Microsoft Azure

The Ultimate Guide to VMware Migration and Modernization on Azure

Contents

Introduction
Migrate and modernize your VMware environment 3

Chapter 1
Options for migrating and modernizing on Azure 8

Chapter 2
How to get started migrating to Azure 14

Chapter 3
Simplify hybrid management with Azure Arc-enabled VMware vSphere 16

Chapter 4
Improve flexibility with virtual desktops in Azure 18

Chapter 5
Maximize cost savings on Azure 20

Chapter 6
Summary and next steps 21

Chapter 7
Resources for VMware on Azure 22

Migrate and modernize your VMware environment

Many businesses with outdated IT infrastructure seek modernization to enhance their agility and adaptability in the ever-evolving market.

Like many customers today, you're likely exploring different options to modernize your VMware workloads. You may be wondering if you should:

- Stay on-premises or move to the cloud
- Shift to another hypervisor
- Refresh your hardware

Whatever path you choose, you'll need to invest the necessary time and resources. This presents an opportunity to consider developing a long-term strategy that maximizes your resources, reduces technical debt, and sets your organization up for future success.

With AI shaking up the status quo for many businesses, the benefits of running your workloads in the cloud will grow in ways that you may not have imagined. To help your enterprise be a leader in its industry, your IT organization must be ready to support the demands of this new landscape.

> **In this quest for modernization, many organizations turn to public clouds like Microsoft Azure.**

If you're reading this guide, you're probably examining options for your VMware workloads sitting in one or more datacenters, managed by IT pros who already have VMware skill sets and experience.

About 75% of the VMware workloads on-premises run Windows Server and SQL Server. For this reason and others, they consider Microsoft Azure.

Why migrate?

Today's businesses face several challenges and concerns that make migration attractive.

Fading trust in older technology

VMware owns 75% of the on-premises virtualization market, which is a big deal for businesses. However, Broadcom's VMware acquisition has left left customers concerned about pricing and product investment, causing many to consider other options.

Limited resources

Growing infrastructure needs and the lack of security updates are causing headaches for IT budgets and staff. Older on-premises workloads are typically monolithic applications that require expensive and time-consuming restructuring to operate in the cloud. Many organizations don't have the resources or time to refactor VMware workloads due to limited personnel, time constraints, and the risk of disrupting business operations.

Azure VMware Solution offers an appealing option for these customers. For those already using VMware's on-premises services, transitioning to Azure becomes seamless as part of their broader cloud migration plan. This enables customers to use familiar VMware tools while maximizing the return on investment from their current skills and technology setups. Additionally, Microsoft provides free security updates for older Windows Server and SQL server workloads in Azure and encourages customers to transfer their existing licenses to Azure for cost savings.

That's why Azure offers several migration paths, including these three.

Fast migration option with Azure VMware Solution and VMware skills

Moving to Azure VMware Solution is the best first step for many customers because it's easy to move on-premises workloads into a symmetrical cloud environment quickly. Microsoft partnered with VMware to build a first-party service in Azure that includes VMware licenses You can start with a simple "lift-and-shift" migration of your VMware VMs, maintaining operational continuity by using familiar VMware tools and the VMware API set. Best yet, once in Azure you can connect to over 200+ services to optimize your workloads.

Innovative services to evolve apps over time

If you're positioned to modernize some of your VMware workloads prior to migrating, Azure offers native infrastructure as a service (IaaS) or platform as a service (PaaS). These services can help reduce the need for VMware licenses while taking full advantage of the cloud's benefits. This migration path could involve converting your VDI environment to Azure Virtual Desktop or transitioning databases to Azure SQL Database for fully managed services.

Extend capabilities to on-premises workloads

For VMware workloads that need to remain on-premises, Azure Arc for VMware v-Sphere provides an extendable solution, enhancing vSphere environments with security, governance, and management features provided by Azure. It also offers self-service access for VMware vSphere resources, enabling full virtual machine lifecycle operations through Azure.

In most cases, organizations migrate VMware workloads to both Azure VMware Solution and Azure IaaS, moving VMs between them as needs change. It all depends on your organization's business and technical requirements.

Whichever migration path you take, you gain built-in speed and scale with modern infrastructure, AI-readiness, code-to-cloud security, unmatched ROI, and agility from anywhere. You can also integrate other Azure services into your Azure-hosted VMware environment to simplify infrastructure management.

$4 million
in improved application performance and availability

$5.1 million
in reduced total cost of ownership of datacenters

80%
reduction in critical downtime[1]

298%
ROI

With the ongoing transformation to Azure, compared with our previous on-premises strategy, we will be able to save millions of costs in the future. Our IT projects are no longer dependent on cost—they're digitally driven and enabled."

Thomas Auer, Director of IT Back End and Cloud Service, Knorr-Bremse

Read more about Knorr-Bremse and Azure VMware Solution >

[1]The Total Economic Impact™ Of Microsoft Azure VMware Solution, a commissioned study by Forrester Consulting, March 2024. Results are for a composite organization based on interviewed customers.

Choose your path to Azure

If you have the time for planning and want to accelerate application modernization efforts, take advantage of cloud-native constructs and organizational skill sets. Many companies choose to modernize their VMware-based applications with Azure APIs, which gives you broad access to the library of Azure services, from AI to IoT to high-end data analytics, and choose from a variety of modern coding tools, including Kubernetes.

Gain immediate benefits

Cloud agility. Azure is designed to meet you where you are, offering an adaptable cloud approach that covers your entire IT estate. Adopting an adaptive cloud approach with Azure allows you to use your familiar VMware skills and tools to smoothly migrate or expand VMware workloads to the cloud using Azure VMware Solution, Azure IaaS, or Azure PaaS.

AI innovation. Use robust infrastructure, machine learning services, and data analytics capabilities to accelerate your AI initiatives, develop intelligent applications, and gain valuable insights from your data.

Code-to-cloud security. Protect workloads, applications, and data with security management and advanced threat protection, including Microsoft Defender for Cloud and Azure Firewall.

Optimize spending. Reduce costs by bringing your existing on-premises Windows Server and SQL Server licenses on Azure with Azure Hybrid Benefit. Purchase compute resources in advance with reservation pricing and get up to three additional years of security updates.

Business continuity. With Azure available in more than 60 regions worldwide, you can improve resiliency to emergencies, system failures, or security vulnerabilities while minimizing user impact. Enable built-in features for workload-level high availability and disaster recovery. A multi-region strategy to back up workloads provides redundancy and quick system restores, backup, and security.

Scalability. Adjust computing resources up and down as demand changes with the help of Azure automation, which minimizes time spent monitoring performance and tweaking underlying systems.

High availability and performance. Improve both availability and performance for your mission-critical workloads.

Prepare for the future

Migrate to innovate. By taking advantage of the scalability, managed services, and developer-friendly tools that Azure offers, you can rapidly build, deploy, and iterate on applications. This agility fosters creativity, reduces time-to-market, and empowers teams to focus on what truly matters: creating impactful solutions.

Gain business and IT agility from anywhere. By hosting workloads in the cloud, you can respond to changing business needs more quickly, whether to expand to new regions, reduce capacity during an economic slowdown, support mergers and acquisitions, and manage IT during a natural disaster.

It's incredible to execute key processes four or five times faster now. We haven't changed any code—this is purely Azure VMware Solution performance."

Simon Bullers, Chief Technology Officer, Hastings Direct

Insurance company Hastings Direct moved its workloads to Azure VMware Solution to take advantage of the scalability, resilience, and innovation benefits offered by a modern infrastructure. As a result, the company has significantly reduced major incidents and increased performance by 1.6 times.

Read more about Hastings Direct and Azure VMware Solution >

Options for migrating and modernizing on Azure

Microsoft has built a trusted cloud platform that helps you migrate and build on your terms. Create, run, and manage applications across multiple clouds, on-premises, and at the edge, using the tools and frameworks of your choice.

The Azure team also has a history of working with other companies, including SAP, Citrix, NetApp, Oracle, and VMware, to offer specific solutions that help users move to the cloud with ease and confidence.

Common use cases

Here are some reasons VMware customers choose to migrate and modernize in Azure:

- **Datacenter exit.** Eliminate on-premises datacenter expense and overhead.
- **Disaster recovery.** Add redundancy and enhance business continuity.
- **Hybrid cloud.** Run workloads on-premises or in the Azure cloud and manage with a common toolset.
- **App modernization.** Move VMware workloads into the cloud, then transform and modernize them with other Azure services.
- **AI services.** Use scalable, integrated solutions for building, deploying, and managing AI models to accelerate innovation and gain competitive advantages.

With your workloads in Azure, you no longer need to manage the base infrastructure. Microsoft handles the hardware, the operating system, and patching, freeing up valuable IT talent who can now do much more for your organization, including with Azure services.

- Attach workloads to cloud services for greater security, reliability, and automatic scalability. This level of modernization is typically achieved using configuration tools without touching existing code.
- Consider rearchitecting and re-coding workloads to take advantage of modern architecture patterns, modular container-based design, Azure APIs, and the hundreds of available IaaS and platforms as a service (PaaS) and solutions.

The speed and order of these steps will vary widely, but Azure provides tools and services that help you get where you want to go.

Financial services institution Home Trust Company wanted a managed VMware solution that would increase reliability and reduce operating costs. In less than six months, the company moved more than 750 virtual machines Azure VMware Solution.

With Azure VMware Solution, we now have the advantage of Microsoft's VMware expertise, scalability, and management of everything from patching to versions."

Doug Caldwell, CIO, NeighborWorks America

Read more about Home Trust and Azure VMware Solution >

How customers choose

There's no single approach or starting point. Migrate the way you want, then modernize at your pace—one step at a time, or a couple of steps all at once. Whichever path you choose, your workloads benefit from Azure security, business agility, scalability, improved performance, and price protections.

Organizations interested in moving VMware workloads to Azure can choose from multiple paths:

- Efficiently move VMware workloads to Azure VMware Solution for a quick datacenter exit or to keep their familiar VMware operational environment.
- Migrate VMware workloads directly to Azure Virtual Machines running on IaaS, especially if they also plan to migrate non-VMware workloads.
- Take both approaches by migrating some workloads to Azure VMware Solution and others to Azure VMs.
- Adopt a cloud solution for remote desktops or a comprehensive management solution.

Migrate VMware "as is"

Azure VMware Solution

- Fastest migration option that provides access to Azure cloud services
- Use the VMware technology stack on Azure for symmetry with on-premises
- VMware subscription licenses included (vSphere, vSAN, NSX-T, and HCX)
- Take advantage of VMware skills, easy to migrate and operate
- No refactoring or application modifications required

Modernize to native Azure

Azure IaaS and PaaS

- Shift to Azure compute, storage, and networking infrastructure
- No VMware licenses are required
- Take advantage of Azure and cloud skills
- Modernize with flexible IaaS and PaaS services (for example, Azure Virtual Desktop and Azure SQL Database)

Extend Azure Management

Azure Arc for VMware vSphere

- Connect a VMware vCenter server to Azure for consistent management and operations
- Install Azure Arc at scale across all VMware VMs to enable Azure security and governance
- Enable VM lifecycle operations such as start, stop, resize, create, and delete
- On-premises VMware licenses required

Value of Azure VMware Solution

Azure VMware Solution uses the VMware technology stack on Azure for symmetry with on-premises VMware. That symmetry helps speed the migration of on-premises VMware workloads into the Azure cloud with minimal changes. It also makes it easy to manage a hybrid cloud if you need to maintain an on-premises VMware environment.

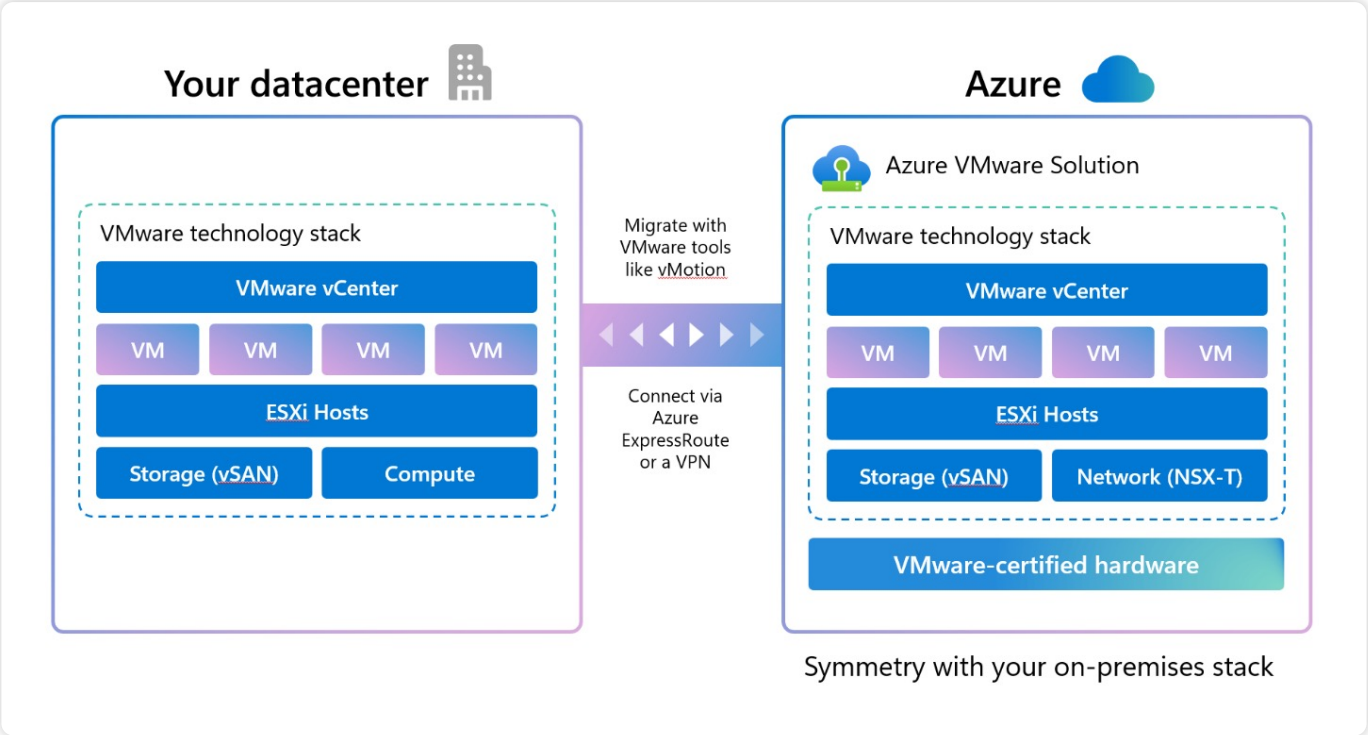
Azure VMware Solution gives you one or more private clouds in Azure datacenters. Each private cloud contains VMware vSphere clusters built from dedicated, bare-metal Azure infrastructure. Azure VMware Solution is built and supported by the Azure team and validated by VMware. Microsoft manages and maintains the cloud infrastructure and software, which reduces technical debt and enables you to focus on delivering business value based on the workloads in your private clouds.

Migrating your VMware datacenter is as easy as rehosting VMware workloads to the Azure VMware Solution. Minimize business disruption by migrating without downtime while keeping your existing IP addresses. You can also move your file shares, databases, and other resources into Azure.

As you become more familiar with Azure, integrate other Azure services into your Azure VMware Solution. Enhance monitoring, performance, automation, security, and other capabilities without writing new code.

Azure VMware Solution includes these VMware licenses:

- VMware vSphere
- VMware vSAN
- VMware NSX
- VMware vMotion (VMware HCX)



Symmetry with your on-premises stack

Value of modernizing on Azure

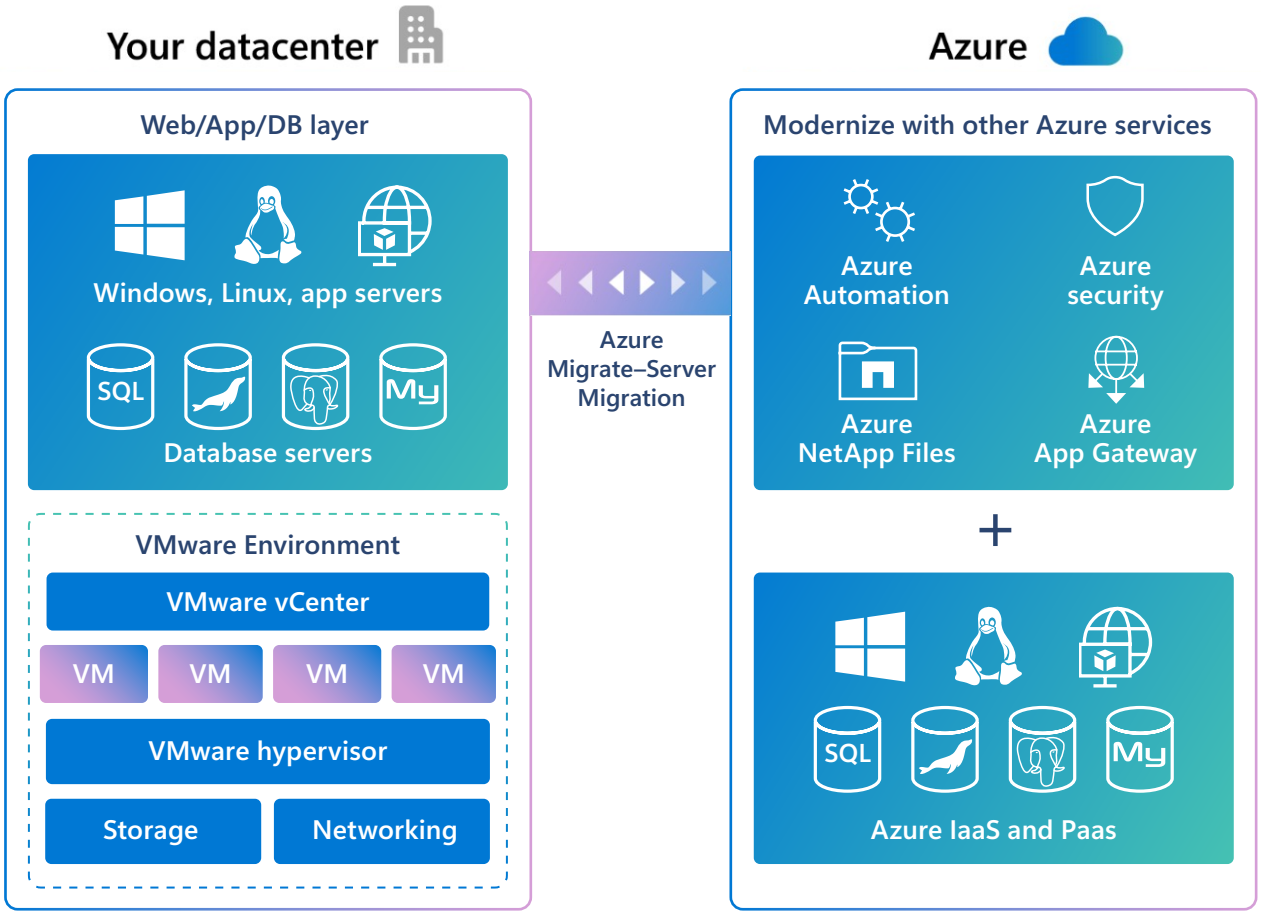
If you don't need the fast solution provided by Azure VMware Solution, you might want to completely modernize by rearchitecting and rewriting applications with Azure IaaS and PaaS services. Perhaps you want your applications to be more modular, taking advantage of modern architectural patterns such as microservices and loosely coupled components. You may want built-in hybrid computing features or to build apps with next-generation development tools.

Azure IaaS enables you to run and manage hybrid and multicloud applications while providing unmatched security and compliance. Although you can incorporate infrastructure services using configuration tools, many organizations have specific business needs requiring new code to access the library of services and solutions fully. Azure PaaS options provide a complete set of development tools, database management, and business analytics.

PaaS options offer an array of capabilities:

- Create apps faster with pre-coded application components built into the platform.
- Develop for multiple platforms—including mobile—simultaneously.
- Use sophisticated tools affordably by taking advantage of a pay-as-you-go model.
- Efficiently manage the application lifecycle.

Migrate and modernize on Azure



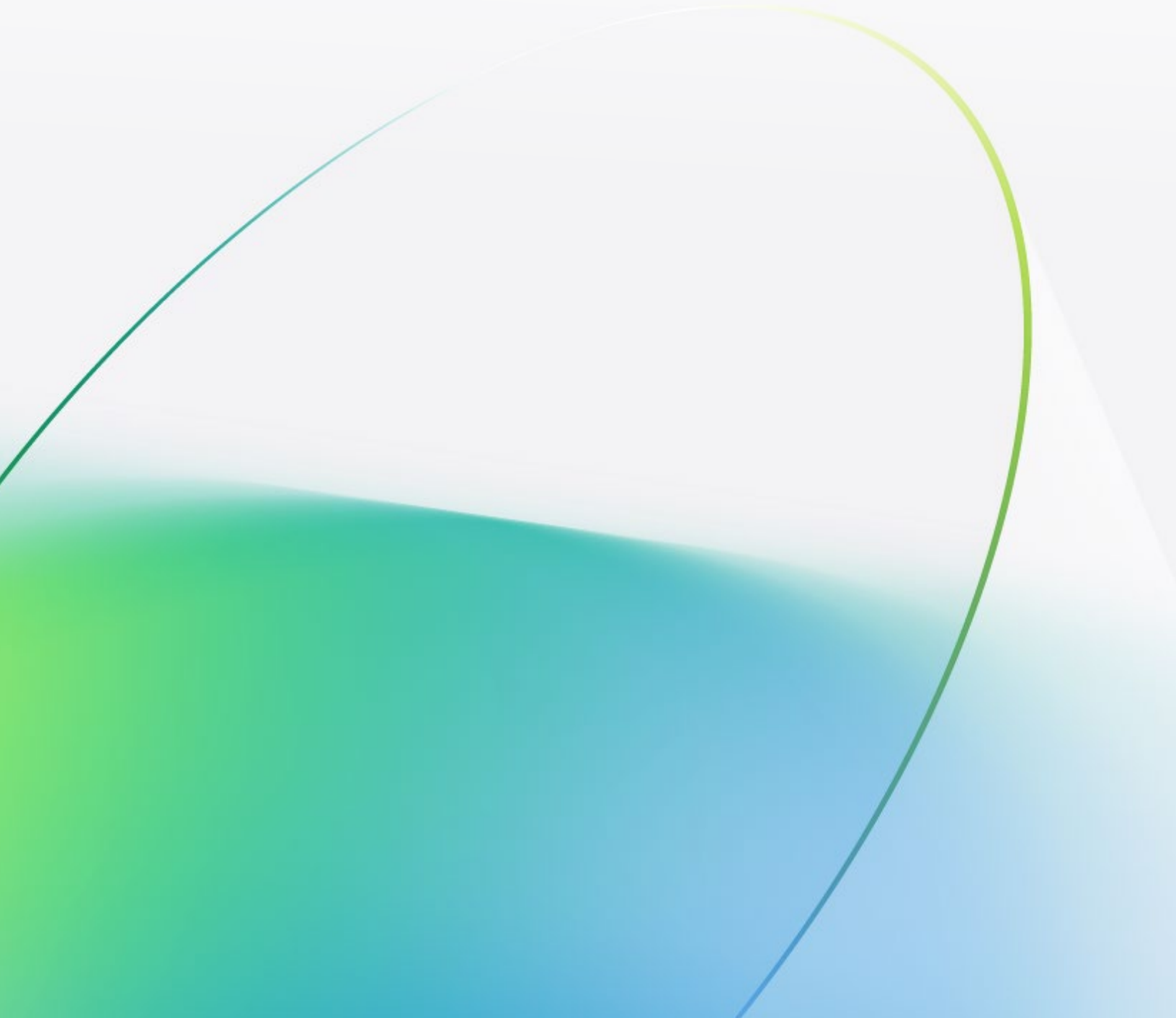
Migrate and modernize your VMware workloads on Azure. As you become more familiar with Azure, bring in file shares, databases, and other resources.

Migrate to innovate

To truly excel in this ever-evolving landscape, organizations must tackle present challenges and adopt forward-looking strategies that drive innovation and maintain competitiveness. This is precisely where Azure comes into play.

Migrating to Azure offers the best of both worlds: an optimized platform to fully embrace AI while maximizing ROI and ensuring performance and resilience. Moreover, Azure provides comprehensive code-to-cloud security. It stands out as the premier cloud solution for delivering successful business outcomes.

It offers industry-leading solutions and purpose-built offerings tailored for your entire IT ecosystem, encompassing first-party and major third-party workloads such as VMware, Citrix, NetApp, and more.



How to get started migrating to Azure

Over the years, Microsoft and its partners have developed a broad portfolio of guidance, tools, and methodologies to ensure success when migrating to Azure, many of which are organized for customers at the Azure Architecture Center and the Azure Cloud Migration and Modernization Center.

When migrating to Azure, whether it's to Azure VMware Solution or Azure IaaS, most customers will follow the same basic steps:

- **Discover.** Conduct an inventory of your on-premises resources (VMs, file shares, and databases). Use RVTools or Azure Migrate to automate much of this inventory.
- **Assess.** Work with a partner or your Microsoft team to map the on-premises resources to Azure using this data. Factor in costs, migration timeframe (Is your datacenter lease expiring soon? Is your VMware licensing up for renewal?), business goals, VMware versus Azure skill sets, and more.
- **Migrate.** Azure and VMware tools can speed up and automate this process, but you'll need to consider potential downtime, validation, and more.

Migrate to Azure VMware Solution

Follow these steps for success:

1. **Plan** the migration: Identify suitable workloads and review your RVTools data with your Microsoft team or a knowledgeable Microsoft partner. Or use Azure Migrate, a free migration planning tool from Microsoft.
2. **Provision** your unique instance of Azure VMware Solution.
3. **Connect** to the on-premises environment by using ExpressRoute or a VPN.
4. **Migrate** workloads by using VMware vMotion.
5. **Attach** Azure IaaS services.

Netstar needed a cloud platform that could ensure availability, stability, and security for its AI-enabled cameras solution. The company achieved seamless connectivity for all its customers with zero downtime during its migration to Azure VMware Solution. It also saw significant savings as a result of not having to rely on on-premises solutions.

> **Azure VMware Solution has only 25% of the hardware refresh cost, reducing our total cost of ownership. That's just the capital cost. There would still have been more costs with an on-premises solution for cooling, maintenance, and all the other things that come with a local server."**
>
> **Tony Hyman,** IT Infrastructure Manager, Netstar

Learn more about Netstar and Azure VMware Solution >

Migrate to Azure IaaS

Alternatively, with additional effort, you can migrate to Azure by using the free Azure Migrate planning tool.

Azure Migrate uses agentless or agent-based discovery to assess a VMware environment, identify Azure readiness for migration to Azure VMs, make suggestions for right-sizing, and show dependencies among VMs that support tiered applications.

Use Azure Migrate to answer questions like these:

- Which VMs can be moved easily, and which will require additional preparation?
- Where can I right size VMs for the cloud, based on actual usage patterns (CPU, memory, storage)?
- Where do VMs running multiple tier apps have dependencies on one another?
- How much will it cost to run the infrastructure I need?

Azure Migrate creates assessment reports that show Azure readiness, right-sizing recommendations, application dependencies, and cost estimates. Most VMs will likely be ready to migrate without issues. Others will be ready with conditions, meaning some work might be required beforehand. Use the tool to test the migration and then initiate the actual migration process.

IDC found that after migrating and deploying workloads to Azure VMware Solutions, organizations experienced greater cost-savings, efficiency, and performance.

37%
lower 3-year cost of operations

30%
lower infrastructure costs

45%
more efficient IT infrastructure teams

86%
faster to deploy new compute/storage resources[2]

[2]IDC Business Value Executive Summary, sponsored by VMware in partnership with Microsoft, The Business Value of Azure VMware Solution, Doc#US50851723, July 2023

Simplify hybrid management with Azure Arc for VMware vSphere

Many organizations have already made significant investments in on-premises VMware-based infrastructure. For these companies, it's crucial to ensure that those workloads can still benefit from ongoing innovation in the cloud. Azure Arc helps those organizations simplify their distributed ecosystem by extending Azure security, governance, and management features to their VMware vSphere environments, whether on-premises or on Azure.

Azure Arc allows users to manage their VMware vSphere resources (such as virtual machines) directly from the Azure portal, where they have access to several key capabilities:

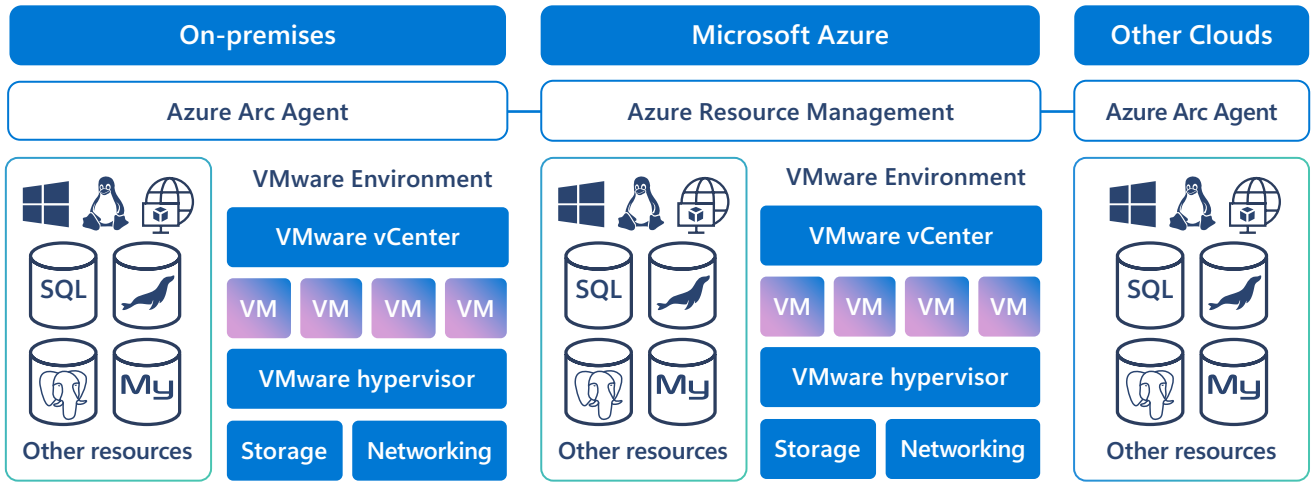
- **Explore** VMware vSphere environments, including virtual machines (VMs), templates, networks, datastores, clusters/hosts, and resource pools, and seamlessly register these resources with Arc at scale.
- **Create**, resize, delete, and manage power cycles on VMware VMs with consistent Azure standards.
- **Empower** developers and application teams to independently execute VM operations on-demand using the role-based access control (RBAC) system.
- **Deploy** the Arc-connected machine agent at scale on VMware VMs to effectively govern, protect, configure, and monitor them.
- **Navigate** through VMware vSphere resources, including VMs, templates, networks, and storage, within the Azure interface for a unified view across both environments.

Visit the **Azure Arc product page** to learn more or explore this **documentation for Azure Arc-enabled VMware vSphere**.

Benefits of Azure Arc

- IT ops teams required 30% less time to manage Azure Arc-enabled infrastructure assets[3]
- Lowered risk of data breach from unsecured infrastructure by 80%[1]
- Reduced spending on third-party tools by 15%[1]

[3] The Total Economic Impact™ Of Microsoft Azure Arc For Security and Governance, a commissioned study by Forrester Consulting, June 2022. Results are for a composite organization based on interviewed customers.



Use Azure Arc to extend Azure native management, security, and other services across your VMware workloads and other resources on-premises, in Azure VMware Solution, or in other clouds.

Migrate on-premises VMware edge workloads to Azure Stack HCI

When a full migration of VMware workloads to Azure isn't possible, you still have the option to migrate your on-prem VMware edge workloads using Azure Stack HCI. This hyperconverged infrastructure extends Azure management and governance capabilities to on-premises, multicloud, and edge environments, allowing you to run your workloads from anywhere.

Benefits of Azure Stack HCI:

High performance and scalability: Azure Stack HCI uses technologies like Hyper-V and Storage Spaces Direct for industry-leading virtualization and storage, ensuring apps run efficiently. As demand grows, you can easily add more servers to the cluster while maintaining high performance and availability.

Integration with Azure Services: Connect on-premises systems to Azure for cloud-based monitoring and management services. Use additional Azure capabilities like Azure Virtual Desktop and Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) enabled by Azure Arc without leaving your on-premises environment.

Ease of migration and modernization: Azure Stack HCI allows for a phased migration approach. Migrate non-critical workloads first, and gradually more services over as your confidence grows. This helps modernize and secure branch offices & edge locations securely at a pace that works for your organization's needs. Additionally, you can migrate using commercial tools from Carbonite, Veeam or CommVault.

High availability and resiliency: Azure Stack HCI uses Windows Server Failover Clustering to provide high availability, with automated capabilities that help minimize downtime if a server fails. It also provides data redundancy and resilience to help ensure business continuity.

Cost-efficiency: Instead of purchasing hardware upfront, the flexible monthly payment model for Azure Stack HCI eliminates the need for large capital expenditure on hardware. Plus, you can scale resources as needed to further optimize costs—without compromising performance.

Familiarity: Azure Stack HCI is simple for Hyper-V and server administrators to use. Monitoring and managing your HCI systems through the Azure portal offers a consistent user experience that doesn't demand a total reset of skills.

Improve flexibility with virtual desktops in Azure

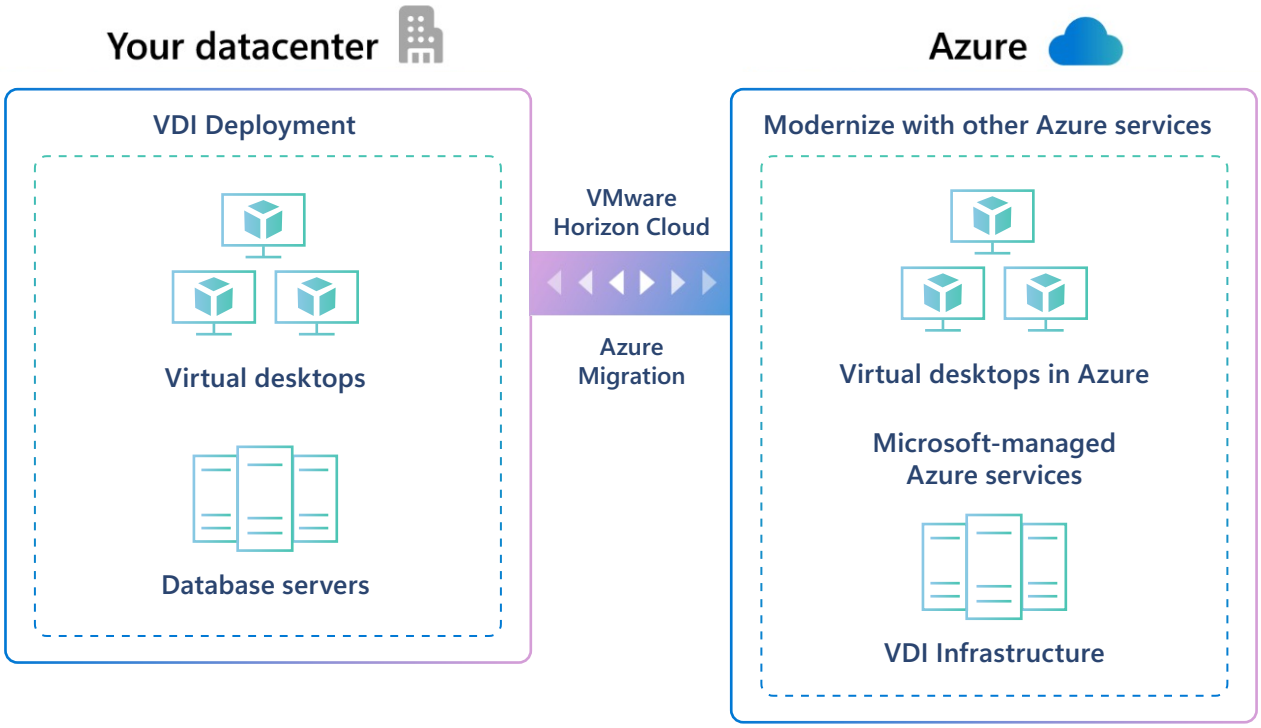
Not long ago, moving to virtual desktops meant building out expensive new hardware and software infrastructure in the datacenter. This new infrastructure often required constant management, upgraded networking, and high-touch user support.

As remote work has increased, demand for VDI skyrocketed. This new demand, plus broad acceptance of cloud technology, has accelerated the adoption of virtual desktops. Companies use VDI to make desktop environments more consistent, secure, and easy to administer.

With traditional on-premises VDIs, such as Microsoft Remote Desktop Services running with VMware Horizon Cloud, organizations maintain preconfigured images of operating systems and applications in the datacenter. Users can access the datacenter hosted virtual desktop image using a laptop, smartphone, tablet, or any endpoint device.

Azure Virtual Desktop (formerly Windows Virtual Desktop) moves the back-end VDI into the Azure cloud, which offers distributed datacenters, powerful hardware, world-class security, and super-fast networking.

VDI migration to Azure Virtual Desktop



Azure enables easy migration of VDI, including VMware Horizon Cloud

If you have VDI expertise, you can choose from two Azure options.

Azure Virtual Desktop. The flexible cloud VDI platform enables full control over management and deployment, plus options for VMware integration.

Here's what you can do:

- Manage your end-to-end VDI deployment alongside other services within the Azure portal.
- Use any device to offer users a secure remote desktop and application experience from anywhere.
- Protect organizational assets with built-in intelligent security on virtual desktops. Deploy and scale virtual desktops in minutes.
- Save even more money by right-sizing VMs and shutting them down when not used.
- Enjoy high-end graphics support. With a simple configuration tool, you can establish scalable, high-performance GPU-based host pools on Azure rather than purchasing costly workstations, each with its own expensive GPU. Virtual Desktop with GPU support offers performance, flexibility, and security gains if you support engineering design teams or any group running powerful 3D CAD/CAM software.

VMware Horizon Cloud on Azure. As an alternative, VMware offers Horizon Cloud, a purpose-built cloud platform that enables you to deploy and run virtual desktops from Azure and other clouds. The VMware Horizon Cloud works with Azure and also Azure VMware Solution. With VMware Horizon Cloud on Azure, admins don't need to be Azure experts. VMware customers can continue using Horizon Cloud with Azure Virtual Desktop to get the best of both worlds.

Nearly all virtual desktop administrative tasks can be done from the Horizon Universal Console, requiring little to no PowerShell or Azure knowledge. This means environments can be deployed quickly and managed from a single location. VMware Horizon Cloud Service on Microsoft Azure is a desktop virtualization service in Azure Marketplace.

Windows 365. If you want cloud desktops and your organization lacks VDI experts, consider Windows 365.

- Microsoft hosts and provisions each cloud PC.
- Users securely stream their personalized Windows experience—apps, content, and settings—to any device.
- Manage and deploy with familiar desktop tools and skills.

> **With the Azure-based VDI service Azure Virtual Desktop, we can achieve comfortable operations with a similar response to a physical client, and one reason for this is that we no longer have to worry about performance."**
>
> **Ms. Shihomi Morigami,** Infrastructure Systems Department MDI & IT Division, Mazda Motor Corporation

Read more about Mazda and Azure Virtual Desktop >

Maximize cost savings on Azure

Azure is where traditional per-machine licensing and more flexible subscription-based pricing meet. You can discover opportunities to save on Azure by understanding options and benefits.

Avoid potential price increases with predictable pricing

With Azure, you can take a pay-as-you-go approach, lock in pricing for a specific number of VMs, or both.

- **Pay-as-you-go.** You only pay for the computing resources you use. This can be ideal for organizations that must periodically scale processing power depending on demand. It's also a good approach for unpredictable, variable workloads.
- **Reserved capacity.** If your workloads are predictable, consider locking in pricing with the Azure Reserved Virtual Machine Instance (RI) offer. With reserved instances, you reserve VMs for dedicated use over three years.

Save with existing licenses—only on Azure

Reduce the costs of running your workloads by bringing the value of your license to Azure with Azure Hybrid Benefit. Use your Software Assurance–enabled Windows Server and SQL Server licenses on Azure VMs. In the same way, use your RedHat and SUSE Linux subscriptions on Azure VMs.

For on-premises datacenters and edge locations, Azure Hybrid Benefit also enables Windows Server Software Assurance customers to run Azure Kubernetes Service and Azure Stack HCI at no additional cost through Azure Arc.

Save up to 80% when you combine the cost savings gained from the Azure Hybrid Benefit with the added value of the Azure Reserved VM Instances.

Work with your Microsoft account team or a trusted partner to get the best value from moving workloads to Azure. Ask for an assessment of your current environment mapped into the new Azure environment. Get help developing an accurate estimate of the costs of running in Azure.

> **"It's a great time to work in a cloud environment where Microsoft as a technology leader continues to invest heavily in technology, security, scalability, reliability, cost optimization, and all the areas that keep us running smoothly."**
>
> **Doug Caldwell,** Vice President of IT Infrastructure, Home Trust Company

Learn more about Home Trust Company and Azure VMware Solution ›

Summary and next steps

With VMware migration, organizations can enable modernization while retaining flexibility and control over their pace of transition. Migrate some or all of your workloads to Azure VMware Solution to continue working with VMware skills and software while you take advantage of Azure cloud services. Using Azure VMware Solution, businesses can capitalize on the scalability and agility of the cloud and drive innovation initiatives that inspire growth.

Opportunities await:

- Get global scalability provided by 60+ Azure regions, best-in-class networking, and compute performance.
- Continue using familiar VMware tools and skills in the cloud.
- Extend your investments in Citrix or VMware with support for hybrid deployments, centralized management, and advanced tooling.
- Achieve maximum ROI and performance by optimizing costs, scaling resources as needed, and using high-performance infrastructure and services to boost productivity and efficiency.
- Seamlessly move or extend your VMware environment to the Azure cloud. Modernize VMware workloads and apps by using Azure IaaS and PaaS options.
- Power your virtual desktops with Azure Virtual Desktop or VMware's Horizon Cloud running on Azure, improving the virtual desktop user experience while reducing infrastructure CAPEX and operational headaches.
- Improve developer productivity with the Azure Spring Apps platform.
- Get guaranteed pricing with multi-year reserved instances in Azure. Use the value of existing Windows Server, SQL Server, and VMware licenses in Azure, and take advantage of free Extended Security Updates in Azure.

Azure Migrate and Modernize offers proven strategies for successful migration, unique cost-saving offers, and step-by-step cloud migration guidance from Azure engineers and expert Azure migration partners. Discover the best migration path for your VMware workloads.

Talk to an Azure sales specialist to learn more about your VMware migration options or learn more about Azure Migration and Modernize offers.

Talk to your Microsoft account team and trusted partners about other organizations that have modernized and saved money by moving their VMware environments over to Azure.

Contact Sales >

Explore Azure Migrate and Modernize >

Resources for VMware on Azure

Azure VMware Solution

Azure VMware Solution overview

Azure VMware Solution technical documentation

Azure VMware Solution customer stories

Azure VMware landing zone accelerator

Migration and modernization

Azure Migrate

Azure Migrate and Modernize

Webinar: Modernize VMware Environment with Azure

Azure Arc

Azure Arc product overview

Azure Arc documentation

Video: VMware vSphere scaled onboarding with Azure Arc-enabled servers

Azure Stack HCI

Azure Stack HCI product overview

Azure Stack HCI documentation

Retail edge transformation with Azure Stack HCI

Desktop virtualization

Azure Virtual Desktop product overview

Azure Virtual Desktop documentation

Deploy Horizon on Azure VMware Solution

Azure Spring Apps

Azure Spring Apps product overview

The Azure difference

Azure Hybrid Benefit, Extended Security Updates

Azure compliance offerings

Azure cloud solutions

Azure AI overview