

# Migrate to Azure VMware Solution

Future-Ready cloud

May 2025



## AVS overview and features

Azure VMware Solution (AVS) enables enterprises to run VMware workloads natively on Microsoft Azure. As a native Microsoft Azure service, AVS is VMware Cloud verified and operates on Azure infrastructure.

Key features of AVS include:

A full VMware Cloud stack, including vSphere, vSAN, and NSX-T, running on bare metal servers

Management with the same VMware tools used on-premises, such as vCenter, vRealize, CLI, and APIs

A VMware-validated solution with ongoing validation and testing of enhancements and upgrades

Unified consumption, licensing, and billing alongside other Azure services

Complete lifecycle management and support for both Azure infrastructure and VMware components provided by Microsoft

Integration with Azure, including access to the Azure portal and the full range of Azure cloud services

## Benefits of AVS

**30%**

lower infrastructure cost

**37%**

lower 3 years of operational cost

**45%**

IT infrastructure teams operate efficiently

**91%**

less unplanned downtimes



Free extended security updates for Windows Server 2008/2012 and SQL Server 2008/2012



Bring and use your existing Windows and SQL Server licenses with the Azure Hybrid Benefit







## Common use cases



### Data centre exit

Eliminate on-premises data centre costs and overhead by migrating to AVS on Azure



### Business continuity plan/Disaster recovery (BCP/DR)

Use AVS as a BCP/DR location for on-prem VMware workloads



### Innovate with AI and other Azure services

Use scalable, integrated solutions to build, deploy, and manage AI models, accelerating innovation and gaining competitive advantages. Integrate with other Azure services to leverage a wide range of capabilities



### Hybrid Cloud

Run workloads on-premises using VMware virtualisation or in the AVS and manage them with a unified toolset



### Application modernisation

Move VMware workloads to the cloud, then transform and modernise them using Azure's cloud-native and AI services



### Migrate end-of-life workloads

Migrate workloads that have reached end of life (EOL), such as Windows Server 2012/2012 R2 and SQL Server 2012/2014, to AVS and continue receiving extended security updates

## Our AVS offering

### VMware migration strategy

Developing a strategy for migrating your on-prem VMware estate and workloads to the cloud/Azure is essential for successful cloud adoption.

We help you identify the VMware migration strategy (lift and shift vs replatform), prepare a detailed business case with ROI on investment, and provide a cost estimate for AVS adoption.

### AVS architecture and design

Our services include AVS architecture, design, networking architecture, and AVS landing zone design and implementation.

We use Infrastructure as Code (IaC) tools such as Azure Resource Manager (ARM) templates, Bicep, and Terraform to implement the landing zone and provision AVS resources.

### VMware environment assessment

Conduct a detailed assessment of your on-prem VMware environment, including compute, storage, networking, monitoring, and applications, to ensure a successful migration to Azure.

We use RVTools and Azure Migrate to automate the inventory and subsequent assessment for migration to Azure.

### AVS migration execution

We help you migrate your on-premise VMware workloads and applications to AVS using a 5-step process.

We use VMware and Azure cloud migration tools, including VMware HCX, VMware vSphere vMotion, and Azure Migrate, to ensure a zero-downtime and zero-impact Azure migration.

### Azure and AVS migration plan

Our services include wave/move group planning for AVS migration, preparing a detailed migration project plan, data migration plan, BCP/DR plan, backup and recovery plan, and more.

### AVS operations and support

Once workloads are migrated to AVS, we provide end-to-end holistic managed services. Our services include AVS operations, management, support, observability and monitoring, cost management/FinOps, and ticket and service management.

### VMware ecosystem experience

VMware  
vSphere

VMware  
NSX

VMware  
VSAN

Azure  
VMware  
Solution

VMware  
HCX

VMware  
vRealize  
Automation

# We use a 5-step process and VMware/Azure tools to migrate workloads to AVS

On-prem data centre

vmware



01

## Strategy and discovery

- Analyse motivations and expected business outcomes/goals.
- Discover and analyse the on-prem VMware IT estate and resources (VMs, applications, databases, file shares, other infrastructure).
- Map dependencies between workloads and applications.

Use RVTools and Azure Migrate to automate discovery, assessment, and reporting of the VMware environment.

02

## Plan and architecture

- Finalise principles and approach.
- Define migration strategy (8R) and R lane disposition.
- Plan wave/move groups.
- Develop a detailed migration project plan.
- Prepare high-level architecture, including sizing, networking options, identity, and security.

03

## Cloud provision

- Design and implement the AVS Landing Zone on Azure.
- Provision the AVS instance.
- Connect to the on-prem environment using VPN or ExpressRoute.

04

## Migrate

- Take a backup of the on-prem VMware environment.
- Request the provisioning of the AVS environment.
- Perform a POC to migrate a sample app.
- Migrate workloads using VMware HCX, VMware vSphere vMotion, and Azure Migrate with zero/minimal downtime.
- VMware vSphere vMotion and VMware HCX enable the zero-downtime, live migration of workloads between servers or environments (e.g., on-prem to cloud).

05

## Operate and optimise

- Decommission the on-prem environment in case of data centre exit.
- Monitor the AVS environment and resources, including storage, compute, VMs, and network.
- Monitor application/data workloads running on AVS.
- Analyse, manage, govern, and optimise AVS costs (FinOps).



AVS

vRealize

vCenter

vSphere

vSAN

NSX-T

HCX

RVTools

VMware vSphere vMotion, VMware HCX

Azure Migrate





## AVS migration benefits

**Economic  
benefits and  
scale of  
Azure**

**Keep existing  
system as-is; no  
replatforming,  
refactoring, or  
rearchitecting**

**Ease of use  
(same VMware  
tools could be  
used post  
migration)**

**Operational  
simplification**

**Improved  
performance**



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