

Cloud Strategy Accelerator

Delivering insights that help your organisation align its approach to cloud and business transformation using Microsoft Azure

Regardless of where you are on your cloud journey, your organisation needs an overarching strategy to guide direction and decision-making. Without one, your business may not ever fully realise the benefits cloud can provide – or maximise the value you get from any investment in Microsoft Azure.

What does the Cloud Strategy Accelerator provide?

Change is a constant for most organisations, and events can transpire that trigger change, or the need to adapt – often quickly.

While cloud technologies such as Microsoft Azure allow organisations to adapt and respond to events more easily – and often more cost effectively – than traditional IT environments, it's important that any investment is aligned with business requirements, and that any business case stacks up.

Without such alignment, the IT functions in the organisation may operate in isolation to the wider business, impacting its ability to deliver what's needed, while also not necessarily allowing the wider business to help shape the IT services on offer.

The Cloud Strategy Accelerator helps organisations achieve this alignment. The service is designed to facilitate discussion around the goals, objectives, business drivers, and benefits of Microsoft Azure adoption, and works to identify typical barriers, common constraints and key success factors of implementing a cloud transformation programme.

These learnings can then be applied to an organisation's own specific technology environment, providing information that can be used to address questions around the why, what, and how of cloud transformation.

Why use the Cloud Strategy Accelerator

Key benefits of this offering include:

- Providing the underlying insights and data to support the creation of a Microsoft Azure-based business case.
- Align key business and technology stakeholders to help prioritise activities and investment.
- Understand how ready your organisation is to take advantage of Microsoft Azure-based cloud adoption and digital transformation.
- Establish a core fact base that can help inform decision-making based on your organisation's current state and where it might invest in the future.



Transformation readiness

Get pivotal insights to help gauge readiness to embrace cloud transformation using Azure



Collaborative approach

Collaborative approach across key team members and Leaven experts help inform decision-making



Business alignment

Requirements can be captured across key business functions, helping ensure alignment



High-level analysis

Findings are reported back in an executive level presentation, to help support decision-making

Cloud Strategy Accelerator, identifying key factors to drive your Microsoft Azure cloud strategy



Engagement approach

The Cloud Strategy Accelerator comprises two workshops which are designed to identify and extract key insights from business stakeholders. These insights are then analysed and presented in the form of an executive readout, to help facilitate decision-making.

Workshop 1: Establish baseline understanding

In this first four hour workshop, we focus on establishing a common level of understanding around key concepts and how they apply to your organisation. These include:

- Cloud principles (with a focus on Microsoft Azure)
- Cloud transformation and strategy
- Workstreams and methodology
- Barriers, constraints and success factors
- Security, risk and compliance

Workshop 2: Key strategies and approaches

Influenced in part by the first workshop, we go further and look at key business and environmental factors to help shape a cloud strategy, including:

- Business drivers – clarity and purpose
- Transformational appetite
- Compelling events and timelines
- Capacity and capabilities

At the end of these workshops, the Leaven team analyses the findings and then prepares and presents an executive-level readout of these findings, together with recommendations. This report can be used as the basis for creating a more comprehensive and targeted cloud strategy, and can help underpin the creation of a cloud business case for the adoption of Microsoft Azure.

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Key scenarios

- Captures the key arguments and insights that can be used to influence and develop a business case.
- Help with starting the process of capturing business needs and direction to support the creation of a cloud strategy.
- Helps identify opportunities to align business functions and IT capability, surfacing requirements and helping define opportunities for investment.
- Provides a common level of understanding for shaping the adoption of Microsoft Azure, with business requirements helping influence technology direction and investment – including opportunities to embrace digital transformation.

About Leaven

Leaven enables New Zealand organisations to accelerate cloud adoption, digital innovation and business transformation.

We apply proven methodologies to enable your organisation to adopt public cloud services, innovate on the foundation they provide, and optimise and manage your environment, while maintaining governance and compliance requirements.