

Azure Cloud Assessment

The Azure Well-Architected Framework is a great resource to provide best practice recommendations and focus areas for your cloud estate. Building on this via Expert Thinking's broad experience in delivering platforms and solutions at scale provides an extra level of context specific to your business goals, real world knowledge and solution oriented recommendations.

Expert Thinking's 5 day cloud assessment is achieved via an in depth broad look at your cloud posture through workshops, technical analysis and our extensive industry experience of building cloud platforms at scale.

Well-Architected Review

The first step of our assessment is to analyse your current cloud environment against the 5 Azure Well-Architected Framework pillars. This will provide a baseline set of recommendations which we can further explore during technical discovery:

- Using tools like Azure Advisor and Azure Defender for Cloud, to benchmark current infrastructure against Microsoft best practices.
- Outputting a full Well-Architected Review report to supplement our deep dive with.
- Distilling recommendations down into a prioritised list aligned with your business goals.

Workshops

We will hold two stakeholder workshops during the assessment, along with any deeper subject matter expert conversations identified. Workshops are designed to dive deeper into your organisation usage of cloud, people, processes and goals. Workshops will uncover your core goals and pain points, to inform our prioritised and business aligned recommendations. We will cover:

- Drivers behind cloud usage, from overall architecture decisions or cost concerns through to your workloads and mission critical services.
- Build an in-depth understanding of current technology, understanding any on-premise infrastructure connectivity, how applications serve the organisation and what is on the roadmap.
- Team structures and embedded processes, to build an understanding of culture and capability. This will inform our prioritisation of findings.

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Expert Thinking Cloud Assessment

To provide a more holistic assessment, adding value beyond the outputs of the Azure Well-Architected Review, we apply our experience of building cloud data platforms at scale to dive deeper into your data capability. This assessment phase builds on our understanding of your business goals, pain points and draws on our deep expertise in architecting and delivering world-class cloud data solutions. We will cover:

- Risk categorisation across 9 cloud competency areas, including DevOps, FinOps, Security and Workloads.
- Aligning recommendations from the Well-Architected Review as well as our own technical discovery with your business, ensuring a priority list of achievable remediation.
- Indicative timelines and roadmap for any findings, tied back to risk criticality and best practices.
- Any tailored recommendations based on current projects, business aims and specific focus areas. For example, a mission critical application or regulatory compliance needs.

Outputs

The outputs of Expert Thinking's Cloud Assessment will be an assessment report, covering our understanding of your business goals and overall cloud posture. We will include the following:



A clear recommendation and implementation roadmap, detailing any steps your organisation needs to take to address key risks along with our maturity benchmark



Indicative estimates for remediation, with a roadmap covering the immediate term, medium term and longer term



Technical recommendations, including specific architecture recommendations or enhancements based on our wealth of experience building cloud platforms at scale



All Expert Thinking assessments follow with a customer success wrap up and proposal aligned to our recommendations, ensuring you have all the information needed to move forward successfully.