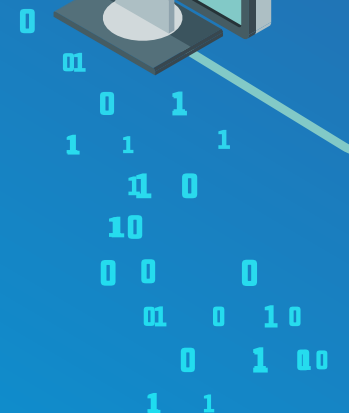
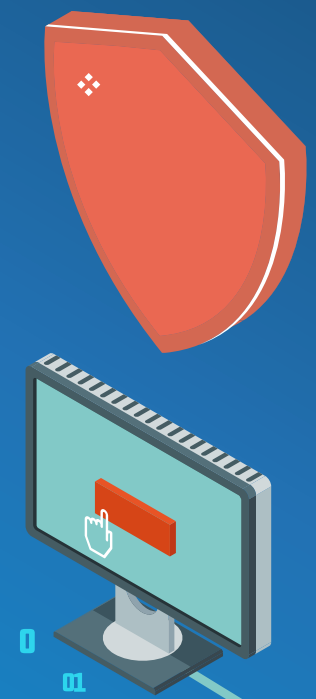




SAP on Microsoft Azure:

key challenges and opportunities of moving to a new and agile operating platform





Moving to cloud: not if, but when

Thinking about moving your SAP estate to the cloud?

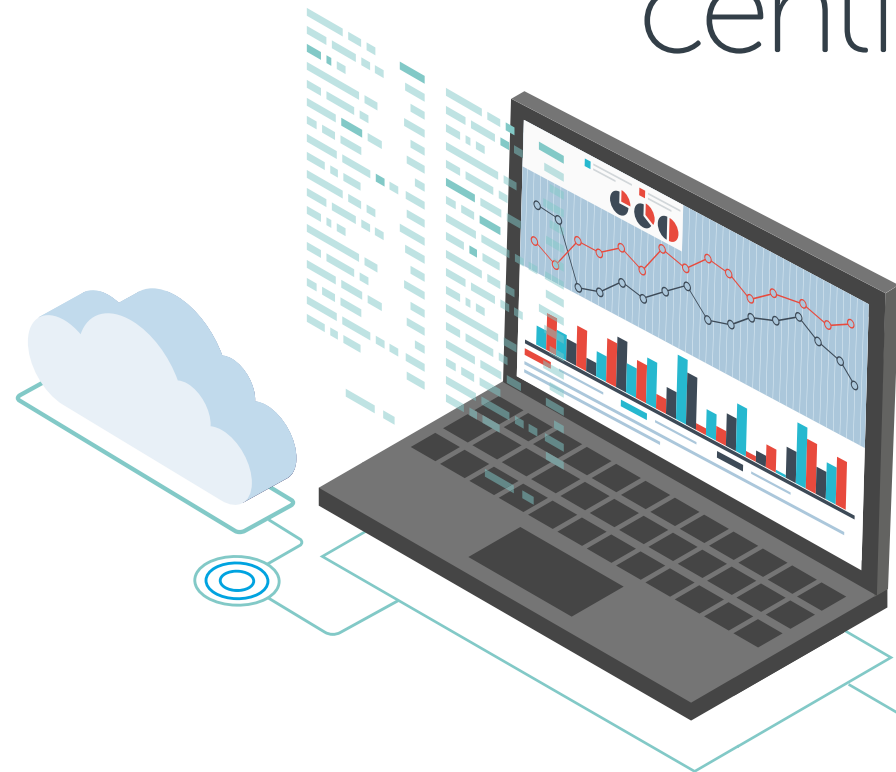
You may be one of the many businesses that recognises how the public cloud has established itself as a leading platform to run mission critical applications. It's no longer a case of if you are taking your SAP application to the cloud - it's when.

Gartner predicts that by 2022, the market size and growth of the cloud services industry will be at nearly three times the growth of overall IT services.¹

Not only has cloud made it possible for users to access data, applications and services more easily while enhancing security and agility; it eliminates the need for costly hardware whilst delivering enhanced business flexibility and availability.

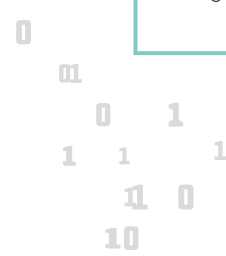
Earlier this year, SAP and Microsoft's partnership confirmed Microsoft Azure as the preferred platform to embrace the rapid pace of change within modern businesses.

Making an even more compelling reason to make Azure your platform of choice.



“Bringing together the power of SAP and Microsoft provides customers with the assurance of working with two industry leaders so they can confidently and efficiently transition into intelligent enterprises.”

Jennifer Morgan, Co-Chief Executive Officer of SAP SE



Embracing new ways of working

With global recognition that deploying SAP into a powerful cloud platform such as Azure can transform a SAP landscape into an efficient, agile and cost-efficient system, now is the time to embrace the impact of that change.

There is no better time to be bold and gain a competitive advantage, leveraging greater acceleration from adopting new ways of working that include:



Adapting and delivering a faster rate of change



Increased innovation and release cycles



Faster time to market



Strengthened consistency, repeatability & stability

Beyond technology transformation

Even with the benefits that come with Azure as your platform of choice for your digital transformation, there's an inherent need to change more than just the technology. To embrace the new levels of agility that cloud can offer, a lift and shift of your current estate will not suffice; you need to use this journey to improve processes and dated ways of working in order to benefit from the true power of Azure.



Key symptoms of an outdated operating model

Identifying with any of the following key symptoms indicates that time should be invested thinking about an agile operating model:

1

Constraints with existing SAP landscapes and processes are frustrating the business

2

The current SAP landscape is not meeting **business needs for responsiveness and flexibility**

3

SAP **updates & upgrades are constrained** by the platform and cannot be easily automated

4

A simple change can take **weeks to complete**

5

Archiving **cannot be implemented** without the resources to test it

6

The **latest SAP functionality is not available** on your current SAP version stack

7

Your SAP landscapes are **inconsistent** or take too long to system copy

8

Your current SAP landscape **DR solution is inconsistent, not dynamic and costly**

9

Operational costs for the existing SAP landscapes are **out of control** and rising

10

Current SAP management **lacks automation** and takes longer to resolve issues

The benefits of a new agile operating model

Moving to a cloud based agile model brings many benefits. Increasing agility in this way opens up a new world of possibilities such as:

As well as better enabling your business to evolve, innovate, and adapt to the fast pace of change, it ensures your teams can deliver projects promptly with maximum security, stability, and quality, right throughout the product development lifecycle.

- Leveraging infrastructure as a code (IaC)
- Access to real-time customer analytics and data
- Simplified disaster recovery architecture and a transparent process
- Instant provision of resources whilst accelerating business innovation
- Delivering rapid SAP change to meet business needs

As well as offering new opportunities, moving to a new agile model can solve some of your biggest operational challenges:



Problem: SAP platform change involves high levels of disruption, downtime, complexity, cost and risk



Problem: Current SAP change is cumbersome and slow, and not aligned to our business needs



Problem: Our business innovation and performance is constrained by platform and process inflexibility



Solution: Increased platform consistency and lower risk from change, updates and upgrades. Modular updates help lower the cost of each change



Solution: We remove platform constraints with a lean design and automated build, enabling a more agile operating model for faster SAP releases and changes



Solution: We create a heat map of your platform constraints and blockers. By focussing on blocker removal per iteration, we deliver a flexible platform completely aligned to your business needs

Not only does a new agile operating model enable greater flexibility and speed up deployment times, it removes the need to plan hardware upgrades to meet growing demand. The ability to effectively measure allows you to adjust Azure costs to match your specific business needs, as well as easily resize platform and capacity according to your requirements.

The Centiq Agile Operating Model

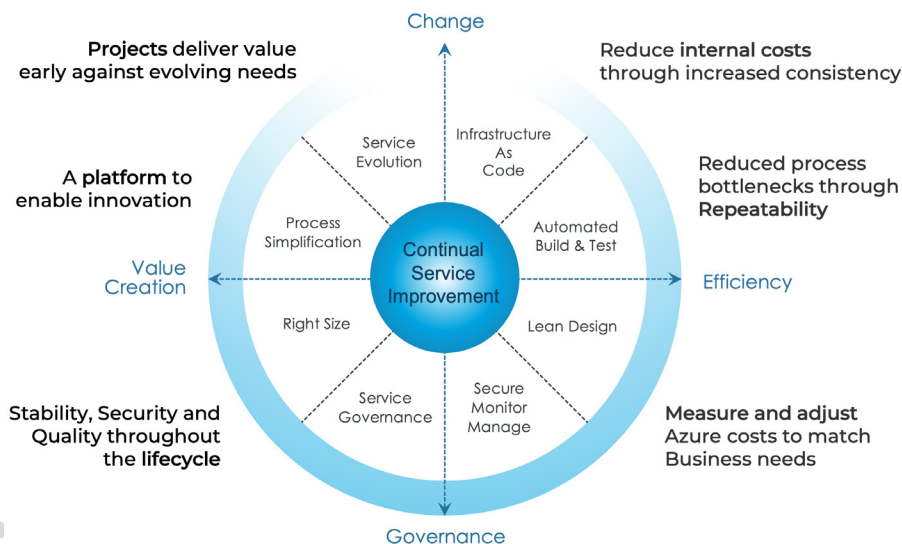
At Centiq, our highly skilled team have developed our own agile operating model that focuses on continuous evolution.

We leverage both cycles of expertise and modern ways of working, with a model built on extensive first-hand experience migrating and managing SAP landscapes in Azure, which we iterate every month.

What sets us apart from other traditional Systems Integrators is our combined expertise in Linux, DevOps, Azure and SAP.

This has enabled us to develop a unique perspective when delivering complex, business critical projects, and given us the capability to deliver a system that's built to run at optimum consistently.

By guaranteeing minimal downtime, we ensure your business runs smoothly throughout all stages of your migration. We have a proven track record in accelerating SAP projects on Azure using this continuously evolving approach.



Delivering real business impact

We understand that your business has unique requirements. To ensure we achieve the greatest positive business impact in the least amount of time and cost, as a first step we offer an interactive consultation to truly understand your business. This includes your challenges and your key objectives. From here **our expert team can design an agile, focused, operating model**, based on your technical governance and outlined measurements of success.

The importance of an experienced and trusted partner

Not all partners are the same. Choosing the right one makes all the difference to a successful transformation. Where some partners span a wealth of technologies within their portfolio, at Centiq we leverage our expertise and learning within in-depth specialisations and simplified engagements to deliver highly successful migrations of SAP to Azure.

Delivering projects and services to businesses with complex SAP landscapes is at our core. We are certified, highly skilled and enrich our capabilities by closely collaborating with a network of leading key technology partners including Microsoft, SAP, Suse and RedHat.



Partner selection checklist

When selecting a partner to assist on an SAP on Azure project you will be faced with a wealth of choice and finding that right partner can be a minefield.

Here is a checklist of the essential pre-requisites they should possess to help get you started:

- ✓ Linux, DevOps, SAP & Azure skills - your tool box for success
- ✓ Thought leaders - combining technical and platform expertise
- ✓ Proven track record and trusted by others
- ✓ Agile and customer lead organisation
- ✓ Expertise in SAP HANA & S/4HANA
- ✓ Expertise in HANA BASIS
- ✓ Experience of 'real life' migrations
- ✓ Champion cloud best practice
- ✓ Proven understanding of the customer and outcome from the project
- ✓ Evolving portfolio of tools and processes (including project, lessons learnt, and feedback loops), to accelerate project delivery and reduce costs



Our work with Thames Water

As the UK's largest water services provider employing 700 staff, Thames Water manages the water supply for tens of millions of customers across London and surrounding areas.

Early adopters in the world of digital change, the scope of this project involved a drive to move the business to SAP S/4HANA alongside Microsoft Azure leveraging automation at an infrastructure layer as well as at the HANA database the NetWeaver platform layer alongside the S4 product.

“Automation processes have now brought these builds down to a number of hours (4-5). A tangible saving in time and cost”.

Paul Haigh, Head of Cloud,
Thames Water

“We selected Centiq as they held the strongest reputation for expertise with SAP HANA and Microsoft Azure. Having a partner who is committed to working in an agile way, with SAP & Azure expertise was key. We wouldn't have delivered the outcomes we have without these three things, and Centiq have them all.”

Paul Haigh, Head of Cloud, Thames Water

For Thames Water, the flexibility and agility enabled by the adoption of a cloud platform combined with our expertise in both SAP and Azure has dramatically increased the pipeline of innovation, as well as the speed that change can be delivered.

Faster automated build times accelerate innovation and both business and IT teams have benefitted from a simplified infrastructure that creates new efficiencies, with cloud-based scalability and automation.



Why Centiq?

Your business needs an expert that understands how to best integrate SAP on Azure. This is where we can help.

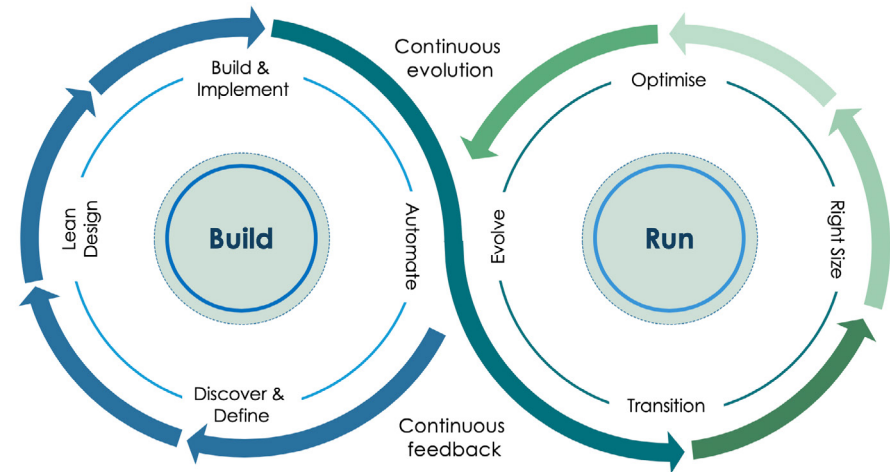
We bring together unrivalled expertise in Linux, DevOps, Azure and SAP ensuring the design, build, migration and day to day running of your SAP landscape are leveraging all the benefits of cloud, increasing agility and driving efficiencies.

At Centiq our focus is on delivering a model that creates continuous evolution for your business. With our help SAP updates and change management become less of a challenge, enabling you to meet the demanding pace of change that's required in modern day enterprises.

We're experienced in helping customers embrace change at the least cost, with proven approaches that lower risk to the business, and operate in a fully optimised and evolving model.

For organisations migrating their SAP estate into the cloud, choosing the right partner will make all the difference to a successful transformation. Centiq offer thought leadership and trusted best practice advice, and with over ten years hands on experience in delivering business critical projects and services, **we are perfectly placed to deliver highly successful migrations of SAP to Azure.**

How we solve Customer Challenges



Gold
Microsoft Partner


 Silver Partner



Why Azure?

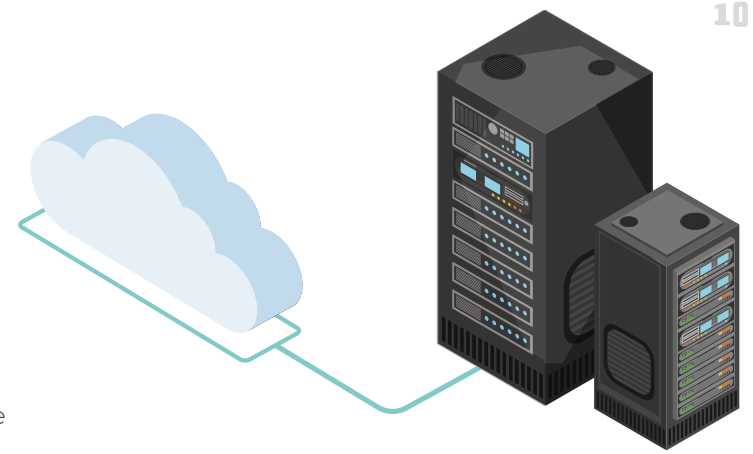
Azure offers an industry leading portfolio for SAP systems, with an unrivalled feature set and **global footprint of more than 50 regions** to support your business in a single architecture.

You get enterprise-grade SLAs and a robust, resilient, and reliable environment to run your cloud SAP applications, as well as the insights needed to make intelligent decisions for your critical SAP scenarios.

By developing a new operating model and joining the Microsoft eco system, your business gains the potential to integrate Microsoft's wider portfolio such as Power BI and data analytics with SAP on Azure. Such access to a broad array of business-critical capabilities can drive ROI in ways that other public cloud platforms are unable to match, offering unprecedented opportunities for your business.

With Azure you can expect:

- ✓ A reliable, highly available, and scalable SAP-certified infrastructure
- ✓ The ability to bring your own SAP licence, reduce capital expenses, and monitor costs
- ✓ Advanced threat protection and single sign-on (SSO) with multi-factor authentication
- ✓ Development and testing environments on a scalable, high-fidelity, on-demand infrastructure
- ✓ On-demand Azure virtual machines certified for SAP



Start your Azure journey today

As you look ahead at future innovations like IoT, Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence, Azure could open the door to new business scenarios using SAP.

However, it's essential that you get the right blend of partner expertise and a whole new approach to your cloud journey, in order to fully leverage the potential power of Azure.

Ready to build a SAP business case based on cost savings and ROI or would like guidance on accelerating your SAP migration to Azure? Get in touch with us today for expert help navigating your cloud migration.

Contact us

tel: +44 (0)115 951 9666

email: marketing@centiq.co.uk

www.centiq.co.uk/partners-centiq/why-azure/

