

ARE YOU READY FOR CLOUD MODERNISATION?

FOUR KEY STEPS TO ADDRESS

A carefully coordinated cloud modernization plan minimizes disruption and helps prepare your business for future growth. Here's how it's done.



Digital Transformation remains top of mind for most business leaders today. Despite this, **fewer than a quarter of solutions** achieve the desired business results.

There are many possible factors behind these disappointing outcomes, with some of the most common being a lack of business alignment, financial or technical readiness, or a coordinated approach.



Cloud modernisation is undeniably complex, especially when it involves migrating from siloed legacy computing environments. Every business leader wants to take advantage of the latest technologies, such as artificial intelligence and automation. The reality is that it's often easier said than done.

Most companies have already migrated to the cloud, but given how rapidly the field is evolving, the focus must now be on cloud modernisation. Many established businesses are still heavily reliant on Infrastructure-as-a-service (IaaS) which, despite theoretically offering more control, lacks flexibility, ease of use, and scalability. In these environments, IT departments often end up dedicating most of their time to managing complicated software stacks, infrastructure, and hardware.



Platform-as-a-service (PaaS) is the next step in the journey that's cloud modernization. PaaS offers a ready-made platform for deploying the apps and services that today's organisations need to deliver modern customer and employee experiences alike.

As an industry leader in the PaaS space, Microsoft Azure provides the underlying computing infrastructure, including servers and virtualisation layers, while also managing middleware and runtime environments. Businesses then run their own applications and data environments on top of that. The benefits of this approach include easier development and implementation of new customer- and employee-facing apps, fewer redundant resources, and a highly scalable microservices architecture that can be continuously adapted to your needs.

**HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED
TO DO TO PREPARE
FOR A SUCCESSFUL
CLOUD MODERNISATION
MODERNISATION JOURNEY:**

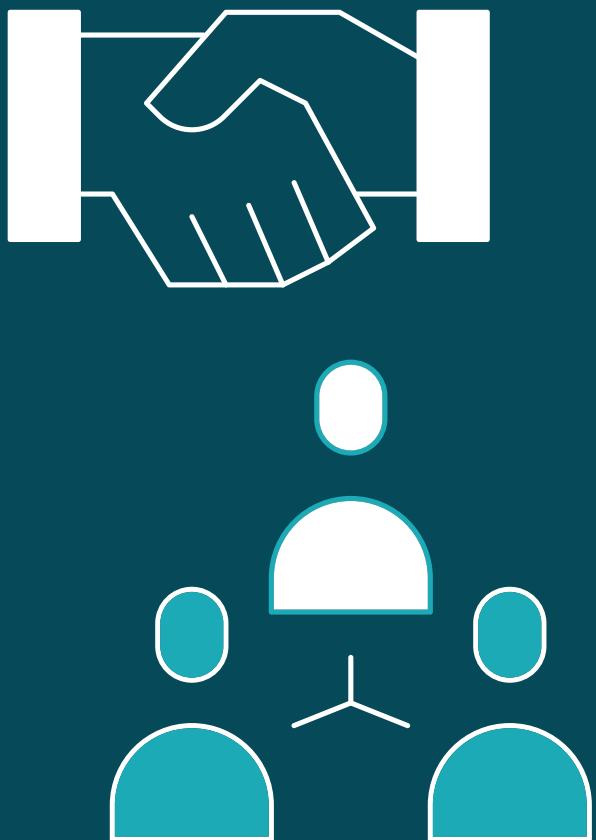


#1 Business alignment

Though it may sound counterintuitive, cloud modernisation should never be technology-driven. After all, modernisation for its own sake, without the backing of suitable business goals, is one of the most common reasons for project failures.

Any cloud modernisation project should be driven by business goals which, in turn, should be driven by the needs of end users themselves. The intended end users, be they customers or employees, should always be at the forefront of the decision-making process.

Consider how you want to improve the end user experience. For example, the goal might be to give employees easier access to a critical business app or service, or it might be to deliver a more modern and frictionless customer experience. You need to define these business goals carefully, work closely with all stakeholders, and make sure everyone's on the same page.



#2 Financial Readiness

Despite the fact that improving cost efficiency is often the primary focus in such cases, large-scale cloud migration and modernisation projects are undeniably expensive. The solution to this challenge is factoring in the principles of cloud financial management (CFM) into the entire process from the beginning.

While cost-savings are among the most frequently advertised benefits of moving to the cloud, the truth is it's not always cheaper, and it's not always a binary decision. The most important metric to keep in mind is your total cost of ownership (TCO). Instead of paying for things like hardware, upgrades, and maintenance, you'll be paying monthly for the services rendered. However, with the right strategy, those recurring costs can be heavily offset by all the things you don't need to do in-house, such as implementing and maintaining technology systems.

When evaluating your financial readiness, it's essential to demonstrate and validate the long-term cost benefits. The size of the investment will depend on exactly what you're migrating, so it's also important to prioritise. After all, cloud modernisation is an iterative journey – not a set-and-forget kind of project. Partnering with an external advisor like Westcoast Cloud helps you home in on your critical business priorities and build a budget plan that works for you.

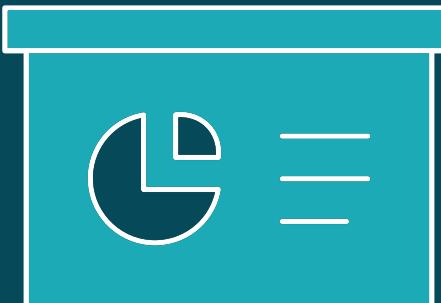


#3 Technical readiness

In some cases, it's just not practical, or even desirable, to move certain workloads from IaaS to PaaS. Examples include workloads that have very specific requirements or those that are simply not built for modern distributed computing environments. In some cases, the only option might be to rearchitect a workload or application from scratch, but doing so requires developer expertise.

A technical readiness assessment will help you to determine whether a workload is ready for migration or modernisation or if it's a better fit for a different strategy. Some workloads will be better off being migrated, while others should be modernised, replaced, or retired. That said, the most suitable path to take will also depend on the capabilities of your technical teams, whether they have the tools and support they need, and whether they have the time and funding. That's why your technical team needs to be involved at every step of the process.

By partnering with an external advisor like Westcoast Cloud, organisations can augment the capabilities of their in-house teams when it comes to selecting and deploying solutions that work with existing environments or can be adapted to do so with minimal disruption.





#4 Planning

Now that you've envisioned your goals, aligned your team, and evaluated your financial and technical readiness, it's time to start planning. Cloud modernisation requires a commitment, not least because it's a significant investment in time and money. At this stage, one of the most important practical steps to take is to nominate a project manager who will oversee the planning process, coordinate stakeholders, and translate complexities between departments.

When building out your cloud modernisation roadmap, it's important to plan for virtually every possible eventuality and ensure the framework is one that all stakeholders can understand and follow. This might sound laborious, but a good plan offers the tremendous benefit of being highly repeatable. You should approach the planning stage as a long-term investment in itself, since you should be able to reuse it later when modernising other workloads for the cloud. In other words, it's not just a plan, but a complete framework that you can use as a baseline for future projects.

Finally, there will be some last tests to complete before putting the plan into action. Before you embark on your cloud modernisation journey, it's important to ensure that any contingencies are in place, and end users are aware of and prepared for any disruptions they might face. At this point, it can be enormously beneficial to work with a trusted third party. Westcoast Cloud, with their thorough understanding of the Microsoft Azure platform, brings the knowledge and experience you need to ensure a seamless implementation plan that can ensure success.



WESTCOAST CLOUD

Westcoast Cloud provides practical insights and creative solutions to help businesses excel with the **Microsoft Azure** platform. **Contact us today to learn more.**

