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Cloud Move

Make your move, with confidence

Your cloud action guide

Do what matters

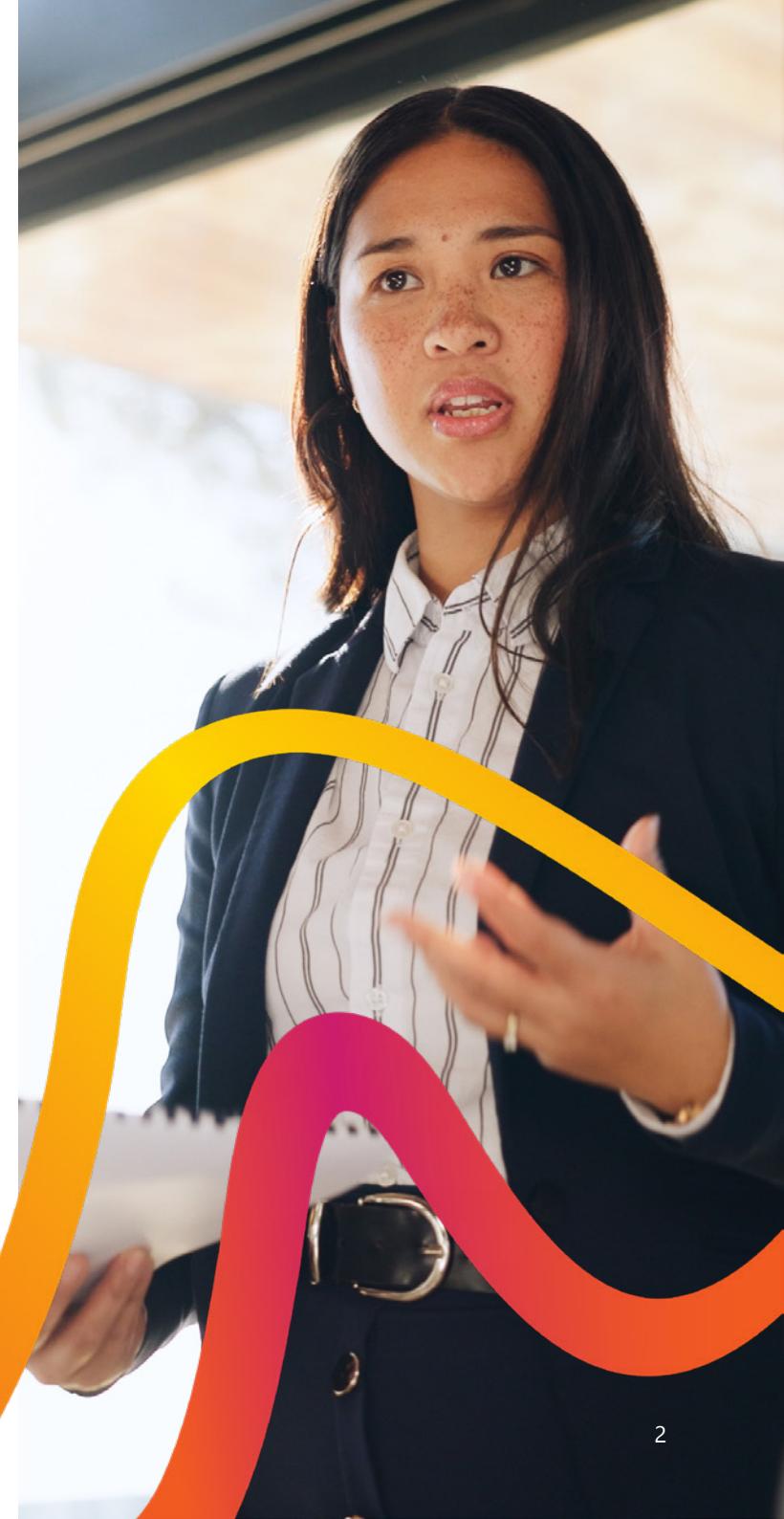# AI transformation won't wait for legacy infrastructure

We've entered a new era of transformation. And while every organization is being reshaped by AI, only those with the right foundation—a modern, scalable cloud solution—can harness its full potential.

The decisions you make today—about your infrastructure, platforms, and speed of modernization—will determine your performance tomorrow. This is no longer a choice that can be put on hold.

It's not just about AI, either. Cloud has become the most strategic response to the pressures you're already facing. Many organizations are racing against:

• Datacenter contract expirations

• Firm mandates to exit on-premises facilities

• Rising and unpredictable VMware licensing costs

These are all costly operational pressures that you can't outrun, but you can plan around them with the right cloud strategy.

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If your data stays on-prem, your AI stays on pause

75%
of mid-market IT budgets are allocated to "running the business"[1]

<10%
are aimed at innovation efforts[1]

46%
of infrastructure modernizations are to improve security or reduce risk associated with legacy systems and infrastructure[2]—rather than enabling new capabilities

The organizations that thrive are those that recognize the cloud as a foundation for accelerated growth. When data, applications, and infrastructure move to the cloud, AI can finally operate at scale, learning faster, predicting more accurately, and acting more decisively. This is how companies move from incremental improvement to industry-shaping innovation, while still achieving cost reductions.

Achieve cost reductions of up to

30%
through carefully executed cloud adoption[3]

There's no better time to migrate than now

Release your AI potential

AI requires a scalable cloud infrastructure. Our Cloud Move Pre-packaged Solution unlocks the scale and performance needed to deploy AI and drive your transformation.

Achieve predictable pricing and scalability

Right-size your capacity with a flexible infrastructure and contain costs with phased payments that avoid expensive capex refresh cycles, waste, and maintenance overheads.

Meet datacenter exit deadlines

Datacenter contract expirations or organizational mandates to exit on-premises facilities create urgency for cloud migrations.

Reduce rising and unpredictable VMware costs

VMware workloads carry high and unpredictable licensing costs. Migrating these workloads can provide significant stability and savings.

Read on to explore the three critical phases of a successful cloud migration.

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Plan with purpose

Your move to cloud starts long before you migrate your first workload. To modernize successfully, take the time to understand why you're moving, what you want to achieve, and how decisions today will advance your AI readiness for tomorrow.

You already know the value of planning. This is where your needs, expectations, and assumptions turn into tangible, actionable goals.

It's where business drivers such as realizing AI potential, retiring technical debt, managing costs, or meeting datacenter exits are translated into a data-driven roadmap.

Without these foundations, your migration can drift, overshooting timelines, inflating budgets, and falling short of value.

A strong planning phase will give you:

A detailed overview of your current infrastructure, risks, and constraints

A robust business case with cost projections and key milestones

A migration strategy that's aligned to your AI objectives

A clear starting point, what to measure, and how to scale

By analyzing your current IT infrastructure, evaluating migration costs, and identifying your optimal route to success, you create a plan that reduces uncertainty and accelerates implementation. And if you want added guidance, our Plan and Build services can strengthen your approach.

Your AI future begins with the choices you make now. Solid planning makes those choices easier, clearer, and far more effective.

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Migrate with intent

This is the phase where complexity can become your biggest barrier, and a successful migration has to balance speed with control.

Ensure your cloud migration uses integrated tooling, orchestration, and monitoring to minimize downtime, simplify sequencing, and avoid costly surprises. Your goal is to efficiently migrate each workload once and get it right the first time, ensuring workloads move efficiently while protecting business continuity and reducing risk.

The right approach to migration will allow you to:

Move at speed without compromising stability

Standardize and automate wherever possible

Accelerate your time to value with out-of-the-box components

Avoid budget overruns by sticking to predictable processes

Migration moves you from legacy limitations to modern capabilities. The faster and safer you make the move, the quicker you can start to extend your business advantage.

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Optimize with persistence

Migrating to cloud is just the beginning. The bigger opportunity comes from achieving continuous, compounding value.

How you manage, govern, and optimize your environment over time will define your long-term success. By getting this right, you'll ensure your deployment remains cost-effective, resilient, and ready for AI workloads that demand elasticity and performance. It's also where you unlock the agility, security, and AI readiness required to stay ahead, and the ability to reinvest cost savings into strategic innovation.

A robust optimization strategy will deliver:

Visibility into consumption, performance, and any anomalies

Ongoing savings, with identification of areas for cost control

A more flexible, sustainable, and AI-ready environment

Continuous improvement, supported by automation and expert insights

By using the right tools, you can significantly accelerate your optimization strategy. A self-service analytics engine, like Avanade's ANALYZE solution, can deliver daily insights and help teams spot potential misconfigurations or overspend. This free service can drive rapid savings, often 20% or more, ensuring your cloud journey continues to deliver.

Optimization is where cloud becomes a strategic asset, maintaining the health of your environment and maximizing your future AI possibilities.

The benefits of a confident cloud move are clearest when you look at the organizations that have already achieved it.
Here are some examples of how we've helped build out the cloud roadmap, put plans into action, and delivered meaningful results.

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Vandemoortele finds successful cloud migration

Business situation

Vandemoortele—a leading food company based in Belgium—understands the power of Microsoft Azure and had already begun building a hybrid cloud environment, with some applications operating in the cloud and others still using on-premises infrastructure. It knew that moving more apps and tools to the cloud would help give employees more time to focus on serving customers while also lowering costs and automating operations.

> We believe that empowered employees equal happier customers. We knew that shifting a lot more of our applications onto the Azure cloud with Avanade would enable that and unlock new opportunities for further improving our customer experiences.
>
> **Benoît Dewaele**
> CIO at Vandemoortele

Solution

We used a tailored approach to cloud migration at scale, moving multiple applications and workloads to the Azure public cloud while maintaining links to the legacy on-premises systems. Key to successfully managing this blended environment is Azure Arc, which extends Azure management and services across both on-premises and cloud infrastructure. Azure PaaS (Platform as a Service) allows employees to spin up new applications quickly.

Results

Vandemoortele is armed with new insights and is looking ahead to how the cloud will help it extend its brand into new areas and bring its products to more customers. Now, employees can spend more time thinking about food innovation and less time worrying about the technology supporting it.

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AQA cloud move delivers more than three million exam results

Achieving what matters

AQA is the UK's largest provider of academic qualifications taught in schools and colleges. The organization's new, end-to-end platform is delivering accurate, reliable, and on-time exam results to provide students with the insights they need to help move on to the next stage in their working or educational lives.

Inspiring change

Core to AQA's business is ensuring students get the right results in the right way. Within just a few weeks each year, a team of more than 38,000 people scans millions of exam papers. Given there are major security, logistics, and pace considerations to this job, AQA needed a stronger underlying platform to support its processes. This allows the company to better support students at crucial points in their academic careers—a cause that matters deeply to people and their communities.

> "
>
> We have a world-leading system in processing exams. So, there's an immense sense of pride for what we've done together. All students have an opportunity to get their results, and that's due to this beautiful system that we've co-created together.
>
> **Alice De Araujo**
> Nexus Transition Director, AQA

Driving innovation

To help with the shift in technologies, AQA turned to us, and together we created Nexus—an internal processing system hosted on Microsoft Azure. This gives the organization the resilience and security it needs to ensure accurate results are delivered to students. Additionally, our Manage and Evolve service drives value by maintaining core platform performance and offering the flexibility to quickly scale based on new business needs.

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Our Cloud Move solution gets you to the cloud worry-free

We move your workloads, optimize your Azure costs, and keep your environment performing at its best, all in a flexible subscription model.

It's a simple three-step process, designed by enterprise experts, and right-sized for you.

MOVE
Seamless migration with end-to-end support

ANALYZE
Huge savings and faster decision-making

RUN
Flexible pricing for cost certainty

MOVE gives you access to our experts to get you to Azure in the most efficient, proven, and consistent way. We create wave plans and automated scripts in preparation for the move. Workloads are then bundled and scheduled in prioritized waves.

- Flawlessly executed by our experts
- Frees up your team

Avanade Cloud Impact ANALYZE is our no-install, high-impact way to help you uncover cloud savings, optimize your licensing, and improve your Azure maturity. It runs continuously throughout our engagement, catching unoptimized or misconfigured environments before you incur significant expenses.

- Typical initial savings of 20% (Up to 50%)
- Run daily to catch changes early
- Use savings to fund new projects

RUN gives you on-demand Azure expertise through a flexible subscription. Our service keeps your Azure environment healthy, stable, and high-performing. It reduces the burden on your internal resources, increases ROI, and allows your business to be agile and future-ready.

- Experts take care of your environment, so you don't have to
- Accelerate your transformation

Optional add-ons

Every cloud journey is different. If you want to plan deeper, accelerate faster, or benefit from additional support, these optional add-ons can help you accelerate your migration journey even further.

PLAN
If you need a stronger business case or deeper analysis before you move, add a Rapid Migration Assessment to validate your strategy.

BUILD
If you don't have a destination environment, you can add an Enterprise Landing Zone to ensure secure, scalable foundations are in place before migration.

CSP
If you assign Avanade as your Cloud Solution Provider to purchase Microsoft products through us, you'll access exclusive discounts and incentives.

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Why work with Avanade?

Avanade is the trusted leader in Azure migrations and modernizations. As the world's leading Microsoft expert, we bring unmatched Azure expertise and industry knowledge, backed by more completed projects than any other partner.

2M+
workload migrations to Azure

2.7K+
migration and modernization clients

13K
Azure professionals

Our Cloud Move solution distills 25 years of best practices—built from work with thousands of companies—into a predefined package that you can trust to drive impact for your business.

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The trusted leader in Azure

Avanade is powered by Microsoft, and we have a unique position in the market. Created in 2000 as a joint venture between Accenture and Microsoft, we help our clients solve challenges of all sizes.

Our pre-configured, easy-to-scale cloud solutions are built to deliver results from day one. That means no heavy lifting for you, and no long waits. Just a straightforward and trusted way to make your cloud move, fast.

60K+
Microsoft certifications, more than any other partner

20x
winner of Microsoft Global SI Partner of the Year

92
locations across 5 continents, and 26 countries

15
Centers of Excellence, specializing in cloud, Microsoft Dynamics 365, and more

Avanade handles the complex elements of your migration, designing the migration process, understanding dependencies, and ensuring that every workload is ready for migration.

The Avanade difference is:

Unmatched partnership with Microsoft

Proven Cloud Impact methodology

Packaged solutions with repeatable assets and templates

Cost certainty and measurable ROI

Avanade AI Platform and generative AI capabilities

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Unlock your AI potential and move forward with a cloud migration built for your success

Book a walkthrough with our experts and see how Avanade Cloud Move can build solid AI-ready foundations for your organization.

Book now

1 Gartner CIO and Technology Executive Survey 2024
2 Gartner 2025 Midsize Enterprise Summit End User Survey
3 Gartner, Target Cloud Costs with FinOps and SAM, 2023

Avanade is the world's leading expert on Microsoft. Trusted by over 5,000 clients worldwide, we deliver AI-driven solutions that unlock the full potential of people and technology, optimize operations, foster innovation, and drive growth.

As Microsoft's Global SI Partner we combine global scale with local expertise in AI, cloud, data analytics, cybersecurity, and ERP to design solutions that prioritize people and drive meaningful impact.

We champion diversity, inclusion, and sustainability, ensuring our work benefits society and business.

Learn more at www.avanade.com.

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