

# STAY IN CONTROL OF YOUR CLOUD JOURNEY

**AZURE GOVERNANCE BY CTGLOBAL**

**CTGLOBAL AZURE GOVERNANCE™**

# **CONTENTS**

<b>Governance – the principles for good cloud</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Supporting the core business</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Building the house while living in it</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Why ask for help?</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>The good news is, you're not alone</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Risks if you Do It Yourself</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Oops! The classic DIY scenario</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>How do you fix it?</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>The five disciplines</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>What kind of help do you need?</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>CTGlobal's Azure Governance process &amp; model</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>What is your next step?</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>17</b>

# GOVERNANCE – THE PRINCIPLES FOR GOOD CLOUD

Cloud. You know you need get there. How, is a different matter. If you are reading this, you are probably so far along in your preparations, that you know there are no manuals out there for how to prepare and implement a good cloud journey.

In this e-book, we will introduce you to the basic steps of good Azure Governance. By “governance” we mean “the principles for good cloud”. We share our insights on how to future-proof your Azure project, enabling you to stay in control of cost and security as your cloud journey unfolds.

This is not a step-by-step route planner for cloud migration, because every organization requires a customized approach — rather, it’s a zoomed-out view of the cloud landscape, highlighting the traffic jams and ravines in the general direction you are heading in.

Once you’ve read through these pages, we hope you are left with two basic feelings: That we understand where you are coming from; and that we are able to help you get to where you need to be.

If your organization is ready to journey to the clouds, and your infrastructure is based on Microsoft solutions, we are here to guide you.

***“If you do not manage Azure correctly when you move your organization to the cloud, you will be leaving your data center wide open. It’s like building a house without walls and a roof: Anyone can just walk right in and do what they want, and when you turn the heating on, your electric bill is going to sky-rocket.”***

Andreas Sobczyk, Azure MVP  
and CTGlobal Senior Consultant

# SUPPORTING THE CORE BUSINESS

The purpose of implementing cloud is — should be — to support your core business. All the amazing pay-offs from moving to cloud — the automation, the control, the security, the financial pay-off and the connectivity — have obvious value to any organization.

Cloud is not just the 'next new shiny thing'. It's a revolution in infrastructure management that can dramatically improve your organization's performance at all levels, and you can't afford to be left behind. It's about a whole new world of opportunity — an infrastructure paradigm shift. That can seem daunting — change often is — but if you embrace it you are looking at virtually endless potential.

With a cloud infrastructure your business can do things you never thought possible.

***"It's not enough to think 'cloud first.' To derive significant competitive advantage from cloud, you need to think how you can leverage it to enable digital transformation, change how you do business, and disrupt your market."***

Verizon Enterprise Cloud Report

# **BUILDING THE HOUSE WHILE LIVING IN IT**

The trouble with implementing cloud is that the migration process itself can quite easily disrupt the very business it is meant to support:

- First of all, because the migration needs to take place while your organization is fully operational — few businesses can shut down their production line, for example, without suffering serious losses.
- And secondly: If you get your cloud journey wrong, you are looking at a nightmare scenario of software costs and security spinning out of control, long after you have migrated.

Moving to cloud is not just about fixing the specific issues in on-prem. To fully realize the potential of cloud, you must rethink how your organization uses IT. An important part of the journey to cloud is to identify your bad habits from the on-prem world, and ditch them.

**69% of IT leaders have used cloud to reengineer business process, according to the Verizon Enterprise Cloud Report.**

# WHY ASK FOR HELP?

Before you can reap the benefits of cloud, you have to find out how to get there. Very few people have those answers when it comes to migration to the cloud because it's a new game, and there are numerous pitfalls.

9 in 10 of companies who attempt cloud migration relying on their in-house IT competencies, fail. They start off down the wrong road, and have to turn around and start over, because they realize they have no control over cost and security.

The organization ends up paying a fortune in software costs, because it loses control of automation and access. And facing critical security issues, because it loses control over privileges, roles and protocols.

It's quite terrifying, when the invoices from Microsoft are just piling up for no apparent reason, and you have no any idea how exposed you are to the latest critical vulnerability.

***“We began our cloud project and approached it just like we would any other IT project. That was a mistake. After a few months we realized we were losing control, and that our software costs were escalating dramatically – the invoices just started piling up.”***

Jan Børresen, Chief of IT Operations, FDM (Federation of Danish Motorists)

# THE GOOD NEWS IS, YOU'RE NOT ALONE

Most organizations are not successful in their migration efforts. Not because the internal IT team isn't smart enough, but because, unless you breathe and drink cloud migration every day of your professional life, you have no chance of predicting and planning for all of the circumstances, events, set-backs and issues that will inevitably occur in a project of such complexity and scale.

Cloud is new, constantly evolving and ever-changing, and no one has written the 'one-size-fits-all book' on how to do it.

If you were about to build a house or a car for the very first time, you would call in experts and ask for their guidance. And when you build that house or car you carefully consider who to ask. If you're building a brick house you would ask a bricklayer and not a carpenter for advice, right?

The right people to ask for help in the case of your Azure cloud migration — your 'bricklayers' — are solution experts who are able to present and execute a viable Azure Governance project from start to finish, based on Microsoft policies.

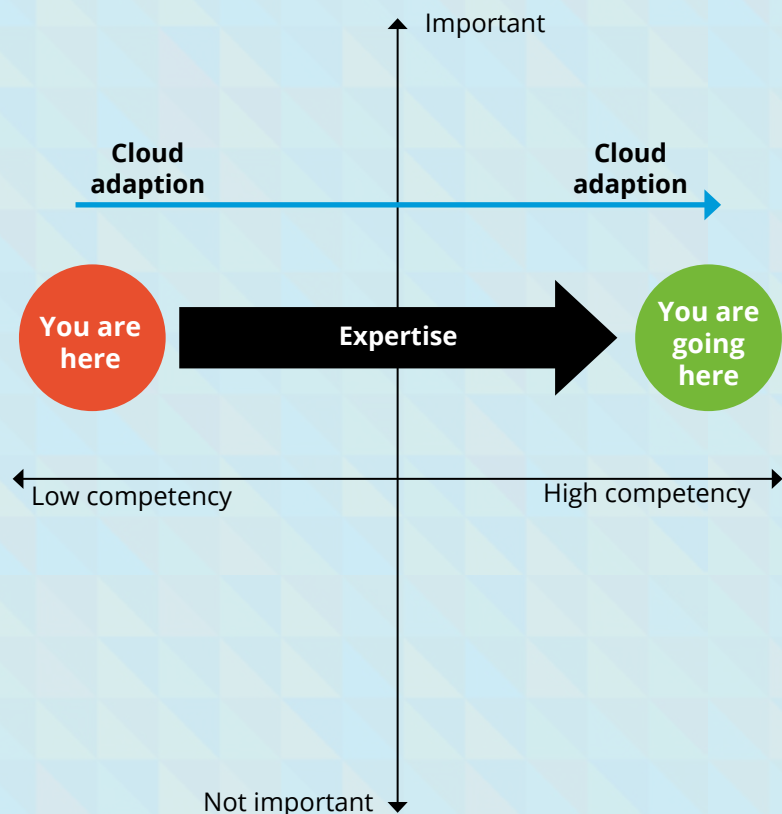
***“Many key constructs within Azure — such as accounts, enrollments, auditing and even networking — are interrelated in unobvious ways, which can make management challenging as adoption scales.”***

Douglas Toombs, Analyst,  
Gartner

# RISKS IF YOU DO IT YOURSELF

If your organization is anything like most, a simple risk assessment of your cloud migration readiness will look something like this:

- Cloud migration is very important to your business.
- You do not have the in-house competencies to plan and execute the journey.
- To obtain the very specific skillset your organization needs to succeed with the migration, you will need to bring in external solution experts.
- If you have the blueprints and a good plan, you can get off to the right start and control cost and security during and after migration. The right start will enable you to stay on track and in control of the construction phase, and it will result in minimal maintenance requirements and maximal infrastructure agility in the long run.



### Risks if you Do It Yourself without in-house skills:

- Software costs out of control
- Security risks not known/handled
- Compliance state unknown
- Huge resources required for maintenance after migration
- Only marginally added business value

### Benefits if you get help:

- Control of software costs
- Tight security and compliance during and after migration
- Minimal resources required for maintenance after migration
- High level of business automation
- Augmented business agility and connectivity



# OOPS! THE CLASSIC DIY SCENARIO

You are in the process of migrating to the cloud, and suddenly IT costs are exploding. Microsoft are sending invoices left, right and center, and hazard lights are blinking everywhere in your budgets.

You are also getting drowned in angry emails from your IT security team, because suddenly the infrastructure is as riddled with security flaws as a good, Swiss cheese is with holes.

What happened is this: You started your Azure project without clearly mapping how the cloud journey affects your current infrastructure step by step. You also did not clearly identify how the Azure project would impact your corporation's processes, risk profile, policies and state of compliance.

Because you did not have a full overview of the impact the various stages of the project would have on all aspects of the business, you have taken a wrong turn at the very beginning.

To paraphrase: You are building a wooden shed in the garden, when you should be digging out a basement under the house. Now you have to go back to the DIY-shop and get all new materials and tools, get new permissions from the council, and tell your wife you won't be ready by Christmas as promised...

That's expensive, frustrating and a waste of time and money.

***“Organizations that do not have a high-level cloud computing strategy driven by their business strategy will significantly increase their risk of failure and wasted investment.”***

David W. Cearley, Vice President  
& Gartner Fellow, Gartner

# THE TOP CHALLENGES FOR ENTERPRISES: MANAGING CLOUD SPEND AND CLOUD GOVERNANCE

- Cloud cost management and cloud governance are top challenges regardless of cloud maturity.
- Among enterprises, optimizing cloud costs (84 percent in 2019 vs. 80 percent in 2018) and cloud governance (84 percent in 2019 vs. 77 percent in 2018) are growing challenges.
- Managing software licenses that are running in public cloud environments is also becoming a top-of-mind issue. Key challenges are understanding the cost implications of licensed software running in the cloud (52 percent), the complexity of license rules in public cloud (42 percent), and ensuring that they are following the rules (41 percent).

Flexera Software: 2019 State of the Cloud Report.

# HOW DO YOU FIX IT?

It is crucial to define a governance strategy from the start of your cloud journey, because without the correct governance model, Azure can be hard to manage. Many organizations start their cloud journey by allocating resources to deliver new services, but fail to consider how to secure and manage their new Azure data center.

In order to stay in control and stay compliant, it is critical to define a governance model from the onset.

To make sure you start your cloud journey off in the right direction, stay in control of the journey throughout and keep your environment secure during and after, there are a couple of things you can do:

## Corporate policies

Before you begin, you need a carefully thought-out plan based on defined corporate policies for:

### 1. Business risks

You will need to document evolving business risks and the business' tolerance for risk, based on data classification and application criticality.

### 2. Policy and Compliance

You then need to convert the risk decisions into policy statements, to establish cloud adoption boundaries.

### 3. Process

Once you have done that, you can establish processes to monitor violations and adherence to corporate policies.

When your policies are in place, you can begin your project planning.

*"Using cloud services is not enough. It's the way you use cloud services that matters. You have to optimize your applications for cloud computing with the explicit purpose of getting the most value at the lowest effective cost."*

Donna Scott, Vice President and Distinguished Analyst at Gartner

***“CTGlobal’s consultants stepped in and solved our cloud migration issues — their truly impressive expertise in all things Azure, their ability to adapt best practices to our specific infrastructure and to adjust the project to meet the requirements of our organization, meant that they were able to flip our cloud journey from a potential shipwreck to smooth sailing. We quickly gained complete control of our cost, and all the security issues that were emerging and developing were shut down, too.”***

Jan Børresen, Chief of IT Operations, FDM (Federation of Danish Motorists)

# THE FIVE DISCIPLINES

When you develop the project, these five cloud governance disciplines are absolutely essential to include in your plan:

## **1. Cost Management**

Cost management is essential to evaluate and monitor costs, limit IT spend, scale to meet needs and create cost accountability. Without cost management, you will lose control of your software spend both during and after migration.

## **2. Security Baseline**

Security is a high-risk area in cloud migration, and how to address it is unique to each company. You can unwittingly be leaving your data center wide open while you migrate and after. It is therefore critical to ensure compliance with IT security requirements by applying a security baseline to all adoption efforts.

## **3. Resource Consistency**

Cloud operations depend on consistent resource configuration. Through governance tooling, you are able to configure resources consistently to manage the risks related to onboarding, drift, discoverability and recovery.

## **4. Identity Baseline**

It is important to ensure that your baseline for identity and access is enforced by consistently applying role definitions and assignments, as inconsistencies in the application of identity requirements can increase the risk. The identity baseline discipline focuses on ensuring that identity is consistently applied across cloud adoption efforts.

## **5. Deployment Acceleration**

Accelerating deployment through centralization, consistency and standardization across deployment templates and configuration to improve governance practices. When provided through cloud-based tooling, they create a cloud factor that can accelerate deployment activities.

If you cover these disciplines diligently and intelligently, you are able to make the right decisions about the proper level of automation and enforcement of corporate policy across cloud platforms, and you have met the requirements for a successful cloud migration.

# WHAT KIND OF HELP DO YOU NEED?

As described by Gartner Analyst Douglas Toombs, “many key constructs within Azure — such as accounts, enrollments, auditing and even networking — are interrelated in unobvious ways, which can make management challenging as adoption scales.”

That’s why it’s a good idea to call in experts who have been there, done that, many times before.

When you get hold of experts in cloud migration they can help you assess your corporate policies and, based on them, make sure you cover all of the five cloud governance disciplines in your migration plan.

You will be more likely to succeed if you have qualified specialists on board, who can help you through all stages of analysis, design, documentation, implementation and validation, based on best practices.

When you are done, you will be able to manage, monitor and audit the use of your Azure resources, and meet the goals and requirements of your organization, while staying on budget.

***“Some organizations save money moving applications into the public cloud, others spend more money moving apps into the public cloud. The key to success is to drive cost transparency and accountability to the business.”***

David Mitchell Smith  
Vice President & Gartner  
Fellow, Gartner

**CTGLOBAL AZURE GOVERNANCE™**

# CTGLOBAL'S AZURE GOVERNANCE PROCESS AND MODEL

At CTGlobal, we have seen our share of cloud migration journeys, and we like to consider ourselves first-class when it comes to Azure. We have been doing Azure cloud migration for customers since before Azure really took off around 2014, and our five Microsoft Gold Partnerships count “Cloud Platform” and “Cloud Productivity”

## **What do you get?**

If you sign up for an Azure Governance project with us, we offer a full project with workshops, design, implementation and testing, to get you off to a good start, and to ensure a cost-effective, secure and efficient migration.

We help you define, assess and document your journey and deliver a fast and agile platform, based on your unique infrastructure, and our best practices and automated processes.

Azure provides a great variety of services and tools to help you stay in control of your Azure resource. We teach you how to stay on top of your Azure environment from the very beginning, using all of the Azure services to automate and monitor your platform (Azure Policy and Automation) and manage budgets and cost (Cost Management and Power BI).

We lift your Azure environment to a governed state, and ensure that you can enforce or audit external laws and regulations, as well as internal policies, and have control of your environment.

## **AZURE GOVERNANCE PROJECTS FROM CTGLOBAL**

An Azure Governance project from CTGlobal typically includes:

- Workshops on:
  - Governance
  - Identity and security
  - VM management
  - Networking and connectivity
  - Deployment and migration
- Collection of data from your organization/infrastructure
- Migration design
- Implementation
- Validation and testing
- Project hand-over

An Azure Governance project from CTGlobal takes approximately 16 days to complete.

**CTGLOBAL AZURE GOVERNANCE™**

# WHAT IS YOUR NEXT STEP?

**Get in touch with CTGlobal to find out if we can help you.**

Book a 30-minute call with our Azure Governance team at: [info@ctglobalservices.com](mailto:info@ctglobalservices.com)

In the call we will:

- Assess your requirements based on your organization's current state
- Recommend next steps for your cloud journey

## **About CTGlobal**

CTGlobal is an IT consultancy and development company focused on cloud, data center, security and enterprise client management. The corporate HQ is based in Denmark with offices in Norway, Estonia and The United States. The company was founded in 1999.

CTGlobal is Microsoft Gold Partner in Windows and Devices; Cloud Platform; Cloud Productivity; Datacenter; and Enterprise Mobility Management, and our experts speak and teach at leading international seminars and conferences.

CTGlobal helps enterprises maximize return on their investments in Microsoft Systems Management and cloud platform solutions, by visualizing threats to compliance, security and performance in their IT infrastructure, and prioritize tasks and resources accordingly. CTGlobal is renowned for expert solutions and recognized as leaders in the field of management technology and infrastructure visualization.

[www.ctglobalservices.com](http://www.ctglobalservices.com)



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