

Azure Well-Architected & Cloud Adoption Framework Alignment

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is this service?

This service helps organizations assess, design, and optimize their Azure environments using Microsoft's Cloud Adoption Framework (CAF) and Azure Well-Architected Framework (WAF). It provides structured guidance and actionable recommendations to improve security, reliability, performance, cost management, and operational efficiency.

2. What business problems does this service address?

The service addresses common challenges such as:

- Inconsistent or insecure Azure architectures
- Rising or unpredictable Azure costs
- Lack of governance and operational guardrails
- Architectural decisions made without a clear framework
- Difficulty scaling Azure reliably as usage grows

The outcome is a clearer, more defensible Azure architecture aligned to business goals.

3. Is this an assessment or an implementation service?

This is primarily an **assessment and recommendations service**. It focuses on evaluating current or planned Azure environments and providing a prioritized roadmap of improvements.

Implementation, remediation, or migration services can be delivered separately if desired and defined in a follow-on Statement of Work (SOW).

4. What frameworks are used during the engagement?

The service is aligned to Microsoft-published guidance, including:

- Azure Well-Architected Framework (Cost Optimization, Security, Reliability, Performance Efficiency, Operational Excellence)
- Microsoft Cloud Adoption Framework (landing zones, governance, operating model, and readiness guidance)

All recommendations are based on Microsoft-supported patterns and best practices.

5. What does the Well-Architected Review include?

The Well-Architected Review evaluates Azure workloads and platform design against Microsoft's five pillars. The review identifies risks, design gaps, and opportunities for improvement that commonly affect stability, security, and cost efficiency.

Findings are translated into prioritized, actionable recommendations rather than theoretical guidance.

6. What types of Azure environments does this apply to?

This service supports:

- Existing Azure environments
- New Azure environments being planned
- Hybrid and on-premises starting points
- Multi-subscription and multi-workload environments

It is applicable regardless of whether workloads are infrastructure-based, platform-based, or a mix of both.

7. What are typical deliverables?

Deliverables vary by scope but commonly include:

- Well-Architected Framework findings
- Cloud Adoption Framework alignment gaps
- Landing zone and governance recommendations
- Security, reliability, and cost optimization guidance
- Target-state architecture diagrams
- A prioritized remediation and optimization roadmap

- Executive-ready summary and readout

All deliverables are documented and designed for reuse beyond the engagement.

8. How long does the engagement take?

Duration depends on the environment size and complexity and is defined in the SOW. Most engagements are structured to provide meaningful findings and recommendations without disrupting day-to-day operations.

9. What is required from the customer?

Successful delivery requires:

- A primary point of contact
 - Read-only or appropriate access to Azure environments
 - Participation in discovery and review workshops
 - Access to existing documentation where available
 - Timely feedback on findings and recommendations
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10. What is not included in this service?

Unless explicitly defined in the SOW, the following are typically out of scope:

- Migration or modernization execution
- Large-scale remediation or refactoring
- Net-new application development
- Formal compliance audits or regulatory attestation
- Ongoing managed services

These services may be delivered separately if required.

11. How does this differ from an Azure migration assessment?

This service focuses on **architecture quality, governance, and operational readiness**, not just migration feasibility. While it can support migration planning, its primary value is ensuring Azure environments are designed and operated correctly—before, during, and after migration.

12. Can this service be used before migrating to Azure?

Yes. Many organizations use this service to validate target-state architecture and landing zone design **before** migrating workloads, reducing rework, risk, and unexpected costs later.

13. Can this service be used after workloads are already in Azure?

Yes. It is commonly used to assess existing Azure environments and correct architectural, governance, or cost-management issues that emerged during organic cloud growth.

14. What happens after the assessment?

After the assessment, organizations may choose to:

- Implement recommended improvements
- Proceed with migration or modernization services
- Engage in cost optimization initiatives
- Establish ongoing managed services

There is no obligation to proceed beyond the assessment.

15. Is this aligned with Microsoft programs or incentives?

The service aligns with Microsoft guidance frameworks and can support organizations participating in Azure migration, modernization, or optimization initiatives. Eligibility for Microsoft funding or incentives varies and is evaluated separately.