

# HOW TO USE THE MICROSOFT CLOUD ADOPTION FRAMEWORK FOR AZURE





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# Overview

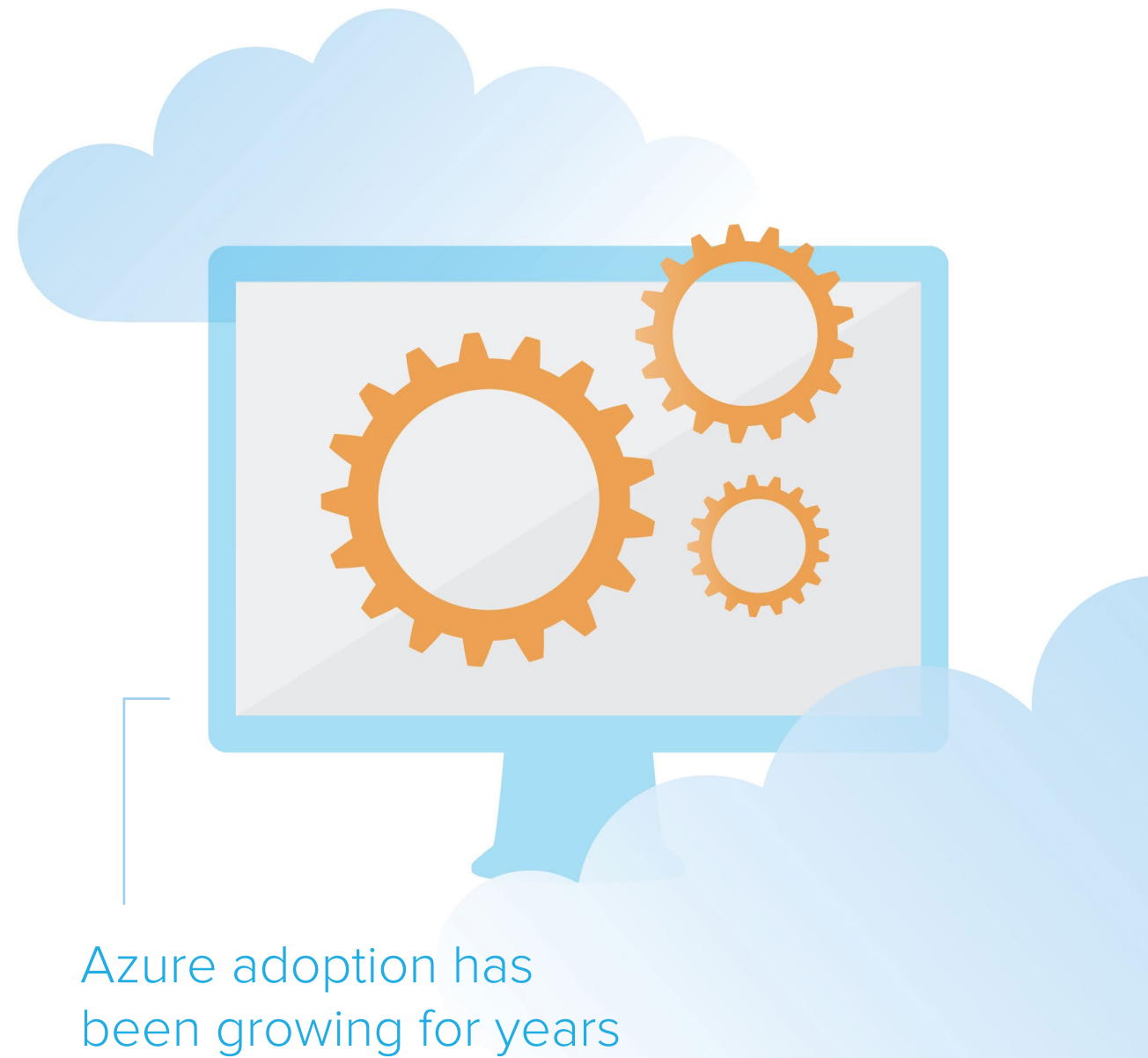
The Microsoft Cloud Adoption Framework for Azure offers structured guidance on the path toward digital transformation in the cloud. More specifically, it includes detailed documentation, collected best practices, and recommended tools for navigating every stage of the cloud journey, from formulating the initial business case for the Azure move, to ensuring proper ongoing management of the resulting environments.

These resources are particularly important given the obstacles organizations face when shifting from on-premises to cloud computing. Although Azure adoption has been growing for years – reaching 60% of global enterprises by 2019<sup>1</sup> – companies remain concerned about optimizing their spend, shoring up security, and ensuring proper governance. Those issues were the top three cited in an April 2020 survey of IT professionals.<sup>2</sup>

With an experienced partner like Hanu, you can systematically work through the Cloud Adoption Framework en route to superior performance and savings for your cloud workloads. Let's look at the main iterative phases of the framework.

1. [hostingtribunal.com/blog/cloud-adoption-statistics](https://hostingtribunal.com/blog/cloud-adoption-statistics)

2. [statista.com/statistics/511283/worldwide-survey-cloud-computing-risks](https://www.statista.com/statistics/511283/worldwide-survey-cloud-computing-risks)



Azure adoption has been growing for years – reaching 60% of global enterprises by 2019.

## PHASE 1:

# Recognizing Your Azure Strategy

What's driving your transition to Azure?

Many migrations begin as cost-saving projects, though the benefits they ultimately deliver often go much further than that. For example, Hanu helped Helios Photo Voltaic Limited move its SAP workloads to Azure, which not only reduced costs but also enabled better scalability as business operations evolved.



The Azure cloud framework's first stage is designed to help you determine the rationale of your cloud shift, what outcomes you're seeking, and whether any specific expertise or tools are required:

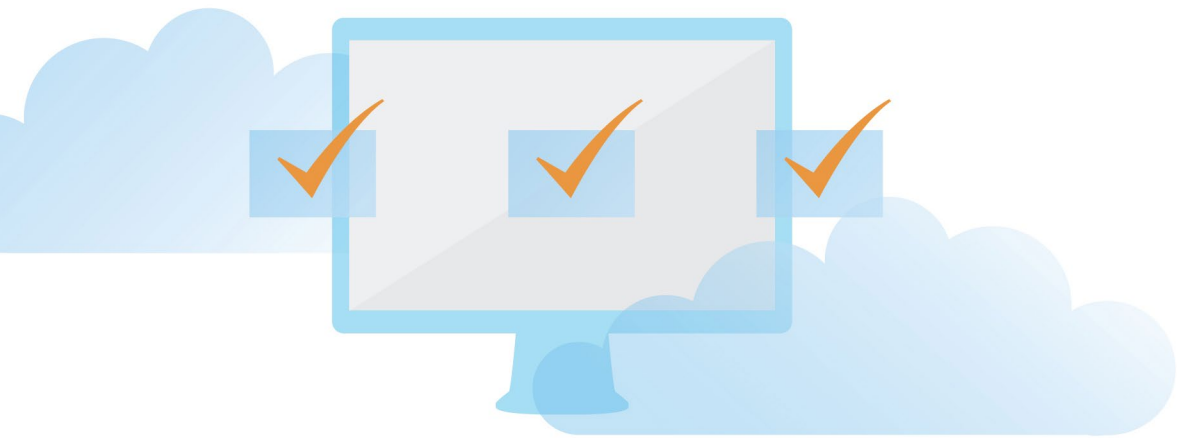
- ✓ **Identifying the motivation:** Possible catalysts for cloud migration include data center exits, CAPEX reductions, and upgrades to business continuity, among numerous others.
- ✓ **Determining the outcomes:** Are you ultimately seeking better agility, lower costs, improved performance, or some combination thereof?
- ✓ **Aligning your cloud partners:** A partner like Hanu can provide technical and strategic support to meet the specific needs outlined in your strategy.
- ✓ **Selecting the first project:** Look for a logical starting point, like an end-of-life product or a critical business event, for your cloud migration.

## PHASE 2:

# Designing a Plan for Azure Migration

The next stage involves zeroing-in on the granular details of the Azure migration.

Rationalizing your digital estate - i.e., inventorying its hardware and software assets – is integral here, as is the alignment of teams for cloud adoption and governance.



### RATIONALIZATION

What's the best way to migrate a given workload in Azure? Rationalization helps answer this question by providing insight into whether a workload:

- Is in active use, and if so, by which users.
- Has been properly sized and optimized.
- Has all of its dependencies accounted for.

This process determines if a workload is a good Azure candidate and whether it should be rehosted, refactored, rearchitected, or rebuilt. Hanu has guided customers like Campus Management through such assessments, helping them trim infrastructure costs and future-proof operations.

### TEAM ALIGNMENT

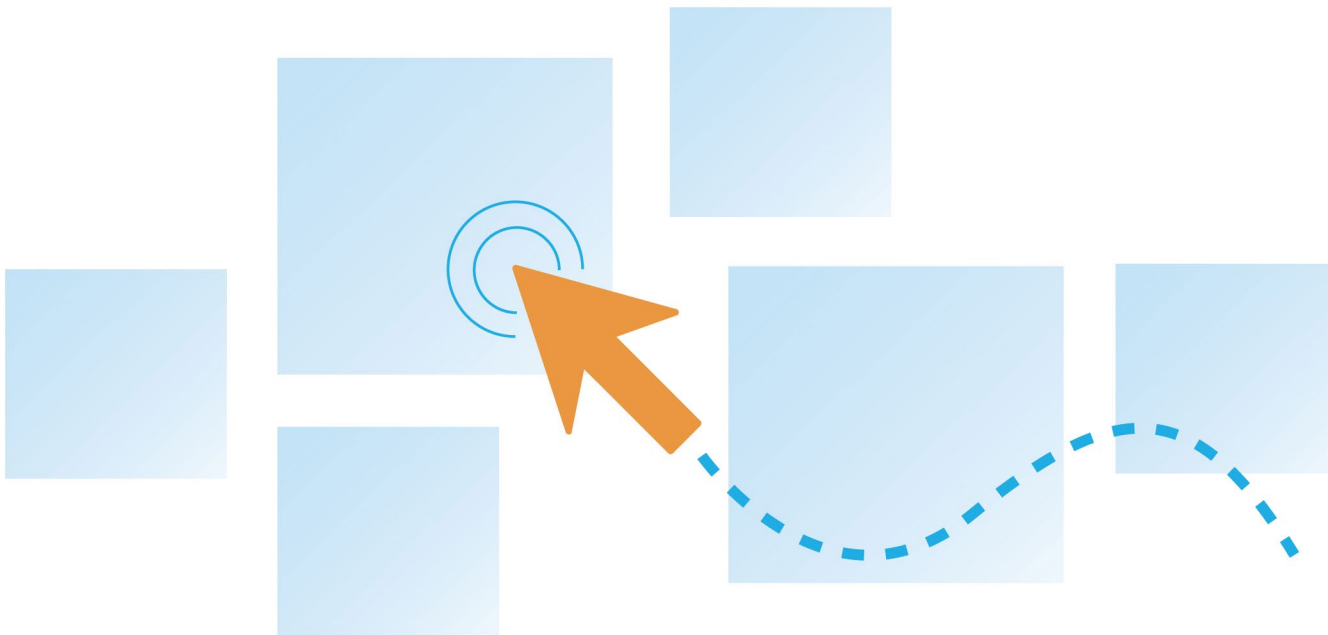
An Azure plan won't work unless its components are mapped to specific people.

Create cloud adoption and cloud governance teams, identify any relevant skills gaps, and use tools like Azure DevOps to edit and align your adoption plan.

## PHASE 3:

# Ready Your Environments for Azure

With a general strategy and a more detailed plan drawn up, the next step is to prepare your environments for Azure. Building an Azure landing zone for your workloads is the central step of this stage.



## WHAT IS AN AZURE LANDING ZONE?

A landing zone is a structured, managed environment for hosting Azure workloads. It can be precisely tailored to specific needs by focusing on various design areas for enterprise enrollment, identity, network topology and connectivity, and other domains.

Using an Azure landing zone, customers can perform basic tasks such as creating and enrolling tenants, enforcing identity and access management, and connecting their networks to the public cloud. Landing zones are also expandable through refactoring and the addition of specialized configurations, like ones for operations management.

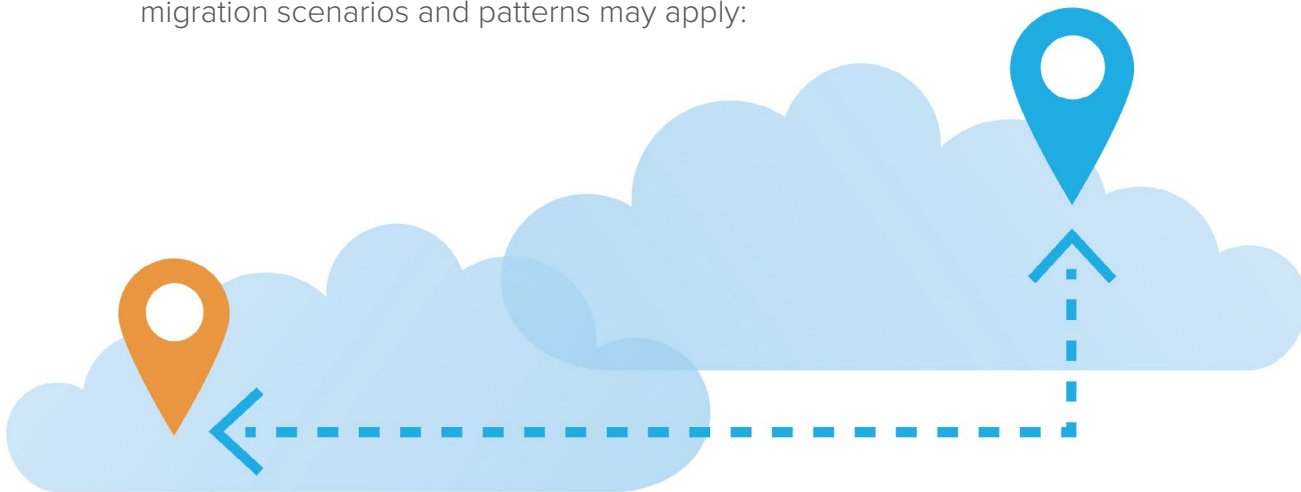
An Azure Expert MSP and Tier 1 Direct CSP like Hanu has the expertise to guide you through these modifications, as well as the validation process to maintain the consistency and uptime of your Azure environments.

## PHASE 4:

# Migrating Your Workloads and Applications

Now it's time to move into Azure. The shape of the migration will depend on what's being moved. Common candidates include Windows and SQL Server workloads, ASP.NET web apps, VDI, Linux databases, and SAP components.

Based on what you've identified for migration, multiple migration scenarios and patterns may apply:



**Rehosting:** AKA lift-and-shift, this scenario entails a workload being moved as-is to the cloud – a low-risk procedure, albeit one that doesn't harness Azure's full power.

**Refactoring:** Under this approach, an app is repackaged for Azure, e.g., small-scale changes are made to a database to use Azure SQL Managed Instances.

**Rearchitecting:** This route involves code-level changes, like breaking a monolithic app into microservices to support DevOps automation.

**Rebuilding:** Apps can be rebuilt from scratch using cloud-native services to target use cases such as IoT, AI/ML, and blockchain.

Hanu has experience moving workloads of all kinds, from SQL databases to SAP, and we will find a custom approach tailored to your particular requirements.

## PHASE 5:

# Innovating on Your Azure Deployment

You can use Azure's wide selection of APIs and services to modernize existing applications or create new cloud-native ones, all while being driven by quantitative (testing) and qualitative (customer) feedback.



## THE BUILD-MEASURE-LEARN FEEDBACK LOOP

The Cloud Adoption Framework outlines this three-stage feedback loop, which begins with building a hypothesis about a potential product, measuring its viability through testing and customer observations, and then continuously learning from those results.

By applying this methodology in tandem with services like Azure Functions and Azure Container Instances (ACI), teams can innovate many possible digital inventions within Azure, including:

- **Serverless Applications:** Event-driven, easy-to-manage applications can be built so that there's no need to worry about provisioning specific resources each time.
- **Container Instances:** Ensure elastic scalability for Kubernetes using ACI to run and manage all of your containers.
- **Bot-Driven Interfaces:** Reach customers more efficiently with integrated chatbots that leverage AI and machine learning.



## PHASE 6:

# Establishing Cloud Governance

Cloud governance provides the guardrails for a safer cloud journey. Within the Cloud Adoption Framework, there are five primary governance disciplines:



### 1. Security Baselineing:

Make sure that all cloud adoption initiatives meet IT security and compliance requirements.



### 2. Cost Management:

Monitor cloud spend and establish accountability for the creation, management, and decommissioning of workloads.



### 3. Resource Consistency:

Apply best practices to how resources are discovered and recovered, while ensuring consistent and proper configurations.



### 4. Identity Baselineing:

Define roles and responsibilities, along with guidelines for identity and access management across your Azure environment.



### 5. Deployment Acceleration:

Use templates for faster deployments that are also consistent, centralized, and secure.

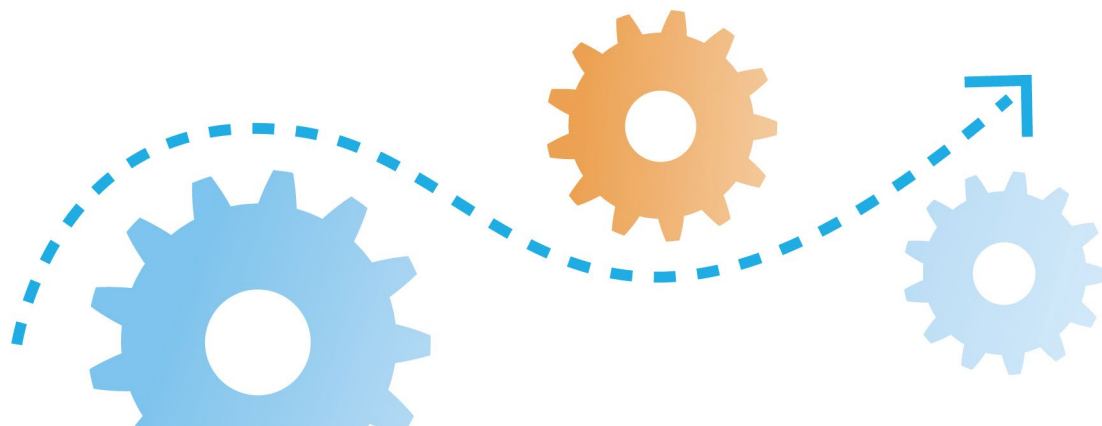
Together, these disciplines allow for the management of risks throughout the cloud adoption lifecycle. Potential problems related to costs, sensitive data, and business-critical apps can be mitigated with help from the Cloud Adoption Framework.

## PHASE 7:

# Establishing a Management Baseline

In Azure, a management baseline provides a common set of tools and practices for administering Azure assets. More specifically, a baseline enables better visibility into and control over individual assets, so that you can ensure their proper performance, compliance, configuration, and recovery.

The Cloud Adoption Framework prescribes three main disciplines for cloud management baselines: Inventory and Visibility, Operational Compliance, and Protect and Recover. For each of these disciplines, there are recommended sets of processes, tools, and purposes. Let's look at some examples.



### INVENTORY AND VISIBILITY

**Process:** Azure Subscription Monitoring

**Tool:** Azure Activity Log

**Purpose:** Precisely track subscription-level changes

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Across all of the phases, Hanu brings deep expertise to help you preserve business continuity, maintain visibility, and ensure correct Azure configurations.

## PHASE 8:

# Organizing Teams Around Cloud Functions

Sustaining your Azure cloud adoption requires maintaining organizational alignment around multiple cloud functions, ranging from automation to security. Each of these functions should have its own corresponding team. Teams should be capable of keeping the overall project moving forward by completing key tasks such as aligning different stakeholders and operations and implementing governance best practices.

Along the way, a responsible, accountable, consulted, and informed (RACI) matrix is helpful for defining what each cloud team will do. The governance team, for instance, might be accountable for governance and consulted on solution delivery within an RACI matrix.

The Cloud Adoption Framework includes examples of RACI matrices outlining what is expected of cloud adoption and central IT teams, as well as what is needed for a minimum viable product, strategic and operational alignment, and the creation of a cloud center of excellence. Enlisting a partner like Hanu can help you cover these important functions and tasks throughout the entire Azure adoption process.

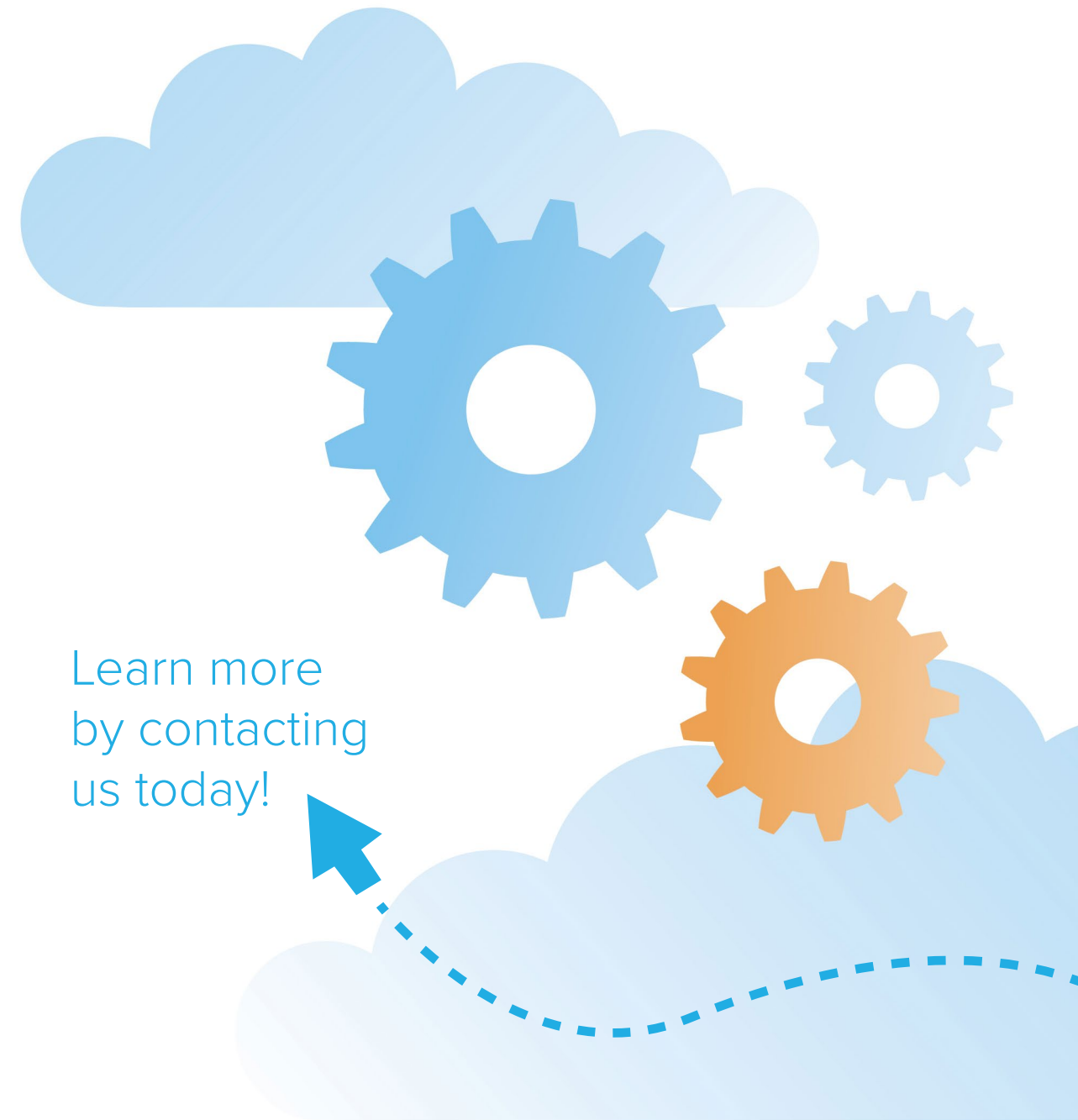


# How Hanu can Guide Your Through the Cloud Adoption Framework

We have only scratched the surface of the Microsoft Cloud Adoption Framework for Azure in this eBook. The framework includes many other pieces of guidance, best practices, and tools to steer you through the transition from an on-prem environment to Azure.

Indeed, the amount of information within the Cloud Adoption Framework can feel overwhelming – but it doesn't have to. Hanu has guided hundreds of customers along their Azure journeys, assisting them with a broad range of solutions for backup, disaster recovery, security, DevOps, and much more.

Our Cloud Clear methodology, starting with discovery and assessment and progressing toward ongoing innovation, will reduce your overall risk and CAPEX while giving you a straightforward pathway to superior scalability, flexibility, and business efficiency.



Learn more  
by contacting  
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