you have an idea of where you stand and your next steps.

Some helpful assessments include:

Cloud Adoption Strategy Evaluator:

Evaluate your strategy and receive personalised recommendations based on your requirements. (10 minutes)

Strategic Migration Assessment and Readiness Tool:

Make sure your plan is designed to deliver your desired outcomes. (15 minutes)

Discover and assess your data resources with Azure Migrate:

Assess your SQL Server environments, conduct inventory mapping and discovery and find the best Azure destinations.
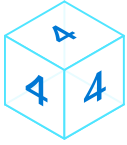
Build a strong business case

Your business proposal helps stakeholders understand the value of migrating to Azure, so you can allocate your resources and plot a feasible financial timeline.

Some resources to help frame your migration for stakeholders include:

Azure Migrate:

This unified platform offers a guided walkthrough of migration, providing tools and services that help build a business case for SQL migration, estimate costs, prioritise workloads and track progress.

Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) calculator:

Calculate and compare your TCO for Azure, and determine the potential cost savings.

Making the Business Case for Moving to the Cloud:

Use this ready-made, customisable PowerPoint presentation to illustrate the security, compliance, management and operational benefits of cloud migration.

Document your plan

It's important to include detailed information about the apps you need to migrate, database availability, network requirements, permissions, downtime constraints and critical milestones. Doing this will help your team stay organised and focused on the necessary next steps.

Some resources to help with documentation include:

Planning template:

Use this adoption framework to lay a solid groundwork for your strategy.

Azure Studio: Data Exposed Video Series:

This episode of Data Exposed provides steps for checking migration readiness, remediating potential migration blockers, exporting assessment results and getting right-sized Azure recommendations.

Migration Learning Portal:

Follow this simplified migration process to understand the costs, tools and skills involved in your first move to the cloud.

Fill the gaps

Empower your team to be successful as their roles and responsibilities change – **adapt your team's roles to the cloud.**

Migration options that match your business needs and team skills

Securely run workloads on your schedule with Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS):

SQL Server on Azure Virtual Machines (VMs):

Lift and shift workloads with SQL Server compatibility and OS-level access while lowering TCO.

Reduce development environment complexity with Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS):

Azure SQL Managed Instance:

Modernise existing apps using tools you already know on a platform that's always up to date with the latest features.

Azure SQL Database:

Eliminate the complexity of configuring and managing database tasks and simplify your application development. For open-source application development with advanced security, you can also use **Azure Database for MySQL** and **Azure Database for PostgreSQL**.

Azure Arc:

Extend the Azure platform to build applications and services anywhere with the flexibility to run across data centres, at the edge and in multicloud environments.

The **Azure Hybrid Benefit**

Save up to **85%** by reusing your Windows Server and SQL licences.

How much could you save? **Use this calculator to estimate your potential cost of ownership with Azure Hybrid Benefit.**

Evaluate and strengthen your team's readiness and skillsets with these Azure learning resources. Knowing where they currently stand – and how to continue developing their cloud skills – is key to building confidence and preparing them for the changes ahead.

Azure learning paths and modules:

Level up your Azure skillsets with step-by-step modules and learning paths, browsable by skill level, subject and professional role.

Azure Database for MySQL-Beginners Series videos:

This curated video series includes demos and tutorials to guide you through key features and concepts, including networking and security, application development, monitoring and more.

Azure Migrate documentation:

Explore articles, tutorials, how-to guides and templates designed to simplify migration.

Azure certifications:

Become Microsoft Certified in Azure Fundamentals at associate, speciality and expert levels.

Success stories

Read about how these companies used their existing skills and relationship with Microsoft to ensure a fast and efficient migration journey.

Walgreens

To streamline operations, **Walgreens Boots Alliance (WBA)** launched a multiphase digital transformation initiative that started with migrating as many of the company's IT resources as possible to Azure – including the company's 100-terabyte SAP landscape – making it the biggest migration ever of an SAP infrastructure from on-premises to Azure.

Because of its long-standing relationship with Microsoft, WBA chose Azure to make the most of familiar technology and existing investments. With a narrow window of less than 20 hours of downtime for the move, the team worked together seamlessly to successfully migrate their enormous database.

Komatsu

To create a unified data estate and optimise performance for its large volumes of data, **Komatsu Australia** chose Azure SQL Database Managed Instance. The company experienced a low migration effort due to the high degree of compatibility of Azure SQL Database Managed Instance with Microsoft SQL Server, plus the strong security and fast, safeguarded connections to key data sources on-premises that it gained with **Azure ExpressRoute**.

Chevron

The global refining system of **Chevron Corporation (CVX)** needed to replace the existing legacy on-premises data platform with an equivalent data platform deployed in Azure, so they could better manage their Supply Chain Data Foundation (SCDF). In partnership with the Publicis Sapient Product and Data Engineering team, they used integration tools like Azure DevOps (ADO) to migrate its data foundation to a Chevron-wide instance of a data lake in less than a year.

The renewed architecture and full migration to Azure gave them improved ability to develop, test, deploy, rapidly scale, enable future capabilities and reduce support and disruption costs.

> "With Azure, less-skilled colleagues can handle tasks they couldn't have handled before."
>
> IT Architect for a non-profit healthcare association,
> *Forrester Total Economic Impact™ of Migration to Microsoft Azure SQL Managed Databases*
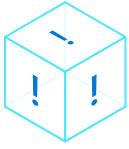
Migrate with confidence

Microsoft offers the learning tools and resources you need to prepare your team for a confident data migration – regardless of where they currently stand in terms of knowledge or experience. Our growing collection of Azure skill-building resources are designed to meet teams where they are, assess and evaluate their needs, and prepare IT professionals with the skills to migrate your data estate with confidence.

Get started with Azure SQL with **an Azure free account.**

Connect with an Azure sales specialist for expert one-on-one guidance.

Start assessing and planning your migration with confidence using **Azure Migrate.**

Azure Migration and Modernisation Programme (AMMP) provides technical training, resources for best practices and support at every stage with a proven approach, unique cost-saving offers and step-by-step cloud migration guidance.