

## Azure Data Assessment

The Azure Well-Architected Framework through a data lens is a great resource to provide best practice recommendations and focus areas for your cloud data 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 data assessment is achieved via an in depth broad look at your data posture through workshops, technical analysis and our extensive industry experience of building cloud data 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, through a data lens. 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 data infrastructure against Microsoft best practices.
- Outputting a full Well-Architected Review report through a data lens 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 data capabilities, data sources and overall data posture. We will discuss people, processes and data goals. Workshops will uncover your core aims and pain points, to inform our prioritised and business aligned recommendations. We will cover:

- How data is used across your business, whether that is to drive internal change or to build customer relationships.
- Build an in-depth understanding of current data health, standards and governance, understanding any on-premise data sources and how they are consumed in Azure.
- Overall data architecture, responsibility model and how teams consume data within your organisation.

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## Expert Thinking Data 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 usage of cloud. 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 solutions. We will cover:

- Risk categorisation across key data competency areas, including business continuity/disaster recovery, data governance, data security and data sources.
- 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 set of prioritised recommendations, detailing any steps your organisation needs to take to address key risks along with our data maturity benchmark.



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



Technical recommendations, including specific data architecture recommendations or enhancements based on our wealth of experience building data 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.