ProArch Azure Migration + Modernization (Secure by Design)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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How to Use This FAQ

This FAQ is written for customers evaluating or preparing for an Azure migration and modernization engagement. It describes typical scope, deliverables, and expectations. Final scope is always defined in the Statement of Work (SOW).

1) About the Offer

Q: What is "Azure Migration + Modernization (Secure by Design)"?

A: It is a combined assessment and implementation service to help you move workloads to Microsoft Azure with a clear plan, structured execution, and security integrated throughout delivery. The engagement may include migration, modernization, landing zone work, security hardening, and documentation for operations.

Q: What does "Secure by Design" mean in practical terms?

A: Security is treated as a core design and delivery requirement. We incorporate identity and access controls, governance guardrails, and cloud security configuration as part of the target architecture and/or implementation, rather than leaving these items as afterthoughts.

Q: Is this an assessment, an implementation, or both?

A: It can be delivered as assessment-only, implementation-only, or a combined engagement. Many customers start with an assessment (inventory, dependencies, readiness, roadmap) and then execute in waves based on the roadmap.

Q: What kinds of environments does this apply to?

A: Hybrid, on-premises, and multi-cloud environments. The approach is tailored to your workloads, constraints, and business goals.

2) Scope & Deliverables

Q: What deliverables should we expect from an assessment?

A: Typical outputs include a workload inventory, dependency mapping, readiness findings, and a phased migration/modernization roadmap. Where Azure Migrate is used, assessment artifacts and sizing/costing inputs may also be produced.

- Workload inventory and dependency mapping
- Readiness findings and recommended approach (rehost/replatform/refactor as appropriate)
- Phased roadmap with sequencing, dependencies, and risks
- Architecture diagrams (current, intermediate, target state) when included
- Security and governance recommendations aligned to the target state

Q: What deliverables should we expect from implementation?

A: Typical outputs include completed migrations for in-scope workloads, validation/testing evidence, security hardening outcomes, and operational documentation and handoff artifacts.

- Migration execution for approved workloads (as defined in scope)
- Validation/testing and acceptance evidence (as defined in scope)
- Security hardening using Microsoft baselines and agreed controls
- As-built documentation and operational handoff materials

Q: Do you provide "as-built" documentation?

A: Yes—when implementation is in scope, we typically provide as-built documentation and handoff artifacts so the environment is supportable after cutover.

Q: Can you help us decide what to rehost vs replatform vs refactor?

A: Yes. Assessment activities commonly produce workload-by-workload recommendations based on technical readiness, dependencies, risk, and business priorities.

Q: Do you handle migration in waves?

A: Yes. A wave-based approach reduces risk and disruption. It often includes a pilot, parallel operations (where needed), cutover, then optimization and decommissioning of legacy components.

3) Azure Migrate, Discovery, and Planning

Q: Do you use Azure Migrate?

A: When appropriate, yes. Azure Migrate can support discovery, assessment, replication, and migration planning, and can collect performance/utilization data over an assessment window (commonly measured in weeks).

Q: How long do you typically collect assessment telemetry?

A: Many assessments use a multi-week telemetry window (for example, 21 days) to capture utilization patterns. The exact duration depends on your environment and goals.

Q: Can Azure Migrate help with right-sizing?

A: Yes. Performance data can inform VM SKU sizing decisions before and after migration, and planning outputs can be refined as real usage is observed.

Q: Do you evaluate dependencies and application integrations?

A: Yes. Dependency mapping and workshops with application and infrastructure SMEs are common parts of discovery to reduce cutover surprises.

4) Landing Zones, Governance, and Operations

Q: Do you create or review an Azure landing zone?

A: Yes. Many engagements include landing zone setup or review to establish a secure foundation (identity, management, connectivity, security) and governance guardrails (policy, tagging, budgets/alerts, monitoring).

Q: How do you handle cost governance?

A: We commonly recommend and/or implement cost guardrails such as tagging standards, budgets, alerts, and governance policies. Optimization decisions (right-sizing, licensing benefits, and reservations) are typically addressed during planning and post-migration tuning.

Q: What happens after cutover—do you provide ongoing support?

A: Ongoing support can be provided through an optional managed services engagement (for example, ongoing monitoring, patching, cost management, and security governance) if you choose.

5) Security, Privacy, and Compliance

Q: What security activities are typically included?

A: Security scope is defined per engagement, but commonly includes identity and access controls (RBAC, MFA/Conditional Access), baseline hardening, and cloud security posture configuration. Some engagements also include Defender for Cloud enablement and policy alignment.

Q: How do you reduce risk during migration?

A: Risk reduction typically comes from discovery, dependency mapping, pilot migrations, validation/testing, and controlled cutovers. Security and governance foundations are addressed early so workloads land in a controlled environment.

Q: Do you implement MFA and least privilege?

A: Where in scope, we help implement MFA and align privileged access with least-privilege principles, including tightening admin roles and access pathways.

Q: Can you help with incident response during migration?

A: If incident response is required, it must be explicitly included in scope. Many engagements focus on planned migration activities and do not include incident response unless contracted.

6) Downtime, Testing, and Cutover

Q: Will there be downtime?

A: Some downtime is possible depending on the workload, migration method, and cutover approach. We plan cutovers to minimize disruption and validate workloads through testing and acceptance steps defined in scope.

Q: What testing is performed?

A: Testing varies by workload but commonly includes system acceptance validation testing and confirmation that users and applications can access required resources after migration.

Q: How do you handle rollback?

A: Rollback planning depends on the migration method and workload criticality. Where required, we incorporate rollback considerations into the cutover plan and validation strategy.

7) Modernization Options

Q: Do you only "lift and shift," or do you modernize too?

A: Both are possible. Some workloads are rehosted first for speed, then modernized in phases. Modernization may include moving web apps to App Service, databases to Azure SQL/Managed Instance, and later improvements like containerization or CI/CD enhancements when included.

Q: Can you migrate from VM-based SQL Server to Azure SQL or Managed Instance?

A: If it is a fit for your workload, yes. We typically evaluate database compatibility and dependency patterns (for example, agent jobs or cross-database dependencies) before recommending a path.

Q: Can you modernize CI/CD or source control as part of this?

A: It can be included when explicitly scoped. Some modernization engagements include repository modernization (for example, moving to GitHub) and CI/CD improvements as part of a phased roadmap.

8) Disaster Recovery, Backup, and Business Continuity

Q: Do you address backup and disaster recovery?

A: Yes, when included in scope. Common activities include evaluating Azure Backup and disaster recovery options, and aligning the plan to business continuity requirements.

Q: Do you use Azure Site Recovery?

A: Azure Site Recovery may be used for certain migration and DR scenarios where it is appropriate to the environment and in scope.

9) Pricing, Timelines, and Commercials

Q: How is pricing structured?

A: Pricing can be fixed-fee or time-and-materials depending on scope and uncertainty. The final model and assumptions are documented in the SOW.

Q: How long does a typical engagement take?

A: Duration depends on scope, number of workloads, dependencies, and risk tolerance. Assessments often run over multiple weeks to allow telemetry collection and planning. Implementations vary and are usually executed in waves.

Q: What variables most affect cost and timeline?

A: Common drivers include workload complexity and dependencies, network and identity readiness, legacy operating systems, data volume and replication windows, required testing rigor, and governance/security requirements.

10) Microsoft Programs (Azure Migrate and Modernize / Azure Accelerate)

Q: Can this engagement align to Microsoft's Azure migration programs?

A: Yes, where the customer and project are eligible. Program-aligned work often includes assessment activities, landing zone setup or review, migration/modernization execution, and securing workloads. Eligibility varies by customer segment and program rules.

Q: Can ProArch help evaluate eligibility for funding/incentives?

A: Yes. We can help assess eligibility and ensure the engagement plan aligns with program requirements where applicable.

11) What We Need From You (Customer Responsibilities)

Q: What access or information do you need from us to start?

A: We typically need a primary point of contact, access to relevant environments and documentation, and SMEs for discovery workshops. For tool-based assessments, we may need permissions and environment details to deploy and register assessment tooling.

Q: What happens if prerequisites are not met or access is delayed?

A: Delays in access or decision-making can affect the schedule. We document dependencies and constraints in status updates and adjust the plan as needed.

Experience & Proof Points (Anonymized)

The following examples are drawn from ProArch internal project artifacts and illustrate the types of work performed. Client names are intentionally omitted.

Example: Deadline-driven on-prem to Azure migration using Azure Migrate

- Supported a migration off a hyperconverged on-prem platform to Azure by a fixed deadline, using Azure Migrate assistance, right-sizing inputs, and cost-optimization analysis (Azure Hybrid Benefit and Reserved Instances).
- Included migration execution support activities such as appliance troubleshooting, backup readiness, domain readiness checks, and post-migration optimization planning.

Example: Azure migration study with governance, security, and DR planning

- Conducted a structured Azure migration study that included cloud readiness assessment, Azure Migrate data collection (including SQL and Web analysis features), dependency mapping, vendor engagement, and planning for authentication integration.
- Included evaluation of security and continuity components such as Defender for Cloud, Azure Backup, and Azure Site Recovery (where applicable).

Example: Cloud-first modernization and M&A integration planning

- Produced a phased cloud-first migration approach that starts with landing zones and governance guardrails, then pilots with a small user subset, runs parallel operations with hypercare, completes cutover, and finishes with decommissioning and optimization.

Example: Security and identity modernization to enable cloud readiness

- Delivered an assessment identifying identity fragmentation, legacy systems, and security gaps as blockers to migration, with a phased roadmap emphasizing consolidation, MFA, cleanup of stale/privileged accounts, and landing zone foundations.

Example: Modern workplace transition with server decommissioning

- Delivered modernization work that included Entra ID join and endpoint management enrollment, system acceptance testing, security hardening using Microsoft baselines, as-built documentation, and decommissioning of unneeded servers (scope dependent).

Example: Application modernization planning for an Azure-hosted ecosystem

- Planned modernization of an Azure-hosted application environment, including workload inventory, multi-week utilization collection, database and application modernization analysis, and a multi-phase roadmap from VM-based components toward PaaS options (where appropriate).

Glossary (Quick Reference)

- Azure Landing Zone: A foundational Azure environment pattern for identity, management, connectivity, and security, with governance guardrails.
- Azure Migrate: A Microsoft service used to discover, assess, and support migration of workloads to Azure.
- Rehost / Replatform / Refactor: Common migration approaches: move “as-is”, make limited platform changes, or redesign/refactor for cloud-native.
- RBAC: Role-Based Access Control—permissions managed through roles rather than ad-hoc access.
- MFA: Multi-Factor Authentication.
- Defender for Cloud: Microsoft cloud security posture management and workload protection capabilities.
- ASR: Azure Site Recovery for DR and certain migration patterns.
- As-built documentation: Documentation describing the delivered architecture/configuration so operations teams can support it.