



Migration-focused cost control mechanisms

04/09/2019 • 8 minutes to read • Contributors  

In this article

- [Cost calculators](#)
- [Azure Migrate calculations](#)
- [Additional resources](#)

The cloud introduces a few shifts in how we work, regardless of our role on the technology team. Cost is a great example of this shift. In the past, only finance and IT leadership were concerned with the cost of IT assets (infrastructure, apps, and data). The cloud empowers every member of IT to make and act on decisions that better support the end user. However, with that power comes the responsibility to be cost conscious when making those decisions.

This article introduces the tools that can help make wise cost decisions before, during, and after a migration to Azure.

The tools in this article include:

- Azure Migrate
- Azure pricing calculator
- Azure TCO calculator
- Azure Cost Management by Cloudyn
- Azure Advisor

The processes described in this article may also require a partnership with IT managers, finance, or line-of-business application owners. For guidance on partnering with these roles, see the Cloud Adoption Framework article on establishing a cost-conscious organization (coming in Q3 2019).

Estimate VM costs prior to migration	Estimate and optimize VM costs during and after migration	Tips and tricks to optimize costs
--------------------------------------	---	-----------------------------------

Prior to migration of any asset (infrastructure, app, or data), there is an opportunity to estimate costs and refine sizing based on observed performance criteria for those assets. Estimating costs serves two purposes: it allows for cost control, and it provides a checkpoint to ensure that current budgets account for necessary performance requirements.

Cost calculators

For manual cost calculations, there are two handy calculators which can provide a quick cost estimate based on the architecture of the workload to be migrated.

- The Azure [pricing calculator](#) provides cost estimates based on manually entered Azure products.
- Sometimes decisions require a comparison of the future cloud costs and the current on-premises costs. The [Total Cost of Ownership \(TCO\) calculator](#) can provide such a comparison.

These manual cost calculators can be used on their own to forecast potential spend and savings. They can also be used in conjunction with Azure Migrate's cost forecasting tools to adjust the cost expectations to fit alternative architectures or performance constraints.

Azure Migrate calculations

Prerequisites: The remainder of this tab assumes the reader has already populated Azure Migrate with a collection of assets (infrastructure, apps, and data) to be migrated. The prior article on assessments provides instructions on collecting the initial data. Once the data is populated, follow the next few steps to estimate monthly costs based on the data collected.

Warning

The next version of Azure Migrate is available in a public preview. The features of that new version will be updated in this article when released. These instructions are currently based on the generally available version of Azure Migrate.

Azure Migrate calculates **monthly cost estimates** based on data captured by the collector and service map. The following steps will load the cost estimates:

1. Navigate to the Azure Migrate Assessment blade in the portal.
2. In the project **Overview** page, select **+Create assessment**.
3. Click **View all** to review the assessment properties.
4. Create the group, and specify a group name.
5. Select the machines that you want to add to the group.
6. Click **Create Assessment**, to create the group and the assessment.
7. After the assessment is created, view it in Overview > Dashboard.
8. In the Assessment Details section of the blade navigation, select **Cost details**.

The resulting estimate, pictured below, identifies the monthly costs of compute and storage, which often represent the largest portion of cloud costs.

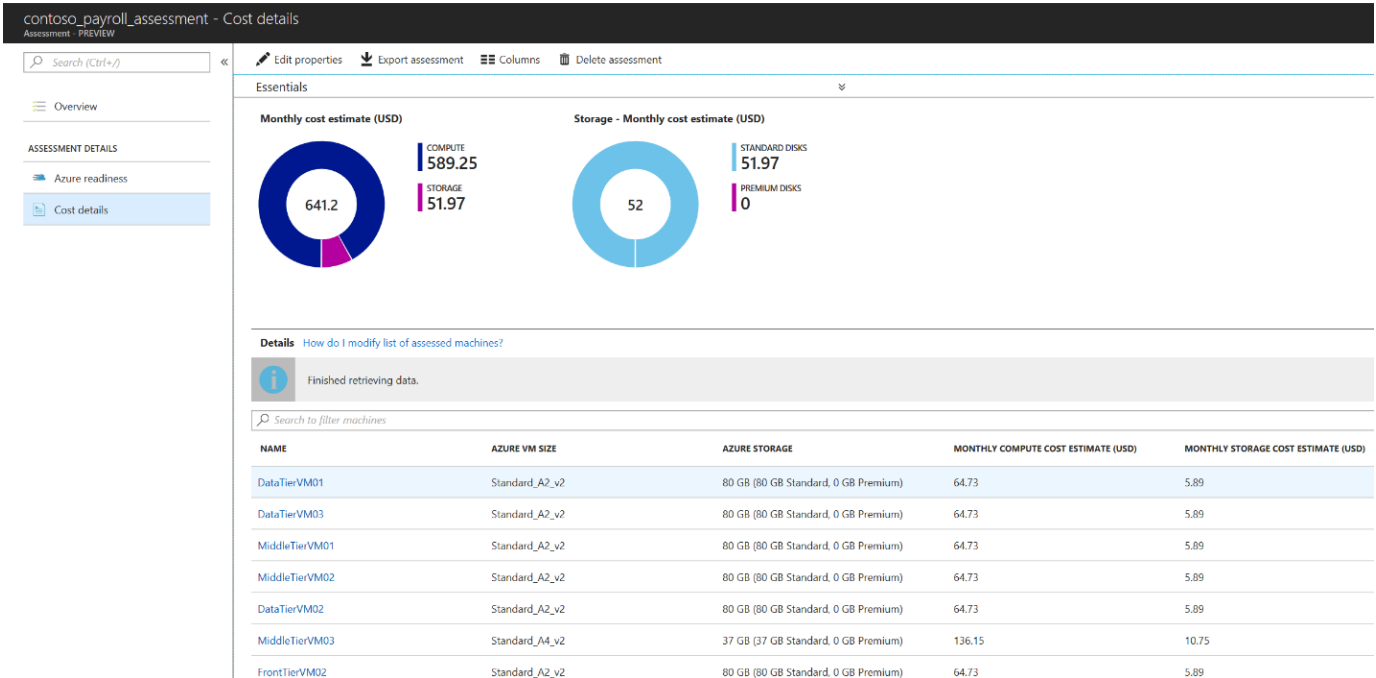


Figure 1. Image of the Cost Details view of an assessment in Azure Migrate

Additional resources

- [Creating and viewing assessments with Azure Migrate](#)
- For a more comprehensive plan on cost management across larger numbers of assets (infrastructure, apps, and data), see the [Cloud Adoption Framework governance model](#). In particular, guidance on the [Cost Management discipline](#) and the [Cost Management evolution in the large enterprise guide](#).

