



Infrastructure and Database Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization

Program guide, audit checklist, and FAQ

V1.8 active July 10 - Dec 31, 2025

Program updates and announcements

Module A – June 30, 2025

Azure Essentials Cloud Foundation, formerly Azure Cloud Foundation, is introduced with significant changes. Once audited, a Module A Pass result is good for two years.

- **Control 1.0:** Strategy and FinOps is renamed Readiness and Foundation, Control 1.1: Cloud & AI Business Strategy and now requires two (2) specific assessments to be demonstrated for two (2) unique customers within the last twelve (12) months to demonstrate both customer Business and FinOps (Financial) outcomes, using the specified assessments. The FinOps Review is required for all partners and specializations. Partners auditing for AI Applications on Azure and AI Platform on Azure specializations are required to complete the TAGA assessment. Control 1.2 Cloud & AI Adoption now requires two of three reports (or output documents) as evidence for each customer project. Cost management reports with pricing calculator output and a DevOps capability assessment are required for each customer project, AI COE is optional.
- **Control 2.0:** Formerly Plan, is now Design and Govern. Control 2.1: Security and Governance tooling requires the demonstration of a Security baseline with the use of Microsoft Defender for Cloud or a third-party solution using the Cloud Adoption Security Review Assessment. Control 2.2 has added the Well Architected review to Module A using either the Go Live or the Standard Well Architected Review. The review is required **before** deployment for two (2) customer examples.
- **Control 3.0:** Environment Readiness and Azure Landing is now Manage and Optimize. Control 3.1: Repeatable Deployment requires ALZ Design including Identity, Networking and Resource Organization for two (2) Customers with a demonstration of the approach. Required evidence now includes an alignment to the ALZ conceptual architecture that includes an assessment to ensure that either a multi-regional or multi zone redundancy policy is configured. Control 3.2 Skilling Plan has added a new required Report out for AI Applications and AI Platform specializations on Azure specialization, the Technical Assessment for Generative AI in Azure (TAGA) is required to determine necessary skills for building AI skilling plans. Control 3.3 Operations Management Tooling requires demonstration of compliance environments with documented deployment for two (2) unique customers, with an automated security and compliance check export) using GitHub, Azure DevOps or a third-party tool.

Module B - June 10, 2025

V1.8 is ready for preview. This checklist will be required July 10-Dec 31, 2025. Changes made to Module B include these: Cloud Migration Factory engagements qualify as evidence as long as they demonstrate the controls.

- **Control 1.1** Workload Assessment has clarified the evidence requirements further to emphasize two (2) unique customer projects are required.
- **Control 3.2** Database Migration specifies the projects must be completed within the last twelve (2) months and further clarifies the scenario options for the partner that qualify.
- **Control 3.3** Migration tools specifies the acceptable evidence for this control. The partner must demonstrate the customers accepted the migration approach by showing customer sign off confirmation from two (2) unique customer projects for projects completed within the last twelve (12) months. Partners to provide the specific products, tools, and/or scripts that were used for the migration for each of two (2) unique customer projects. Partner to also provide customer sign off evidence in an email.

Module B – Feb 19, 2025 V1.71 is released.

Refer to the [FAQ](#) for the definition of completed customer projects in all specializations

Controls 3.1 and 3.2 have added migration tool output as an approved evidence item to show production deployment

Control 3.3 Option A - Data Migration Assistant was deprecated, it has been replaced with Azure SQL Migration extension for Azure Data Studio as a migration tool option

Controls 4.1,4.2 modified language to clarify that the same customers from control B2.1 must be demonstrated to show consistency across the lifecycle of a project

Module B- Jan 31, 2025

V1.7 is released. V1.7 provides clarification regarding the number of customer projects, and the required scenario options for evidence in controls 1.1, 2.1, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, and 4.2.

Module B- Dec 23, 2024

Control 2.2 Well Architected Review Assessment: Clarification was added that the partner must provide exported results from two (2) of the pillars in a completed Well – Architected Review, across a minimum of **two (2)** unique customer projects totaling **four (4)** pillar exports.

Module B- Dec 2, 2024

No changes have been made to Module B

Module B – Sept 13, 2024

An update in the V1.61 checklist release further clarified controls 3.1 Deployment of Infra Migrations and 3.2 Deployment of Database Migrations

- Control 3.2 has been updated to clarify the partner will choose one scenario listed and demonstrate 2 customers, for a total of two (2) database deployments and four (4) evidence artifacts.
- Control 3.1 clarified the language for better understanding of the evidence requirements.
- Both Controls 3.1 and 3.2 have added an evidence clarification to the documentation regarding Customer sign offs. Sign offs can be used in all customer documentation except an SOW sign off.

Module B – Sept 6, 2024

Effective immediately, the V1.6 checklist is now released in market. This version is required Sept 6, 2024-December 31, 2024. These are the updates:

- Module B control 1.1 Third-party certifications have been removed as a requirement.
- The alternate path checklist for Module B Infrastructure and Database Migration has been deprecated, effective immediately. There is one V1.6 checklist.
- Controls 1.1, 2.1, 3.2, and 4.1 have reduced the required scenarios to **two (2)** from **four (4)**, with the partner choosing one option within the scenarios to use for evidence: Migration of Infra (Windows Server) to Azure **OR** Migration of Linux-based applications to Azure. Migration of Microsoft SQL databases to Azure (can include Arc-enabled SQL Managed Instance (MI) **OR** Migration of MySQL, PostgreSQL, MariaDB **OR** MongoDB database to Azure. The partner must now provide two (2) evidence examples for each scenario, for a total of four (4) evidence artifacts.

Module A – June 12, 2024

The new Module A checklist is in preview and required August 12, 2024. These are the changes made to the controls:

- Control 1.1 Cloud Adoption Business Strategy now refers to FinOps rather than Economics and has provided an updated template link for a FinOps Assessment
- Control 2.1 Cloud Adoption Plan has provided updated evidence clarification
- Control 3.1 Repeatable Deployment has provided updated control clarification and provided updated links to templates mentioned
- Control 3.1 Repeatable Deployment – A special Evidence Note for Analytics on Azure specialization deployments and Data Warehouse Migration to Azure specialization deployments only. If no Identity or Networking components are deployed in the Azure Landing Zone, a documented focus on Resource organization attributes is sufficient to pass this control
- Control 4.1 Governance Tooling has provided an updated link to current Governance tools
- Control 5.1 Operations Management Tooling for Analytics on Azure specialization deployments and Data Warehouse Migration to Azure specialization deployments only: If no Operations Management Tooling is deployed, this control may be skipped

Module B – June 12, 2024

The V1.5 checklist is available for partner previews. The following are control changes:

- Control 1.1, Certifications: Partners holding the PostgreSQL Professional Certification (V13) will be able to meet this control evidence until Nov 2025, when Microsoft will no longer accept this certification. This is replaced by PostgreSQL Advanced v16 Certification V2.
- **Control 5.2** Post Deployment Documentation has updated evidence requirements for clarity.

Please note the price schedule July 1, 2024

Module B – Mar 13, 2024

The V1.4 checklist is released. For qualified, renewing partners only, the checklist has been updated to include an alternate evidence path in addition to the core audit, that includes Windows and SQL. Microsoft will alert you if you qualify for this checklist version, this is not a self-nomination process.

- Both checklists now require 2 unique customers for demonstrated evidence.

Module B – Jan 1, 2024

The V1.3 checklist is now published and required. Changes from V1.21 include Controls 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 4.4, 5.1, and 5.2. In these:

Oracle can be used in migration scenarios three (3) and four (4) for the listed controls as the “source” database and evidence of the partner’s ability to migrate a customer to the Azure DB platform. Oracle migration to PostgreSQL, Cosmo DB or Azure SQL will qualify for these scenarios.

Module B – Dec 1, 2023

The V1.3 Infra and DB Migration to Azure checklist was made available for partners in preview. Two (2) customer projects rather than three (3) are now required. All four (4) specific migration scenarios must be demonstrated. This will be required Jan 1, 2024.

Module A – Oct 1, 2023

AzureActive Directory has been renamed Microsoft Entra ID

Module B - October 24, 2023

Control 1.1 Certifications. The control was clarified to convey that the partner must be a member of either the Red Hat Business Partner Program or the SUSE One Partner Program, or they must have **two (2)** full-time employees who have at least one (1) of the qualifying certifications verified by certifying agencies.

August 28, 2023

The Microsoft Cloud Partner Program changed its name to the Microsoft AI Cloud Partner Program, effective immediately.

Module B - June 5, 2023

V1.2 Infrastructure and Database Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization checklist is published. This checklist version is required for audits during July 5, 2023- Jan 2, 2024

Control 3.1 Solution Design has added security products such as Azure security services, Microsoft 365 security, and Microsoft Defender for Cloud as evidence for this control.

Module B - Feb 17, 2023

V1.1 in Control 1.1 added a new verification source for third-party certifications; [Verify a Red Hat Certified Professional | redhat.com](https://www.redhat.com) can be used for Red Hat validation.

Module B – Jan 9, 2023

Effective Jan 9, 2023, partners with active enrollments for either or both of the Linux and Open-Source Database Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization or the Windows Server and SQL Server Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization are auto enrolled in (or “grandfathered in”) to the Infra and Database Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization. Upon a partner’s respective anniversary dates, a partner will need to meet the requirements of the new Infra and Database Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization, including the specialization’s audit checklist. For more information on this, please visit [Partner Center](#).

Module B- Dec 9, 2022

The V1.0 Preview of Infra and Database Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization was made available for partners. It replaced several legacy Azure specializations:

As of Jan 9, 2023, the new Infra and Database Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization and its audit checklist replaces both the V2.1 Windows Server and SQL Server Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization audit checklist and the V2.1 Linux and Open-Source Database Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization audit checklist.

ModuleB - Oct3, 2022

Microsoft retired partner Gold Cloud competency: the aligned Solutions Partner designation is now required. For this specialization, your organization must have an active Solutions Partner for Data & AI (Azure) or a Solutions Partner for Infrastructure (Azure) designation.

ModuleA–July 1, 2022

Checklist updates published May2, 2022, in previewforModule Achecklist are now required.

In Control2.2, a new required Skilling Plan has been added to the checklist and is now required.

Module B – May 2, 2022

- Guidance for the definition of Proof of Concept and Pilots was added to the FAQ.
- Preview updates to Module A were made available, these are required July 1, 2022

Jan1, 2022

Guidance and FAQ Updates

Contents

Infra and DB Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization Program Overview	7
How to apply.....	7
NDAs for the audit	8
Payment terms and conditions.....	8
Audit blueprint.....	8
Audit roles.....	9
Audit Process: High-level overview	10
Audit Process: Details.....	11
Audit preparation best practices and resources.....	13
Audit checklists.....	14
Partner FAQ	33

Infra and Database Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization Program Overview

This document defines the requirements to earn the Infra and Database Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization. It also provides further requirements, guidelines, and an audit checklist for the associated audit that is required to earn this Azure specialization.

The Infra and Database Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization is designed for partners to demonstrate deep knowledge, experience, and success in planning and migrating their customer's infrastructure and database workloads to Azure. Partners with demonstrated expertise across both Windows Server and SQL Server and across Linux and Open-Source database migration to Microsoft Azure may apply.

The Infra and Database Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization allows partners with an active [Solutions Partner for Infrastructure designation](#) or [Solutions Partner for Data & AI](#) designation to demonstrate their capabilities, build stronger connections with customers and differentiate their organizations in Infrastructure and Database migration.

Partners who meet the comprehensive requirements to earn an Azure Specialization, receive a customer-facing label they can display, badge and a business profile in [Microsoft AppSource partner gallery](#).

In AppSource, access to specific Microsoft go-to-market programs is prioritized in customer searches to help drive new business. Partners can also generate a certified letter from Microsoft that verifies the Azure specializations that they have earned. For these reasons, this opportunity is available only to partners that meet additional, stringent requirements.

How to apply

Only a Microsoft AI Cloud Account Administrator or a Global Administrator of an organization's Microsoft partner account can submit an application for the Azure specialization on behalf of the organization.

Partners with the appropriate role and access permissions can apply. To do so, they sign into their [Partner Center](#) account. On the left pane, select Azure under the **Specialization** section. Toggle to the specialization that you wish to apply for by using the drop-down menu at the top of the page.

NDA for the audit

Auditors comply with requests from partners to sign a direct NDA. All ISSI auditors are under a nondisclosure agreement (NDA) with Microsoft. If a partner would like an NDA to be signed directly between ISSI and the partner organization for purposes of the audit, one can be provided by the partner during the audit scheduling process to ISSI. ISSI will sign and return it.

Payment terms and conditions

Pricing schedule as of July 1, 2024

Module B Audit: \$2,400 USD

Module A+B Audits: \$3,600 USD

A Gap Review Meeting is included with each Module audit.

Payment terms

The cost of the audit is payable in full to the audit company and must be settled before the audit begins. Failure to pay will result in cancellation of the audit.

Program status term

When a partner meets all prerequisite requirements shown in Partner Center and Microsoft receives a valid Pass Report from the third-party audit company, the partner will be awarded the Infra and Database Migration Azure Specialization for one (1) calendar year.

The status and the Infra and Database Migration Azure Specialization label can be used only by the organization (determined by Partner Center MPNPGA ID account) and any associated locations (determined by MPN PLA ID) that met all requirements and passed the audit. Any subsidiary or affiliated organizations represented by separate Partner Center accounts (MPNPGA ID) may not advertise the status or display the associated label.

Audit blueprint

Audits are evidence-based. During the audit, partners will be expected to present evidence they have met the specific requirements on the checklist. This involves providing the auditor with access to live demonstrations, documents, and SME personnel to demonstrate compliance with checklist requirements. The audit checklist will be updated to stay current with technology and market changes, and the audit is conducted by an independent, third-party auditor.

The following is included in the audit blueprint:

1. Audit Roles
2. Audit Process: High level overview
3. Audit Process: Details
4. Audit Best Practices and Resources

Auditroles

Role of the auditor

The auditor reviews submitted evidence and objectively assesses whether the evidence provided by the partner satisfies the audit checklist requirements. The auditor selects and evaluates evidence, based on samples of the information available from live systems. The appropriate use of such sampling is closely related to the confidence that can be placed in the audit conclusions. All ISSI auditors are under a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) with Microsoft. Auditors will also comply with requests from partners to sign a direct NDA.

Role of the partner

The partner must provide objective evidence that satisfies the auditor for all checklist items. It is the responsibility of the partner to have reviewed all check-list items prior to the audit, to have collected all necessary documentation and evidence, and to have ensured that the right subject matter experts are available to discuss and show systems, as appropriate. All audit evidence must be reproducible and verifiable.

Role of the Microsoft Partner Development Manager

For partners that have an assigned Microsoft Partner Development Manager (PDM), the PDM is responsible for ensuring that the partner fully understands the requirements prior to applying for the audit. The PDM may attend the optional consulting engagements that ISSI offers, but the PDM and other Microsoft FTEs may not attend the audit.

AuditProcess: High-level overview

Step	Action	Responsibility
1	Review: Specialization requirements in Partner Center. Review audit checklists in the specialization and begin to prepare the necessary evidence with personnel for an evidence-based audit. <u>Recommended:</u> Before you apply, review the specific audit checklist thoroughly and confirm SME personnel required for the audit date.	Partner
2	Meet the prerequisites and apply for the audit: In the initial application phase, applications are submitted in two (2) stages: 1. Prerequisite requirements (see Partner Center for details) 2. Audit <u>Do not start the application process unless you are ready to undertake the audit.</u> Assess your firm's ability to complete the audit, including considerations for readiness, employee availability, and holidays.	Partner
3	Validate: The partner meets all requirements prior to audit.	Microsoft
4	Confirmed by Microsoft: Microsoft confirms with the third-party audit company that the partner is eligible for audit.	Microsoft
5	Schedule with partner: The auditor will schedule within two (2) business days.	Auditor (with partner)
6	Conduct the audit: Within thirty (30) calendar days of the approval for audit.	Auditor
7	Provide a Gap Report: If applicable, to the partner within two (2) business days of the completed audit, listing any Open Action Items. *	Auditor
8	Acknowledge Gap Report receipt and schedule meeting: Within two (2) business days of receiving the Gap Report, the partner acknowledges receipt of the report and schedules a Gap Review meeting. Partners can begin immediate remediation of open items.	Partner
9	Complete the meeting: Within fifteen (15) calendar days of receiving the Gap Report, the partner schedules and completes the Gap Review Meeting with the auditor to provide evidence and address any Open Action Items. *	Auditor (with partner)
10	Issue Final Report: To the partner within five (5) business days. Notify Microsoft of audit Pass or No Pass result.	Auditor
11	Notify the partner: About program status within two (2) business days.	Microsoft

**These steps will not be taken if the partner has no Open Action Items after the audit.*

Audit Process: Details

Microsoft uses an independent third-party audit company, Information Security Systems International, LLC (ISSI), to schedule and conduct Azure specialization audits. After the audit date has been confirmed, ISSI will provide an agenda for the partner. The duration of an audit is four (4) hours for Module B workloads and eight (8) hours for Module A+B audits combined, depending upon the scope of the audit.

During the audit, the partner must provide access to the appropriate personnel who can discuss and disclose evidence that demonstrates compliance with program requirements. We highly recommend that subject matter experts for each section attend as well as a person who is familiar with the entire audit.

On the day of the audit, the partner must be prepared to provide the auditor with access to live demonstrations, documents, and personnel, as necessary to demonstrate compliance with the requirements. During the audit, the auditor will seek to verify that the partner's evidence has addressed all required audit checklist items satisfactorily.

A note on audit checklist effective dates: Partners are audited against the checklist items that are active on the date of their remote audit, not the date they apply. Audits are updated twice annually. The partner application or renewal date has no bearing on the version of the checklist that is used for the audit.

The audit can produce either of two (2) outcomes:

1. The partner passes the audit.
 - The auditor will present a brief synopsis of the audit. This will include identifying observed strengths and opportunities for improvement.
 - The auditor will provide a Final Report to the partner.
 - The auditor will notify Microsoft.
2. The partner does not satisfy all checklist items during the audit.
 - The auditor will present a brief synopsis of the audit at the end of the day, including observed strengths and Open Action Items, as outlined in the Gap Report, within two (2) business days.
 - The partner will acknowledge receipt of the Gap Report within two (2) business days.
 - The partner will move into the Gap Review phase and schedule their Gap Review Meeting within fifteen (15) calendar days.

The Gap Review

If the partner does not, to the auditor's satisfaction, provide evidence that meets the required scores across all audit categories during the audit, the partner will move into a Gap Review. A Gap Review is part of the audit and completes the process.

Within two (2) business days after the audit, the partner will receive a Gap Report, which details any Open Action Items and the outstanding required evidence. It is suggested to begin remediation of any open action items as soon as possible following the audit.

The partner then has two (2) business days to acknowledge receipt of the Gap Report and schedule a Gap Review Meeting. The Gap Review Meeting is conducted with the auditor over the partner's virtual conference platform of choice. The meeting must take place within fifteen (15) calendar days of when the Gap Report was sent, and it may last no longer than one (1) hour. During the Gap Review Meeting the partner must present evidence that addresses any and all Open Action Items.

The Gap Review Meeting can produce either of two (2) outcomes:

1. The partner resolves all Open Action Items.
 - The auditor confirms that the partner has provided the required evidence.
 - The auditor provides a Final Report for the partner.
 - The auditor notifies Microsoft about the outcome (subject to Auditor Terms and Conditions).
2. The partner does not resolve all Open Action Items.
 - The auditor presents a brief summary of the audit, including missed items.
 - The partner receives a Final Report that details the missed items.
 - The auditor notifies Microsoft about the outcome (subject to Audit Terms and Conditions).

If the partner is still unable to provide satisfactory evidence to the auditor during their Gap Review Meeting, the partner will be deemed to have failed the audit. Partners that still want to earn this Azure specialization will need to begin the application process again once their status resets in Partner Center.

Completion of the audit

The audit process concludes when ISSI issues the Final Report after the audit or after the Gap Review. Partners will receive a Pass or No Pass result upon completion of the audit process.

A Pass result satisfies the audit requirement for this Azure specialization for two (2) years. A “No Pass” result is generated when a partner fails or withdraws from the audit. When a No Pass result is entered into Partner Center, you will see your status as “Audit Failed” in your dashboard. This status will reset within +- one week to “Not Enrolled,” allowing you to reapply. Contact [Partner Center Support](#) if help is needed.

Audit preparation best practices and resources

Partners should ensure that the audit checklist has been thoroughly read in advance of the audit.

- Partners should ensure that all partner stakeholders involved in the audit have a copy of the audit checklist and are confirmed for the date and time duration of the audit
- A lead stakeholder who knows the entire process must be available for the length of the audit
- Partners should confirm that they have access granted for the auditors, and files and tools are readily available during the audit exhibits

Stakeholder SME attendance in the audit

Stakeholders who can best address the relevant section should be available for the audit. However, please make sure that a stakeholder who knows the entire process is available for the duration of the audit.

Auditors often probe for more information

The auditor probes for more information to ensure that mature and repeatable processes are in place with the partner and that they are established, effective, and efficient. The auditor is looking to see how a document was created, where it is located, and what source materials were used to create the document. By probing for more information, the auditor evaluates and validates that the partner is operating at an advanced level. This can only be done by questioning during the audit. This approach is explained to the partner during the opening meeting.

Acceptable evidence: Excerpts, exhibit file formats and use of PowerPoints

PowerPoints are a common and accepted format for presenting a high-level overview of a partner's systems. However, please also be prepared to present **live demonstrations** from source files so that the auditor may confirm that the systems in place are mature and effective. Excerpts can be used to communicate the high-level overview, however, as sole evidence these are not accepted. Source documents must also be presented.

Additional resources: Two optional audit preparation offers from the auditing firm *

To ensure objectivity, consulting auditors and auditors conducting the actual audits are different ISSI auditors.

1. Partners can participate in a paid optional, one (1)-hour, live Audit Process & Controls Overview session provided by ISSI. This session provides a high-level overview of key aspects of the Azure specialization audit process. Partners work directly with ISSI to schedule this remote session (via online web conference). For more information about this session, see <https://www.issi-inc.com/services/process-and-controls-overview>.
2. ISSI also provides optional extensive, paid, in-depth consulting engagements to help partners prepare for their Azure specialization audit. Partners work directly with ISSI to schedule this remote session (via online web conference). For more information about this type of in-depth engagement, see Azure Specialization Consulting Offer <https://www.issi-inc.com/services/audit-readiness-preparation>.

**Please note that there is a cost associated with both ISSI's Consulting and the Process and Controls Overview. These can be scheduled at any time with ISSI; however, Microsoft recommends the partner does not schedule these during the actual audit but instead, if chosen, work these into the planning timeline before the audit is scheduled.*

Audit checklists

The Infra and Database Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization checklist contains two (2) modules, **Module A**, Azure Essentials Cloud Foundation and **Module B**: The Infra and Database Migration to Microsoft AZURE Specialization workload.

Module A, Azure Essentials Cloud Foundation is required for multiple Azure specializations. Module A evaluates the use of a consistent methodology and process for Azure adoption that is aligned with customers' expected outcomes, spanning the entire cloud adoption lifecycle. Module A is part of the Module B specialization audit package, and as a requirement must be renewed by audit for all Azure specializations.

To complete or renew Module A, the partner needs to pass all controls in Module A by providing the specified evidence or providing evidence of a recent (within two years) Module A+B Pass result. The relevant date for each partner is the Module B Anniversary Date (AD) shown in Partner Center.

To waive out of Module A, the partner must provide evidence of a recent (within two years) Pass result for an applicable A+B audit or a Pass result for the AEMSP Control 3.A within the last year.

Module A waivers:

All Azure Specializations: When applying to renew subsequent Azure specializations, a previous Module A +B audit Pass result will satisfy the requirements for Module A if the result has been within two (2) years. Partners who have passed an A+B Azure specialization audit within the last two years have satisfied the requirements for Module A in all Module A+B Azure specialization audits, unless otherwise noted.

The relevant Module B Anniversary Date (AD) is shown in Partner Center.

AEMSP: Partners who have passed Azure Expert MSP V1.9 and later Module 3.0 (in Full and Progress audits) have satisfied the requirements for Module A in all Module A+B Azure specialization audits, unless otherwise noted. AEMSP Partners audit yearly to stay enrolled, and Module 3.A Cloud Adoption Framework is also a yearly control requirement.

Special note: Partners who sequentially waiver out of Module A in multiple Module A+B audits and then subsequently waiver out of AEMSP Module 3.A within a two-year timeline will likely be required to take a Module A audit at Module A+B renewal.

If there are questions regarding a potential waiver for Module A, reach out to the AzurePartnerSpecializations alias <azureAS@microsoft.com>

Module B, The Infra and Database Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization workload module validates that the partner has adopted robust processes to ensure customer success across all phases of deploying Infra and Database Migration solutions, from the assessment phase to design, pilot, implementation, and post-implementation phases. Review the following audit checklist tables for more details about each control phase and to learn how the partner will be evaluated for an audit. The same customers may be used for Module A & B. The estimated length of both modules together is eight (8) hours. Each control has one (1) or more requirements and requires evidence the partner must provide for the auditor.

Both the requirements and the required evidence are defined in the following tables. The same or different customers can be used for Modules A & B if they demonstrate requirements.

Module A: Azure Essentials Cloud Foundation

1. Readiness and Foundation
2. Design and Govern
3. Manage and Optimize

Module B: Infrastructure and Database Migration to Microsoft Azure workload

1. Assess
2. Design
3. Deployment
4. Review and Release for Operations

To pass the audit, the partner must complete all audit checklist items.

Module A: Azure Essential Cloud Foundation

1.0 Readiness and Foundation

The partner must have a defined approach for helping their customer evaluate and define a cloud adoption strategy beyond an individual asset (app, VM, or data).

Requirement

1.1

Cloud & AI Adoption Business Strategy

The partner must have a defined process that captures the data-driven business strategies for cloud & AI being used to guide customer decisions. The process should include, at minimum, the following:

1. A strategy review that captures the customer's business needs and the problems the customer is trying to solve.
2. Personalized recommendations from the partner for the customers' business strategies.
3. Recommendations for maximizing cloud business value.

Required evidence:

A Report, Presentation, or Documented Plan that captures strategic inputs and decisions for **two (2)** unique customers, using two (2) assessments tools below to demonstrate the Azure Cloud & AI Adoption Business decisions for the customer's organization. Partners must use the following assessments to build their plan. The FinOps Review is required for all partners and specializations. Partners auditing for AI Applications on Azure and AI Platform on Azure specializations are required to complete the TAGA assessment.

- Required: the [FinOps Review](#)
- Either the [Cloud Adoption Strategy Evaluator](#) (CASE) assessment output **OR**
- The [Technical Assessment for Generative AI in Azure \(TAGA\)](#)

These projects should have been completed in the past **twelve (12)** months. The projects must be aligned with the above-described processes 1, 2 and 3, and highlight both customer Business and FinOps (Financial) outcomes. For examples, see the [Cloud Adoption Strategy Evaluator](#), [Technical Assessment for Generative AI in Azure \(TAGA\)](#) and the [FinOps Review](#) best practices in Build.

1.2	<p>Cloud & AI Adoption Plan</p> <p>The partner must have a strategy for planning and tracking the completion of cloud & AI adoption projects.</p> <p>Required evidence:</p> <p>The partner must provide plan evidence for Cloud and AI adoption planning and completion with examples of two (2) unique customer projects that were completed in the past twelve (12) months. Cost management reports with pricing calculator output and a DevOps capability assessment are required for each customer project, AI COE is optional.</p> <p>Accepted documentation will include at least two (2) of the below document outputs for each customer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required: Cost management Report with outputs from the pricing calculator. • Required: Report from the DevOps Capability Assessment or similar tools used by the partner for project planning & tracking • Optional: Presentation or documentation demonstrating an approach presented to the customer that helped to establish an AI Center of Excellence (AI COE) based on the AI COE guidance in CAF.
2.0 Design and Govern	
<p>The partner must have a consistent design approach to planning for cloud adoption that is based on the strategies outlined in the preceding section. The partner must be able to demonstrate that the design areas are addressed through their use of reference architectures. The partner must also demonstrate their customer's role in governing cloud-based solutions and the Azure tools they use to facilitate any governance requirements their customer might have today or in the future.</p>	
Requirement	
2.1	<p>Security & Governance Tooling</p> <p>The partner must demonstrate the ability to deploy the required governance tools for compliance and security for two (2) unique customer projects.</p> <p>Required evidence:</p> <p>The partner must demonstrate they have established a security baseline with the use of Microsoft Defender for Cloud or 3rd party solution and complete a Cloud Adoption Security Review using the assessment for two (2) unique customers with Azure projects that were completed in the past twelve (12) months. See governance tools for templates.</p>

2.2

Well-Architected Workloads

The partner is required to design workloads that are well-architected and ensure that these workloads are prepared for production. The partner must use the following guidance and assessments:

- Reference architectures in [Architecture Center](#).
- One (1) of the two (2) assessments: Well-Architected Review or Go-Live Well-Architected Review, completed for workloads about to be deployed.

Required evidence:

The partner must provide evidence of their capability for aligning to architectures in [Architecture Center](#) and review the designed architecture using one of the two assessments: Either [Well-Architected Review](#) or [Go-Live Well-Architected Review](#) for workloads that are about to be deployed. This will ensure that all production-oriented considerations are taken into account. Examples much include **two (2)** unique customer projects that were completed in the past **twelve (12)** months.

3.0 Manage and Optimize

The partner must demonstrate that they have set up their customers for operational success to deploy compliant environments with built-in policies and controls, including ALZ. All partners have a role in setting up operations management, even if they do not provide long-term managed services.

Requirement

3.1

Repeatable Deployment

The partner must demonstrate adherence to Azure landing zone (ALZ) design areas through a repeatable deployment. **ALZ applies to all sizes of deployments.** The deployment should configure, at minimum, the following identity, network, and resource organization attributes:

- Identity
 - Adoption of identity management solutions, such as Microsoft Entra ID (formerly Azure Active Directory) or equivalent
- Networking architecture design (topology)
 - [Define an Azure network topology - Cloud Adoption Framework | Microsoft Docs](#)
 - Application of hybrid architectures that use Azure ExpressRoute, VPN Gateway, or equivalent services for connecting local datacenters to Azure
- Resource organization
 - Implementation of tagging and naming standards during the project

The partner must demonstrate which of the following [approaches](#) they used when they deployed Azure landing zones for **two (2)** unique customers:

1. Start small and expand: Azure landing zone does not deploy governance or operations configurations, which are addressed later in the implementation.
2. Full Azure landing zone (ALZ) conceptual architecture: Azure landing zones implement standard approach to the configuration of governance and operations tools prior to implementation.
3. Alternative approach: If the partner follows a proprietary approach or a mixture of the **two (2)** approaches above, the partner must clearly articulate their approach to environment configuration.
4. Brownfield scenario: The partner's customer has a landing zone that does not follow best practices, and an update is required to follow best practices in the Cloud Adoption Framework.

Required evidence:

The partner must provide documented evidence of a repeatable deployment they used to create landing zones, aligned to the [Azure landing zone \(ALZ\) conceptual architecture](#), deployed to **two (2)** unique customer environments using [Bicep](#) or [Terraform](#) modules, and ARM (AZURE Resource Manager) templates, to automatically deploy the environment configuration, and must use the [Azure Landing Zone Review](#) assessment to ensure that a multi-regional or multi zone redundancy policy is configured.

3.1 con't	<p>If a customer deviates from the specified architecture, the Partner must demonstrate the customer requirements to justify the deviation.</p> <p>The provided template can be pulled directly from the Cloud Adoption Framework Landing zone implementation options, or it can be based on the partner's own IP (Intellectual Property).</p> <p>In either case, the output evidence must demonstrate the configuration of the identity, network, and resource organization and that the Azure Landing Zone Review was completed, as described earlier above.</p> <p>Special Evidence Note:</p> <p>For Analytics on Azure specialization deployments and Data Warehouse Migration to Azure specialization deployments only: If no Identity or Networking components are deployed in the Azure Landing Zone, a documented focus on Resource organization attributes is sufficient to pass this control. Identity and Networking repeatable deployment attributes only are waived. Demonstration of the approach type for ALZ is required for two (2) unique customers for Analytics on Azure and Data Warehouse Migration to Azure specializations.</p>
3.2	<p>Plan for Skilling</p> <p>When customers adopt the cloud, their existing technical staff will need a variety of new skills to aid in making technical decisions and to support new cloud implementations. To ensure the long-term success of the customer, the partner must document a skilling plan to prepare the customer's technical staff.</p> <p>The documentation must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A description of the new skills for the technical roles the customer will need to achieve to successfully manage the new environment. The Partner must document key customer technical roles and the plan for the customer to obtain skills required such as, but not limited to, IT Admins, IT Governance, IT Operations, and IT Security. 2. For AI Applications and AI Platform on Azure specializations, a Report of the Technical Assessment for Generative AI in Azure (TAGA) for determining necessary skills for building AI skilling plans is required. 3. Knowledge transfer resources the customer can leverage when training their own technical employees such as Microsoft learning paths, technical certifications, or other comparable resources. <p>Required evidence: For guidance, review Microsoft How to Build a Skilling Readiness Plan. The partner must provide a skilling plan for at least two (2) unique customer engagements completed within the last twelve (12) months. The two (2) skilling plans must include a customer-facing presentation, OR planning documents, OR post deployment documentation OR similar plan documentation that demonstrates evidence of this control.</p>

3.3

Operations Management Tooling

The partner must demonstrate the use of Azure products or equivalent to help their customer and/or managed service provider operate the environment after they have deployed compliant environments with built-in policies and controls.

Required evidence:

The partner must demonstrate the documented deployment of at least **one (1)** of the following Azure products or third-party equivalents: Azure Monitor, **OR** Azure Automation, **OR** Azure Backup/Site Recovery, for **two (2)** unique customers with projects that were completed in the past **twelve (12)** months.

- After running automated security and compliance checks using GitHub Actions or Azure DevOps, or a third-party tool integrated with Microsoft Security DevOps or a third-party tool, partners should provide **any one** of the following sanitized artifacts as evidence:
- A security scan report (e.g., from static analysis or secret scanning)
- A monitoring dashboard export (e.g., from Azure Monitor or Log Analytics)
- An audit-ready YAML pipeline file showing integrated security tasks, and code scanning logs (e.g., from CodeQL or push protection)
- A Software Bill of Materials (SBOM)
- A snapshot of policy-as-code compliance (e.g., Azure Policy results).

These artifacts must be free of personally identifiable information (PII) and customer intellectual property (IP), timestamped, and traceable to specific pipeline runs to ensure they are audit-ready and demonstrate secure development practices. While these reports are required, partners have the flexibility to generate and submit them using third-party tools, as long as they meet the necessary criteria and provide equivalent evidence.

For detailed guidance on configuring GitHub Advanced Security for Azure DevOps and exporting relevant outputs, refer to [Microsoft Learn](#). This documentation covers export performance, availability, and security data of a monitoring dashboard that provides visibility into the customer's solution, using either [Azure Log Analytics](#) or a third-party monitoring tool. Partners can also use [Azure Advisor Resiliency Reviews](#) to identify and remediate recommendations.

Special Evidence Note:

For Analytics on Azure specialization deployments and Data Warehouse Migration to Azure specialization deployments **only**: If no Operations Management Tooling is deployed, this control may be skipped.

Module B: V1.8 Infrastructure and Database Migration to Microsoft Azure Specialization

1.0 Assess	
The partner must have a consistent approach for assessing customer requirements for the workload.	
Requirements	
1.1	<p>Workload Assessment</p> <p>The partner must demonstrate how they assess each workload <i>prior to migration</i> to ensure that adequate pre-migration or pre-deployment planning and sizing were performed. The assessment must include mapping that shows the dependencies upstream from the resources that will be migrated. It must also show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The infrastructure, datavolumes and database sizes to be migrated. • Themigration timeline and approach. • Themigration risk assessment. • Backup and disaster recovery for existing workloads. • Licensing and cost management requirements. • Documentation of the customer's existing identity implementation on Azure, gaps identification, and best practices recommendations. <p>The partner must provide evidence of both of the following scenarios within the past twelve (12) months.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Migration of Infra (Windows Server) to Azure OR Migration of Linux-based applications to Azure 2. Migration of Microsoft SQL databases to Azure (can include Arc-enabled SQL Managed Instance (MI)* OR Migration of MySQL, OR PostgreSQL, OR Maria DB OR Mongo DB database to Azure * <p><i>*Notes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azure includes Microsoft datacenters, Arc enabled Azure on-prem or Arc enabled multi-cloud. • Oracle migration to PostgreSQL, CosmoDB or Azure SQL will qualify in scenario two (2). <p>Required Evidence: The partner must provide evidence and examples for both of the above scenarios, across a minimum of two (2) unique customer projects. The partner may also demonstrate the required two (2) scenarios using more than two (2) customer projects, as long as they demonstrate the evidence.</p> <p>These projects must have been completed within the past twelve (12) months. Assessments may be done manually or through an industry-accepted assessment tool.</p> <p>Accepted Documentation includes output from Assessment Tools such as: Azure Migrate, Move, similar Third-party Tooling Reports, OR Assessment Checklists, OR completed Questionnaires, OR Templates, OR Project Plans.</p> <p>Any of this documentation can be utilized as long as it provides evidence for the control.</p>

	2.0 Design
	The partner has robust methodologies for designing the workload.
	Requirements
2.1	<p>Solution Design including Azure Landing Zone</p> <p>The partner must provide relevant solution design documents that show a consistent approach to addressing customer requirements that captured in the Assessment phase.</p> <p>The partner must provide two (2) unique customer examples for each of the two (2) scenarios below. Both scenarios 1 and scenario 2 are required.</p> <p>The partner will choose <i>within the scenarios below</i>, for example in #1, Migration of Infra Windows Server OR Migration of Linux base applications to meet scenario 1. The same logic applied for scenario 2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Migration of Infra (Windows Server) to Azure OR Migration of Linux-based applications to Azure 2. Migration of Microsoft SQL databases to Azure (can include Arc-enabled SQL Managed Instance (MI)* OR Migration of MySQL, OR PostgreSQL, OR MariaDB OR MongoDB database to Azure * <p><i>*Notes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azure includes Microsoft datacenters, Arc enabled Azure on-prem or Arc enabled multi-cloud. • Oracle migration to PostgreSQL, Cosmos DB or Azure SQL will qualify in scenario two (2). <p>The solution design must show <u>all</u> of the following in evidence for each scenario:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A migration design or strategy that outlines which applications, databases, or database auxiliary components (reporting service, integration service) are in scope for the migration. • An outline of the migration method (rehost, refactor, or replatform) to be used for the application, database, database auxiliary components, and so on. It should show how the design addresses the workload dependencies that were demonstrated in the assessment, with appropriate mitigations. • The migration risk assessment and risk mitigation. • The high-level migration sequence and estimated time to finish the migration. The validation of the successful migration completion.

2.1

Azure landing zone (ALZ): The environment that supports the referenced customer deployments should address each of the design areas below required below. If an item is not relevant, the partner must document the customer's decision to deviate from applying best practices.

ALZ evidence examples include:

- Implementation of Identity & Access Management (IAM) and role-based access control (RBAC), data sovereignty and encryption, application security, and auditing.
- Establishing a hub and spoke architecture or retrofitting the existing deployment to separate out the network components of a hub for optimal performance and security.
- Showing resource and perimeter security, such as bastion hosts, network security groups and/or Azure Firewall, and/or virtual security and routing appliances with appropriate monitoring.
- Using security products, such as Azure security services, Microsoft 365 security, Microsoft Defender for Cloud, or other security solutions, to secure access to the data.
- Using governance tooling to support cost optimization across the environment. After estimating the initial cost, setting budgets and alerts at different scopes to proactively monitor the cost.
- Using backup and recovery solutions to ensure data retention.
- Meeting requirements for government regulatory compliance in the new environment, such as GDPR and HIPAA, and implementing them through multiple datacenter regions, as needed.
- Implementing a monitoring solution to provide proactive remediation for the Azure environment, to integrate with the customer's existing monitoring tooling, if appropriate.
- Showing that visualization and alerting considerations for solutions are in place, where appropriate.

Required Evidence: The partner must provide evidence and examples **for both** of the above scenarios, across a minimum of **two (2)** unique customer projects. The partner may demonstrate the required **two (2)** scenarios using more than **two (2)** unique customer projects as long as the control is demonstrated.

These projects must have been completed within the past **twelve (12)** months.

Both scenario 1 and scenario 2 are required. The partner chooses within the scenario, for example: Migration of Infra Windows Server **OR** Linux base applications, to meet scenario 1.

	<p>Accepted Documentation: Project Plan, OR Functional Specifications OR, Solution Design Document OR, Architectural Diagrams, OR Automated Tooling Reports, OR Physical and Logical diagrams.</p> <p>The partner can use any or all of the accepted documentation as long as the required control is demonstrated.</p>
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2.2	<p>Azure Well-Architected Review of Workloads The partner must demonstrate usage of the Azure Well-Architected Review on migrated applications. The Azure Well-Architected Review is designed to help partners evaluate your customers' workloads against the latest set of industry best practices. It provides actionable guidance to design and improve your customers' workloads.</p> <p>The Review is used to evaluate each workload against the pillars of the Azure Well-Architected Framework that matter to the partner projects. Unless otherwise specified, Reviews may be conducted before, during, or after deployment.</p> <p>Required Evidence: The partner must provide exported results for a minimum of two (2) of the pillars in a completed Well – Architected Review, across a minimum of two (2) unique customer projects, totaling four (4) pillar exports. These projects must have been completed within the past twelve (12) months</p> <p>Accepted Documentation: Two (2) outputs from the Pillar assessments for each customer project example.</p>
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3.0 Deployment

The partner has robust methodologies for deploying the workload.

Requirement

3.1 Infrastructure Migration Deployment

The partner must provide evidence of their ability to migrate infrastructure to a production environment, based on customer approved designs, from **one (1)** of the following **two (2)** Azure Infrastructure scenarios below.

- The partner chooses **one (1)** scenario to demonstrate, either 1 or 2.
 1. Move the application from an on-premises Windows/Linux Server to Azure infrastructure as a service (IaaS). (*)
 2. Move the application that is running on Windows Server/Linux from another public cloud platform to Azure IaaS. (*)

**Note: Azure includes Microsoft datacenters, Arc enabled Azure on-prem or Arc enabled multi-cloud. For Azure Arc information see [Azure Arc as a landing zone accelerator](#).*

Required Evidence: The projects shown for this control must be the same as **Scenario 1** in Control 2.1. Migration of Infra (Windows Server) to Azure **OR** Migration of Linux-based applications to Azure. The partner must provide **two (2)** unique customer project examples in evidence of their ability to implement an infrastructure migration to a production environment, based on customer-approved designs, using **one (1)** of the above migration scenarios, 1 **OR** 2.

The documentation for each single scenario must include at minimum **two (2)** of the evidence items below to demonstrate the control. This will provide at minimum, a total of **four (4)** artifacts.

Accepted Documentation:

- Signed Statements of Work (SOWs) for relevant projects or
- Solution Design Documents for all projects or
- The Project Plan and Migration and Deployment sequence or
- Architecture Diagrams or
- High-level Designs (HLDs) and Low-level Designs (LLDs) or
- As-built Documentation or
- Customer sign off and acceptance documentation for any of the above, or
- Migration tool outputs logs or screenshots

Database Migrations

The partner must provide evidence of their ability to migrate databases to Azure with customer approved designs, choosing **one (1)** option for deployment from either of the two scenario lists below, to demonstrate a total of **two (2) unique customer** database deployments in each scenario selected.

The partner chooses either option 1 Migrations to Azure SQL **OR** option 2 Migrations to Azure Open-Source Databases and Cosmos DB. The partner must provide a minimum of **two (2)** evidence examples for each scenario, but more can be provided. These projects must have been completed within the past **twelve (12)** months.

Scenario 1: Migrations to AZURE SQL

- Rehosting from SQL Server on-premises or from another public cloud to SQL IaaS on Azure.
- Replatforming from SQL Server on-premises or from another public cloud to SQL platform as a service (PaaS) on Azure (SQL Database or SQL Managed Instance, or Azure Arc). *
- Replatform from Oracle to Azure SQL IaaS or PaaS.

**Note: Azure includes Microsoft datacenters, Arc enabled Azure on-prem or Arc enabled multi-cloud.*

Scenario 2: Migrations to Azure Open-Source Databases and Cosmos DB

- Replatform Oracle to Azure Database for PostgreSQL
- Replatform or rehost PostgreSQL to Azure Database for PostgreSQL*
- Replatform or rehost MariaDB to Azure SQL Database for MariaDB
- Replatform or rehost MySQL to Azure SQL Database for MySQL
- Replatform or rehost Cassandra to Azure CosmosDB or Azure Managed Instance for Apache Cassandra
- Replatform or rehost MongoDB to Azure CosmosDB

**Note: Azure includes Microsoft datacenters, Arc enabled Azure on-prem or Arc enabled multi-cloud.*

Required Evidence:

The projects shown for this control must be the same as **Scenario 2** in Control 2.1, Design-Migration of Microsoft SQL Databases to Azure. The partner must provide evidence of their ability to migrate databases to Azure with customer-approved designs. The partner will choose **one (1)** of the above options for deployment in each scenario, either scenario 1 **OR** scenario 2, to demonstrate.

The **two (2)** required scenarios may be demonstrated using the same customer. The partner may also demonstrate the required **two (2)** scenarios using more than **two (2)** unique customer projects, as long as the control is demonstrated.

	<p>The documentation for each single scenario must include at least two (2) of the following items, it may include more:</p> <p>Accepted Documentation: Partner may include as many as required to demonstrate the control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Signed Statements of Work (SOWs) for applicable projects or ○ Solution Design Documents for all projects or ○ The Project Plan with the Migration and Deployment sequence or ○ Architecture Diagrams or ○ High-level Designs (HLDs) and Low-level Designs (LLDs) or ○ As built documentation or ○ Customer sign off or acceptance documentation of any of the above, except the SOW or ○ Migration tool outputs logs or screenshots
3.3	<p>Migration Tools</p> <p>The partner must demonstrate the specific products, tools, or scripts that were used for the assessment and migration of customer workloads. The partner must demonstrate the customer accepted the migration approach by showing customer confirmation from two (2) unique customer projects. These projects must have been completed within the past twelve (12) months</p> <p>Required Evidence:</p> <p>Partners must provide documentation and prove customer migration tool experience with at least one (1) of the following options, through a demonstration of tools, using a choice of option A, B, or C:</p> <p>A. Partner to show experience using native Azure migration tools by providing a step-by-step demonstration that they can effectively use at least four (4) of the following tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azure Migrate Server Assessment for VMware and Hyper-V • Azure SQL Migration Assistant for Azure Studio • SQL Server Migration Assistant (SSMA) • Azure Migrate Server Migration VMware and Hyper-V (use of Azure Site Recovery is also accepted) • Azure Database Migration Service • Storage Migration Service

3.3	<p>B. Show experience with third-party tools that integrate with Azure Migrate by demonstrating a customer project where assessment data is available from Azure Migrate or available to them offline and they perform the migration by using third-party tooling.</p> <p>C. Show experience with all other third-party tools by referencing the tools used in a project plan for successfully migrating a customer to Azure, or by providing a spreadsheet with output from and snapshots of, results in an output file from the tools that they used.</p> <p>Tools may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CloudSphere • Carbonite • PlateSpin • CloudEndure • River Meadow • Cloudamize • Zerto • StratoZone <p>Accepted Documentation includes evidence demonstrating the A, B or C control. The partner must demonstrate the customer accepted the migration approach by showing customer sign off confirmation from two (2) unique customer projects. Partner to provide the specific products, tools, and/or scripts that were used for the migration for each of two (2) unique customer projects. Partner to also provide customer sign off evidence in an email.</p>
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3.4	<p>Automated Deployment and Provisioning Tools</p> <p>The partner must demonstrate specific products, tools, or scripts that they used for automated provisioning and deprovisioning of infrastructure and database migrations, including tools for continuous integration and continuous delivery (CI/CD).</p> <p>Required Evidence:</p> <p>Include Demonstrations of Products, Tools, or Scripts used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automated deployment, including creation of workload deployment templates. • Cloud service provisioning and deprovisioning, including viewing of service template, packages, or runbooks that were used in the deployment of customers' Azure environments. • Automation of routine operations, or automated scale-out documentation. <p>Accepted Documentation: The partner must provide the demonstrated products, tools, and scripts, across a minimum of two (2) unique customer projects, for deployment and provisioning examples, to demonstrate this control. These must be completed within the past twelve (12) months.</p>
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Checklist continues next page

4.0 Review and Release for Operations

The partner has robust methodologies for transitioning the workload.

Requirement

4.1

Service Validation and Testing

The partner must validate the deployment, including:

- Their documented process and approach to testing and evaluating the performance of all applications against customers' expectations and Azure best practices.
- Their documented process and approach to evaluating and improving architectural best practices to remediate issues with migrated platforms or workloads that do not meet performance or cost expectations.

The partner must demonstrate validated deployment for **both** of the scenarios below, choosing **one (1)** option inside each scenario:

1. Migration of Infra (Windows Server) to Azure **OR** Migration of Linux-based applications to Azure
2. Migration of Microsoft SQL databases to Azure (can include Arc-enabled SQL Managed Instance (MI))* **OR** Migration of MySQL, PostgreSQL, MariaDB **OR** MongoDB database to Azure *

Notes:

* Azure includes Microsoft datacenters, Arc enabled Azure on-prem or Arc enabled multi-cloud.

* Oracle migration to PostgreSQL, Cosmo DB or Azure SQL will qualify in scenario two (2).

Required Evidence:

The partner must include evidence for service validation and testing scenarios, including validation and performance evaluation. The partner must provide evidence and examples **for both** of the above scenarios, across a minimum of **two (2)** unique customer projects. The **two (2)** required scenarios must be demonstrated using the same customers shown in control point

2.1. The partner may also demonstrate the required **two (2)** scenarios using more than **two (2)** unique customer projects as long as the evidence is demonstrated.

These projects must have been completed within the past **twelve (12)** months.

Accepted Documentation: The documentation must demonstrate that the implemented service validation and testing for the migrated workloads met each customer expectations, and it must include a sign-off for each customer. Sign offs include an email, or a signed testing sequence accepted document from the customer.

4.2	<p>Post-deployment Documentation</p> <p>The partner must provide post-deployment operational <u>documentation</u> to show that their customers are successfully using the new service on Azure. It must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of how the partner’s documents, decisions, architectural designs, and procedures were implemented <u>for each</u> of the chosen deployment scenarios below, utilizing one option inside each scenario. • Demonstration of standard operating procedures for the business-as- usual operations team that describe “how to” scenarios <u>for each</u> of the chosen deployment scenarios below, utilizing one option inside each scenario. Both scenarios are required. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Migration of Infra (Windows Server) to Azure OR Migration of Linux-based applications to Azure 2. Migration of Microsoft SQL to Azure (including Arc-enabled SQL MI) *OR Migration of MySQL, PostgreSQL, MariaDB OR MongoDB database to Azure* <p><i>*Oracle migration to PostgreSQL, Cosmo DB or Azure SQL will qualify in scenario 2.</i> <i>*Azure includes Microsoft datacenters, Arc enabled Azure on-prem or Arc enabled multi-cloud.</i></p> <p>Required Evidence:</p> <p>The partner must provide evidence and examples <u>for both</u> of the above scenarios, across a minimum of two (2) unique customer projects. The two (2) required scenarios <u>must be demonstrated using the same customer as in control point 2.1</u>. The partner may also demonstrate the required two (2) scenarios using more than two (2) unique customer projects as long as the control is demonstrated.</p> <p>These projects must have been completed within the past twelve (12) months.</p> <p>Accepted Documentation: The documentation must be provided for each customer. The documentation must indicate that the overall project objectives were met, including customer expectations. It must demonstrate that the implemented migration met each customer expectations, and it must include <u>a sign-off for each customer</u>. Sign offs include an email, or a signed acceptance document from the customer.</p>
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End of Module B Audit Checklist

Azure Specializations Partner FAQ

Questions regarding the Azure Partner program specializations, the current checklists and pre- qualifications for partners can usually be answered by visiting [Microsoft Azure Partner Specializations](#)

Questions on the audit checklists and program can be sent to the Azure Partner Specializations help alias.
<<mailto:AzureAS@microsoft.com>>

If you have questions that have not been answered, please go to [Partner Center support](#) to create a ticket with our Frontline team.