

Silverbug's Guide to Microsoft Azure



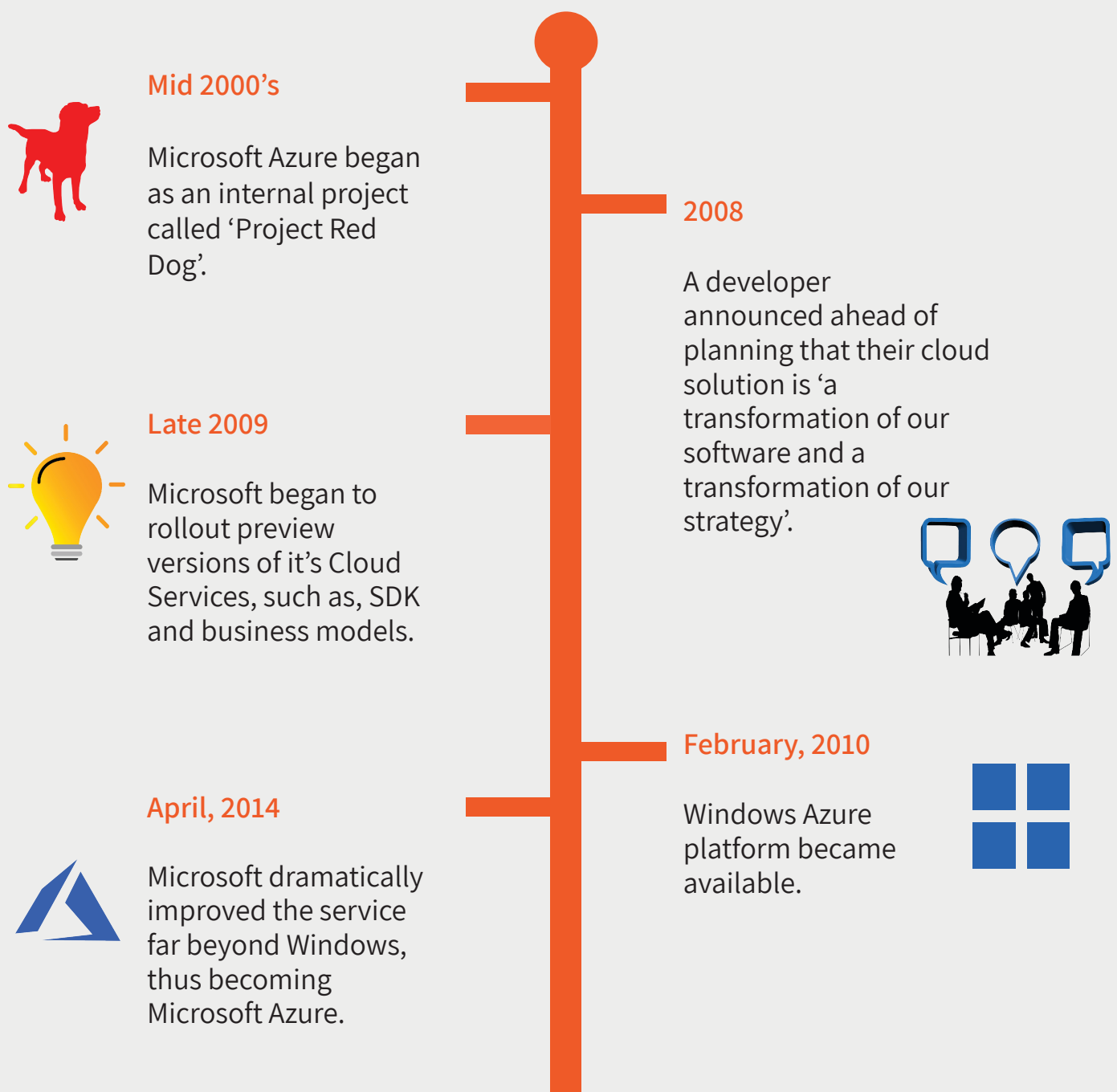
9 Most Asked Questions on Microsoft Azure

Introduction

If you've read our previous whitepaper on 'Top Ten Cloud Myths Demystified', you may have noticed the term 'Microsoft Azure' appear a few times. It's all well and good hearing about it and knowing it's related to Cloud Computing, but how can this platform help your business? And where did it come from?

That's where Silverbug come in, how can you make a decision on what to do if your options aren't laid out in front of you?

However, before we jump straight into the FAQ, we're going to give you a quick brief history lesson on Microsoft Azure.



1. What is Microsoft Azure?

Microsoft Azure is a set of Cloud services that helps your organisation meet your business challenges. It gives you the freedom to build, manage and deploy applications to either your existing network or a new network.

3. Would Azure work for my company?

Microsoft Azure is fit for all business types and sizes. How you ask? Well Microsoft have developed a vast range of products and solutions for every need. They have even discounted products for non-profit businesses out there.

5. How willl Azure save me money?

Microsoft Azure works the same as any other solution. You pay for what you use, unlike on-premises when you have to buy all the hardware and software even if it's not fully utilised.

7. Is it only for Windows?

Not at all. Microsoft Azure, supports open technologies like Linux, allowing you to use all the applications you prefer. More details on this can be found on the next page.

9. Can I test Microsoft Azures services?

Of course, all you have to do is sign up for a free account and you can try products, services and view tutorials.

2. Is Microsoft Azure secure?

Microsoft ensure a secure foundation across physical, structural and operational security. To do this, they invest in resources and man-power to continuously test their systems to avoid unexpected breaches.

4. How does it work within my industry?

Microsoft Azure provides solutions for all industries as their services and products are tailored for your industry to help meet your specific requirements.

6. I already outsource my IT - How would this fit in?

Microsoft Azure offer solutions that can help you manage your existing infrastructure. To do this, you could either find a managed service partner to help you or have your current partner migrate you to Azure.

8. How does it compare to other Cloud offerings?

Microsoft Azure is the only consistent hybrid Cloud, that delivers unparalleled developer productivity and offers more comprehensive compliance coverage . This includes meeting the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).



1. What is Microsoft Azure?

Microsoft Azure is a set of Cloud services that helps your organisation meet your business challenges. It gives you the freedom to build, manage and deploy applications to either your existing network or a new network.

The Public Cloud platform includes solutions such as Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS) and Software as a Service (SaaS). This helps to execute a variety of services including analytics, virtual computing, storage, networking and much more.

Benefits of Microsoft Azure:

- Global
- Reliable
- Flexible
- Open
- Economical

What can you use it for?

- Virtual Machines
- Databases
- Backup and Recovery
- Storage
- Active Directory
- IoT Solutions
- Host and Develop Apps



2. Is Microsoft Azure Secure?

Microsoft ensures a secure foundation across physical, structural and operational security. To do this, they invest in resources and manpower to continuously test their systems to avoid unexpected breaches.

Microsoft Azure holds compliance certifications, such as ISO 27001, 27018 and exceeds compliance in many government laws. This includes, PDPA, GDPR and FedRAMP. ISO 27018 is a fairly new certification and it just so happens that Microsoft Azure was the first Cloud provider to adhere to it. It requires:

- Customers to know where their data is being stored
- Not using customer data for marketing or advertising purposes
- Customers to know what's happening with their personal information
- Microsoft to be compliant with legally binding requests for disclosure

Furthermore, if you're going through an IT Cloud provider, they will ensure implementation of additional layers of protection to keep you and your data safe. This can be either multi-factor authentication, passwords, keycodes, or any additional security software.

3. Would it work for my Company?

Microsoft Azure is fit for all business types and sizes. How you ask? Well Microsoft have developed a vast range of products and solutions for every need. They even have discounted products for non-profit businesses out there.

We know this seems like a real cliché thing to say, but Microsoft really does work for all company types. Microsoft Azure has so many services and solutions that you can pick and choose which of these services would suit your business, there is no limit to what you can have. For example, Microsoft solutions fit the needs of:

- Government Facilities
- Financial Services
- Retail
- Manufacturing
- Health and Science Facilities
- Gaming Industry and much More!

Not only that, Microsoft Azure's Cloud services are guaranteed to save you more money within the first couple of months. Below is a list of benefits when moving to Microsoft Azure:

- Great Access
- Securely Backed-up
- Low Cost
- Flexible & Scalable
- 24/7 Support
- Best-in-Class Infrastructure

4. Does Microsoft Azure have solutions that fit my Industry needs?

Microsoft Azure provides solutions for all industries as all of their products and services are tailored for your industry to help meet your specific requirements.

Microsoft ranges from helping those in retail to those in government, there is no solution too large or too small. Below are examples on how Cloud solutions benefit each sector.

Government

- Increase Citizen Engagement
- Empower Employees
- Optimise Operational Effectiveness
- Better Decisions via Data Analysis

Financial Services

- Optimise Risk Management
- Simplify Regulatory Compliance
- Rely on a Trusted Platform
- Drive Business
- Extend Capacity

Retail

- Empower Employees
- Optimise Retail Operations
- Enhance Revenue
- Boost Sales

Manufacturing

- Drive Business Transformation
- Smart Manufacturing
- Empower Employees
- Boost Sales
- Agile Supply Chain

Health & Life Sciences

- Optimise Patients Health
- Empower Care Teams
- Save Costs
- Improve Clinical and Operational Efficiency

Gaming

- Scale Game Experiences
- Unmatched Security and Reliability
- Amplify Player Engagement
- Managed Game Services

Don't panic if you can't see your industry, just because it's not on this list doesn't mean you won't benefit from Microsoft Azure.

5. How will Microsoft Azure save us money?

Microsoft Azure works the same as any other solution. You pay for what you use, unlike on-premises when you have to buy all the hardware and software even if it's not fully utilised.

It's not just Microsoft Azure that will save you money, but anything Cloud-Based will, as it:

- Increases productivity
- Delivers faster end-to-end services
- Provides room for mobility
- Increase security
- Voids hardware re-fresh purchasing
- Server hosting

Your company wouldn't be stuck in stand-still ever again!

However, to double check that you are definitely saving money, you can look up the cost of virtual machines compared to your physical machine over 12 months. Although, don't try it just yet, there's a couple of things to think about:

- Windows licensing
- Remote power and facilities
- Machine specification
- Cloud scaling
- Internet bandwidth



6. I Already Outsource my IT - How will Microsoft Azure fit into this?



Microsoft Azure offer solutions that can help you manage your existing infrastructure. To do this, you could either find a managed service partner to help you or have your current partner migrate you to Azure.

We know we've said this a lot, but Microsoft Azure is ahead of the game. All of its solutions can be implemented to your existing solutions, proceeding to provide better productivity and communication, resulting in an increase in revenue.

7. Is Microsoft Azure only available on Windows?

Not at all. Microsoft Azure, supports open technologies, allowing you to use all the applications you prefer.

As mentioned before, Windows Azure became Microsoft Azure in 2014. This is because its solutions and services exceeded far ahead of Windows and was able to be compatible with other technical solutions and services. It can just about collaborate with anything.

8. How does it compare to other Cloud offerings?

Microsoft Azure is the only consistent Hybrid Cloud, that delivers unparalleled developer productivity and offers more comprehensive compliance coverage . This includes meeting the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

There are 3 main Cloud Offerings that you most likely would have heard of, these are; AWS (Amazon Web Service), Microsoft's Azure and Google Cloud. There's not a lot of differences between these services, although they are separated by the number of data centres they have and how you pay.

AWS (Amazon Web Services)

Firstly, AWS was first launched in 2002, then again in 2006. They provide different computing services, such as IaaS (Infrastructure-as-a-Service), PaaS (Platform-as-a-Service) and SaaS (Software-as-a-Service) as well as the ability for customers to choose size, power and memory within their Private Virtual Cloud.

G Suite Platform (Google Cloud)

Secondly, the G Suite Platform, also known as Google Cloud. G Suite was initially launched in 2008, providing different services, which are IaaS, PaaS and Serverless platforms. Furthermore, Google cloud is categorized into different platforms such as google app engine, google compute engine, google cloud datastore, google cloud storage and more. This is also a Virtual Private Cloud but also offers multiple forms.

Microsoft Azure

Lastly, there's Microsoft Azure, which was released to the public in 2010. It's estimated that over 95% of companies use Microsoft Azure. This is most likely due to its building, deployment and testing capabilities. Similarly to AWS, it also offers IaaS, PaaS and SaaS on a Virtual Network, allowing you to connect to the cloud in real-time. This is on a pay-by-the-minute.

There is no such thing as "better" or "worse" than the other in terms of Cloud capabilities. It all depends on your business needs.

9. Can I test Microsoft Azure's Services?

Of course, all you have to do is sign up for a free account and you can try products, services and view tutorials.

Signing up for a free account allows you to understand how Azure works by giving you access to demo videos, training and certifications. You'll be able to deploy your first solution in 10 minutes. For example:

- Launch a Linux Virtual Machine
- Launch Windows Virtual Machine
- Build a Web App
- Store and Transfer Data Apps
- Build a Serverless App
- Build a Data-driven app





Now that you know most of everything that you need to know, speak to an expert

If you haven't already done so, it's time to speak to a Cloud Services expert. Not doing so runs the risk of your business becoming just another company who's not with the program!

SPEAK TO YOUR OWN CLOUD SERVICES EXPERT

DOWNLOAD 'TOP TEN CLOUD MYTHS DEMYSTIFIED'



ISO
27001 : 2013
REGISTERED



Microsoft
Partner

Gold Cloud Productivity
Gold Cloud Platform
Gold Datacenter
Silver Small and Midmarket Cloud Solutions
Silver Collaboration and Content



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