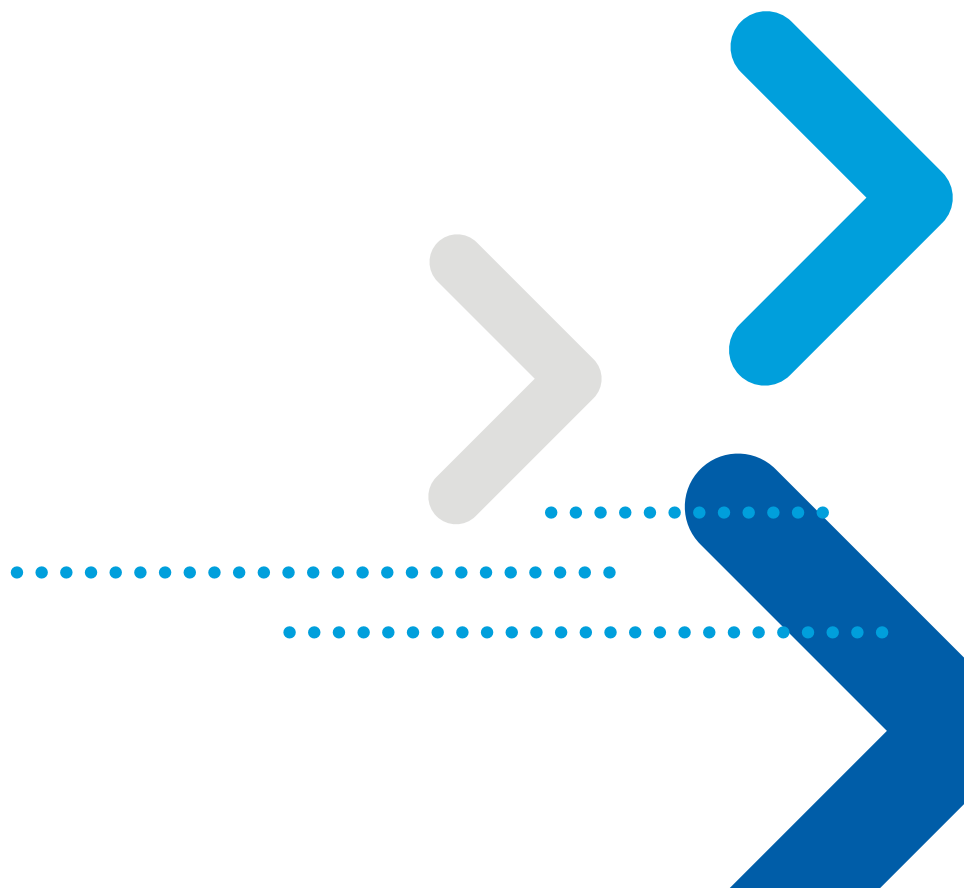


Optimizing Azure for Performance:

A Cloud Maturity Model



The Benefits of an Azure Operating Model

Establishing a Public Cloud Operating Model ensures your organization is set up for success as you continue or begin your Azure journey. AHEAD defines the 12 pillars of a well-established Public Cloud Operating model:



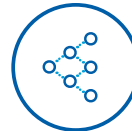
Education



Identity & Access Management



Security



Account Structure



Storage, Backup & Disaster recovery



Monitoring & Operations



Network



Automation & Orchestration



Governance



Common Services



Enterprise Service Management Integration



Cost Controls

To get the most out of Azure, you need mature processes that:

- 1 Consider your organization's specific cloud needs and requirements
- 2 Help you gauge the value proposition of migrating / moving your applications to Azure
- 3 Modernize your technology stack and utilize the most effective Azure services that fit your requirements

Measuring Effectiveness Through the AHEAD Azure Maturity Model

Based on our extensive experience with both Azure and other cloud platforms, AHEAD has devised a five-stage maturity model to assess the current state of your Cloud Operating Model implementation.



Limited utilization with no Operating Model

STAGE 1
Reactive



Select use cases are fully onboarded

STAGE 2
Focused



Org uses Azure services and apps with defined Operating Model

STAGE 3
Established



Utilization aligns with broader strategy

STAGE 4
Accelerated



Azure services are utilized effectively with proven value to the business

STAGE 5
Optimized

Deeper Dive into the Maturity Model Stages



STAGE 1: Reactive

- › Specific groups or small pockets of the organization are utilizing a portion of Azure services.
- › Azure services are utilized only when specifically requested without a clear direction.
- › The organization does not have an Azure Operating Model to solve for utilization of Azure services at scale or established organizational standards.



STAGE 2: Focused

- › A few applications or use cases have been fully onboarded.
- › The team has started to establish standards in preparation for a larger set of use cases.
- › Infrastructure as Code is used sparingly. Azure Virtual Machines are used primarily, with limited use of Platform-as-a-Service solutions.



STAGE 3: Established

- › Azure services and applications are used within the organization to effectively address new or existing use cases.
- › Defined Azure strategy and operating model with one or more production applications in Azure.
- › Increased adoption of Platform as a Service and Infrastructure as Code.



STAGE 4: Accelerated

- › Utilization of Azure Services directly aligns with the strategy developed for internal requirements and aspirations.
- › Azure Operating Model is fully developed and leaves very few unknowns for solving any use case that is presented.
- › A large majority of Azure services are deployed via Infrastructure as Code.



STAGE 5: Optimized

- › Azure services are utilized effectively and in a manner that provide value to the organization and the use cases they support.
- › Infrastructure as Code is used at scale for all deployments via CI/CD pipelines and presented via a Self-Service Catalog.
- › Processes are well defined and established for onboarding new Azure services or “migrating” existing applications.

EXAMPLE

Using the Maturity Model to Assess Automation

For each of the 12 Cloud Operating Model feature areas, AHEAD has developed a set of diagnostic indicators that enables us to identify your current maturity stage. For example, in the area of Automation, these indicators are based on provisioning, configuration changes, and ongoing operations of Azure resources.

The below chart illustrates progress across the Maturity Model stages:

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

Processes are fully automated and time to complete administrative tasks is minimal. Provisioning and configuration changes of Azure services are fully automated via infrastructure as code utilizing CI/CD pipelines. Automated runbooks are utilized for operational tasks.

Processes are partially automated and time to complete administrative tasks is not burdensome. Provisioning and configuration changes of Azure services are mostly automated in a standardized manner utilizing CI/CD pipelines. Automated runbooks are utilized more often.

Processes are defined, but not automated. Provisioning of Azure services is centralized in CI/CD but not fully standardized. Provisioning time is expedited but post provisioning is still a burden. Configuration changes begin to utilize automation. Automated runbooks adoption increases.

Processes for configuring Azure resources are not well defined. Azure resources are individually automated for provisioning. Configuration changes are completed manually and are time consuming. Automated runbooks are used sparingly.

Provisioning, configuration changes, and operational tasks are completed manually via the Azure Portal. Considerable time is needed to complete these tasks.

STAGE 1
Reactive

STAGE 2
Focused

STAGE 3
Established

STAGE 4
Accelerated

STAGE 5
Optimized



Boost Your Performance with an Azure Cloud Operating Model Health Check

An AHEAD Cloud Operating Model Health Check will analyze your Azure Cloud and advance it through the five stages of our Maturity Model. First, we'll assess the current state of all features of your Azure Cloud. Next, based on your organizational needs, we'll work with you to determine a target stage for each feature. Finally, we'll build an action plan to achieve these targets, bearing in mind your environment, business requirements and resource constraints.

Reap the Benefits of Maturity

As cloud environments become more complex, the importance of a Cloud Operating Model grows in tandem. A mature cloud environment will provide your organization with numerous benefits, including:

- Confidence in your cloud governance and security standards
- Cost optimization of Azure services
- Skilled and capable Azure engineering team
- Clear definition of utilization of Azure first- and third-party solutions
- Automated processes for Azure ongoing operations
- Automated provisioning and configuration changes of Azure services
- High performing applications running on Azure Cloud Services
- Framework compliant Azure environment



Ready to Maximize the Return on Your Azure Cloud Investment?

Contact AHEAD to learn more about how our Cloud Operating Model Maturity HealthCheck can make sure your enterprise is getting the most out of Azure.

About AHEAD

AHEAD builds platforms for digital business. By weaving together advances in cloud infrastructure, automation and analytics, and software delivery, we help enterprises deliver on the promise of digital transformation.

To learn more about our approach to enterprise digital transformation, send a note to contact@thinkahead.com

National Hubs
www.thinkahead.com

ATLANTA

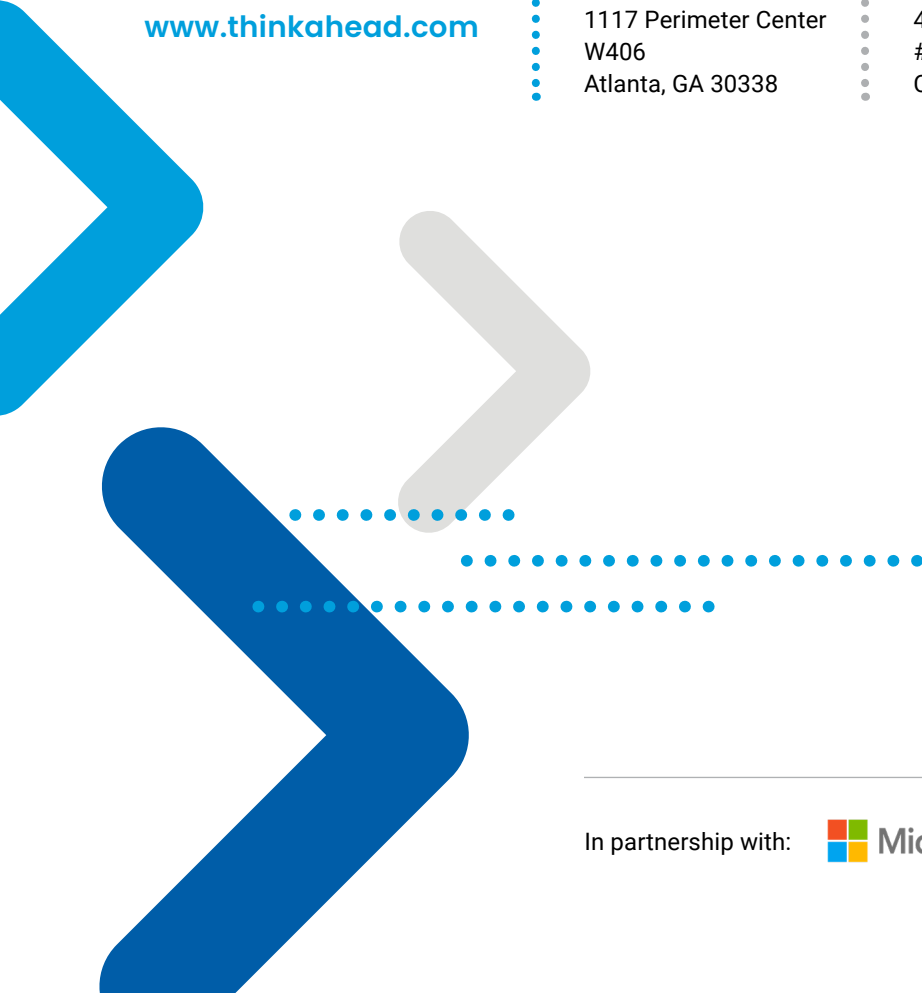
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