Azure Migration Assessment Checklist

Infrastructure readiness, workload compatibility, and migration wave planning for Azure cloud migration. Assess your environment before committing to the cloud.

5	40+	Azure	Free
ASSESSMENT AREAS	READINESS ITEMS	CLOUD PLATFORM	ASSESSMENT TOOL

How to Use This Checklist

Complete this assessment before starting an Azure migration project. Involve your IT team, line-of-business application owners, and finance stakeholders. The results will inform your migration strategy, timeline, and budget.

1 Current Infrastructure Assessment

Document and assess your existing on-premise infrastructure for cloud readiness.

- [ ] A complete **server inventory** exists with OS, CPU, RAM, storage, and workload details
- [ ] Server **utilisation data** has been collected for at least 30 days (CPU, memory, disk, network)
- [ ] All **operating systems** are within vendor support lifecycle (Windows Server 2016+ for Azure support)
- [ ] **Application dependencies** have been mapped — which apps talk to which servers and services
- [ ] **Network bandwidth** to the internet has been assessed for cloud workload requirements
- [ ] Current **storage volumes and growth rates** are documented for capacity planning
- [ ] **Database platforms** are identified with versions, sizes, and compatibility with Azure SQL/managed instances
- [ ] Any **physical hardware dependencies** (USB dongles, serial devices, specialist cards) are identified

Section Score: ____/10

2 Application Compatibility

Assess each application for cloud compatibility and determine the appropriate migration strategy.

- [ ] Each application has been categorised using the **6 Rs**: Rehost, Refactor, Rearchitect, Rebuild, Replace, Retain
- [ ] **SaaS alternatives** have been evaluated for legacy on-premise applications
- [ ] Applications with **hardcoded IP addresses** or local dependencies have been identified for remediation
- [ ] **Licensing implications** for moving to Azure have been assessed (Windows Server, SQL Server, Oracle)
- [ ] Applications requiring **GPU, high-IOPS, or ultra-low latency** have been identified for appropriate VM sizing
- [ ] **Vendor support** has been confirmed for running each application in Azure
- [ ] Any applications that **cannot migrate** have been documented with justification for remaining on-premise

Section Score: _____/10

MIGRATION STRATEGY	DESCRIPTION	WHEN TO USE
Rehost (lift & shift)	Move to Azure VM with minimal changes	Quick migration, legacy apps
Refactor	Move to PaaS (App Service, Azure SQL)	Modern apps, reduce management overhead
Rearchitect	Redesign for cloud-native architecture	Performance, scalability requirements
Rebuild	Rewrite from scratch on Azure	Outdated apps, new requirements
Replace	Switch to SaaS alternative	Commodity apps (email, CRM, ERP)
Retain	Keep on-premise	Hardware dependency, compliance restriction

3 Network & Identity Readiness

Assess network connectivity and identity management readiness for Azure.

- [ ] **Azure ExpressRoute or VPN** options have been evaluated for secure connectivity to Azure
- [ ] **DNS strategy** has been planned for hybrid (on-prem + Azure) or full cloud DNS resolution
- [ ] **Azure AD Connect** or cloud-only identity strategy has been decided and tested
- [ ] **Network address space** for Azure VNets has been planned without overlapping on-premise ranges
- [ ] **Firewall and NSG rules** have been designed for Azure network security groups
- [ ] Internet **bandwidth is sufficient** for initial migration and ongoing cloud operations
- [ ] **Latency requirements** have been assessed to determine the best Azure region (UK South / UK West)

Section Score: ____ /10

4 Security & Compliance

- [ ] **Data residency requirements** are understood — Azure UK South and UK West keep data in the UK
- [ ] **Encryption requirements** are defined — Azure encrypts at rest by default (AES-256)
- [ ] **Compliance requirements** (GDPR, ISO 27001, Cyber Essentials) have been mapped to Azure controls
- [ ] **Backup and DR strategy** has been designed using Azure Backup and Azure Site Recovery
- [ ] **Azure Security Centre** / Defender for Cloud is planned for security posture management
- [ ] **RBAC (Role-Based Access Control)** has been designed for Azure resource access
- [ ] **Privileged Identity Management (PIM)** is planned for just-in-time admin access

Section Score: ____ /10

5 Cost & Migration Planning

- [ ] **Azure Pricing Calculator** has been used to estimate monthly cloud costs for target workloads
- [ ] Cost estimates include **all components**: compute, storage, networking, licensing, backup, monitoring
- [ ] A **migration timeline** has been created with workloads grouped into migration waves
- [ ] **Pilot workloads** have been identified for the first migration wave (low-risk, non-critical)
- [ ] A **rollback plan** exists for each migration wave in case of critical issues
- [ ] **Staff training** needs for Azure administration have been identified and planned
- [ ] A **post-migration optimisation** phase is planned to right-size VMs based on actual usage

Section Score: ____ /10

Notes

Ready to Migrate to Azure?
Our cloud engineers assess, plan, and execute Azure migrations with minimal disruption to your business.

info@cloudswitched.com
New London House, 6 London St, London EC3R 7LP

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____ Approved by: _____

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