

10 **AZURE** QUESTIONS

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cloud
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AZURE ANSWERS



10 questions introduction

New technology-driven possibilities put pressure on organisations. To optimally utilise these opportunities companies existing IT environments are usually renewed. Often, the basis for a new IT environment is a cloud solution, but the transition to the cloud is a serious challenge for many organisations.

The cloud offers flexibility both in terms of cost and capacity and relieves the IT department of many maintenance and management problems. Very promising, but with new developments and services introduced every day, many companies find it hard to keep up.

Solvinity offers private and public cloud services, focusing on Microsoft Azure for the public cloud. Many companies have come to us for information, and in this booklet you'll find the top 10 Azure questions and answers in this booklet. We hope this will help you with your journey to the cloud. And of course, if you have a question please do not hesitate to ask - we'll provide you with the answer.



What are the most important reasons for using a public cloud?

You can make use of the almost unlimited scalable capacity of a network of specialised datacentres in the public cloud. These datacenters offer security, availability and a performance level that individual companies cannot achieve or would have great difficulty in achieving.

Flexibility and capacity


A public cloud solution is also financially appealing to many organisations as you can purchase capacity and pay for what you need, removing the necessity of investing in hardware and management (a shift from capital investments to operational costs - from capex to opex).

**Is my
data safe
in the
Azure cloud?**

YES!

BUT NOT UNCONDITIONAL

It is highly probable that the security level of the Azure cloud and associated datacentres is much higher than ever was the case in your own datacenters. Do take into account, however, that securing your data depends on more factors than just Azure. As is the case in your own datacentre, the way in which Azure is set up and used is equally important. Solvinity would like to help you set up your cloud as securely as possible based on the latest and relevant threats.



Which laws
and regulations
apply when I
enter the cloud?

That is entirely up to you

The applicable laws and regulations depend on the way in which you set up your cloud and the agreements you conclude as to how and where your data must be processed and stored. The largest public cloud providers, such as Microsoft, are American businesses, which means that in principle data processed by their products is subject to American laws and regulations. If the need arises, solutions can be found that enable the processing of sensitive data solely in the Netherlands or even exclusively in an individual private cloud. Solvinty has a lot of experience in this field and would like to help you find a solution that meets your specific requirements.

**How easy
is it to switch
from my own
managed
datacenter solution
to a cloud solution?**

Very easy

provided you make good preparations

We can help our customers adequately prepare for a switch to the cloud. This is done in stages, as not every IT environment, organisation, setup, process or application is immediately suitable for transfer to the cloud. Experience has taught us that some applications can be moved to the cloud without any adaptations, others require slight modification, but there are applications for which this is much harder or even impossible. All these applications have to function properly in combination once the transfer is complete. Furthermore, this means that this change will only work if your organisation is ready for it and the business case is correct. We need to be on the same wavelength as our customers where all these aspects are concerned. We subsequently execute a Proof of Concept to test a number of applications in the new cloud environment. Only when this is working properly can we begin with the actual transition.

What would
be the best,
an IaaS, PaaS or
SaaS solution?

That depends on how much you want to control yourself

The deeper you pierce through the row of SaaS - PaaS - IaaS - On Premises, the more control you will have. SaaS applications are purchased as a ready-made service. SaaS is what it is, and if it suffices it is often the most inexpensive choice. PaaS becomes interesting if you want to build apps yourself but prefer to leave the management of middleware and operating systems, for example, to someone else. However, if you want to manage this too, albeit without concerns about the infrastructure on which everything runs, then IaaS would be a good solution. If you want to control absolutely everything, staying on premises is the best option. We would like to advise you on what would be favourable or sensible for your situation.

What is the added value of Solvinity if I want to opt for the Cloud?

Couldn't I just arrange things directly with Amazon,
Microsoft or Google?

Knowledge, experience and specialisation

If you have the time, knowledge and staff, and if you are willing to continue to invest in that, it is certainly possible to do business directly with Amazon, Microsoft or Google. However, Solvinity has already established a large and highly experienced team that keeps its knowledge of the cloud continuously up to date. For us, the cloud is a core task and not a side issue. Furthermore, we know exactly how to express the advantages of the cloud in terms that your business partners will be able to understand. We are more than just an external supplier - we are a colleague you can rely on.



What are the risks when migrating to the Cloud?

Complexity, data and lock-in

The risks of a cloud migration are different for every organisation, but the following are the most important ones:

1. **Complexity.** Pure cloud solutions are usually fairly well-organised, but in many cases you will initially find yourself in a hybrid situation in which legacy applications in a private environment have to be made to collaborate with new cloud solutions. Solvinity provides migration advice in order to minimise this complexity.
2. **Data.** Migrating large quantities of data to the cloud could lead to unexpected results. An experienced partner, such as Solvinity, knows the best ways to prevent unpleasant surprises.
3. **Lock-in.** It is one thing to migrate to the cloud - it can be much more troublesome to move out again. Solvinity can help with a strategy (e.g. containerisation) to ensure that you will remain flexible if you want to opt for a different cloud solution in the future.

What's the difference between Azure Stack and Azure Cloud

What are the advantages and disadvantages of these solutions?

Private vs Public

Azure Stack is a way to offer Azure functionality in your own private cloud. Usually, a public cloud offers a higher level of security, availability and performance than your own datacenters but there can be reasons (especially in the area of privacy and security in specific markets) to choose for a private cloud solution. In that case Azure Stack offers you almost the same functionality. This can be very suitable in hybrid solutions.

**I can see
the advantages
of a flexible
'pay-as-you-go'
model**

but how can I avoid surprises
when I receive the bill?

A realistic estimate and continuous insight

Based on years of experience and a joint assessment of your current and future use, Solvinity will draw up a realistic estimate of your costs and provide you with daily insight into the current state of affairs. We also ensure that only those Azure subscriptions, rights and resources are used that are really necessary. This prevents costs being incurred for items that do not contribute to the business.

**Is my
application
landscape
suitable
for Azure?**

DON'T ASK 'WHETHER' ASK 'HOW'

Solvinity uses the Solvinity Transition Framework. Using this combination of smart tools and personal assessment, we will work with you to map out all the conditions for a successful transition, starting with the business-related motivation for choosing Azure up to the assessment of the suitability of your applications.

Do you want more answers? Do you have any further questions about the cloud? If so, visit our website at Solvinity.com or get in touch via **+31 (0)20 364 36 00** or cloud@solvinity.com



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