



Hybrid Cloud

*Find your pathway with Highlander
and Microsoft*



Harnessing the best of hybrid cloud

Every organisation needs to innovate to keep ahead of competition and satisfy customers, be more agile and respond to changes faster, and of course, to continue financial growth. Add in the demands of digital transformation and adopting cloud services is no longer an option but an imperative. However, few organisations can go all-out cloud because critical obstacles often make it impractical. Portability of specialist apps and compliancy with regulatory standards governing data in particular can make it problematic to embrace the public cloud. At the same time, a private cloud or on-premises infrastructure can mean long-term cost and potentially onerous management commitments. The next logical step, therefore, is to strike a balance between each of these modes of IT to fit the unique needs of your business.

Hybrid cloud connects public and private cloud with on-premises infrastructure to achieve the perfect fit. It enables you to seamlessly scale your infrastructure and resources on demand, reduces the risk of data exposure, and ensures you realise greater flexibility and better commercials than ever before. It all starts with discovering exactly what sort of environment you need, and which apps, data, and resources can be put where. That's where we come in.



Going hybrid with Microsoft

Microsoft has the broadest set of hybrid cloud capabilities in the industry. Whether it's familiar on-premises tools and apps that your team uses every day or cloud-hosted collaboration using Office 365, Microsoft is the go-to authority for cloud.

By harnessing services designed to work together across your on-premises and cloud environments, Highlander helps to build a comprehensive hybrid cloud environment that enables you to host, build, test, manage, and deploy apps in the cloud using familiar technology. The Microsoft Cloud is fit for everyone – a hybrid cloud for all that offers limitless capacity, in-built security, and a unique platform for innovation. So, whether you're starting small or are ready for a more radical change, you'll have everything you need to shape what your cloud looks like.



Capitalising on the Microsoft Cloud



Workplace productivity

Unsurprisingly, Office 365 is now the most widely adopted cloud service worldwide (Gartner). Its popularity is testament to its unrivalled user experience and intelligent integration, but its full potential is rarely exploited. Widely utilised for email and little else, Office 365 has so much more to offer. Thanks to tools such as Microsoft Teams, SharePoint, and OneDrive, Office 365 is a fantastic hub for collaboration. That's why it's so important to take advantage of it in its entirety.

Microsoft 365 (M365) takes technology integration to the next level. Combining Office 365, Windows 10, and Enterprise Mobility and Security, M365 was created to empower creativity, help your people work together securely, and see them achieve more. Harnessing vital security features such as Microsoft Intune and Advanced Threat Protection (ATP), M365 helps you enjoy peace of mind and greater productivity all in one.

Effortless infrastructure

Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) lets you pay for only the resources you use. Deployed from Microsoft's Azure platform, the subscription service sees your costs kept in check and your time planning better spent, as the infrastructure you need is provisioned at the drop of a hat. Scale up or down as required, and develop and deliver apps faster, freeing up your team's time to focus on what matters most – innovation.

Beyond IaaS, Azure offers a wealth of benefits for your cloud infrastructure. By providing secure, anywhere access thanks to the integration of your on-premises Active Directory with Azure Active Directory, it enables one identity across everything, offering an effortless experience that vastly simplifies how you manage your internal and external resources. Azure Stack also sees you develop modern apps, while a full suite of DevOps services helps optimise and complement your workflows.

Getting you ready for cloud



A successful hybrid cloud has many dependencies. We examine the core building blocks to ensure you're primed to reap the benefits.

Network – Making sure you're connected, especially at the edge, is critical to creating a seamless experience.

Identity – Understanding who needs access and how to manage the people and devices across your entire business is vital to achieving secure privileges for apps and services.

Security – Relevant technology, policies, and practices ensure your apps and data are always protected.

Management – In a multi-cloud environment you need to be sure you have visibility and control over the infrastructure driving your business.

Your Microsoft Cloud journey starts here

Together, Highlander and Microsoft can help you maximise your Microsoft Cloud journey. By employing our 4-step methodology, we build a hybrid cloud environment with Microsoft Azure that puts all its capabilities at your fingertips.

01 DISCOVERY *Discover hybrid cloud*

Not everything belongs in the cloud straight-off-the-bat. You must first understand what from your current environment should go into the cloud and what shouldn't, what belongs in the public cloud and what needs to stay on-premises. We work with you to discover exactly how you can best configure your hybrid cloud so its benefits can be harnessed in the right way.

02 IMPLEMENTATION *Start small with simple apps*

You don't have to dive head-first into hybrid cloud and migrate all your big workloads at once. Transitioning some of your simpler apps from the get-go instead across to Office 365 or your Microsoft cloud infrastructure will allow you to test the water first. Easing into the migration will also gradually build your confidence until you're ready to go big.

03 INNOVATION *Empower innovation & enrich experiences*

By harnessing the many capabilities of the Microsoft Cloud, from DevOps to artificial intelligence to real-time analytics, your team can feel empowered to innovate, whether that's by creating new efficiencies that save your business money or else new revenue stream that make you money. With Azure, the possibilities are endless.

04 OPTIMISATION *Optimise absolutely everything*

Even though your hybrid cloud may be largely hosted in a Microsoft data centre, that doesn't mean that you should leave it to its own devices. You need to treat it like your on-premises environment, which means questioning whether it's operating at its best, or whether you should be spending less or more to improve it. We ensure that it's optimised at all times, on- or off-premises, and ready for anything.

No matter where you are

Every cloud journey is different; not everyone is ready to move at the speed of light to make changes to their environment. Even today, cloud adoption is still met with reluctance, because the idea can seem intimidating. It's completely understandable – it's a huge change that takes a lot of time and planning to get right, but once you've taken the plunge, the rewards far outweigh the risks.

Regardless of where you are on your journey, whether in-flight or simply contemplating the prospects, we're here to offer you all the guidance and support you need.

Why Highlander?

Your data is your most precious asset. We understand that keeping it safe yet accessible is your number one priority. That's why everything we do when designing your hybrid cloud is led by your data. ISO 27001 accredited, we ensure every aspect of your cloud migration adheres to strict regulatory standards and follows recognised best practices so you get the best possible result.

But we don't stop at keeping your data secure – we set about turning it into powerful information that can transform how you

approach your business practices and decision-making. Thanks to the artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning integrated into Azure, we see you gain business-changing insights into your organisation that allow you to analyse customer trends, develop breakthrough apps, and ultimately accelerate your business growth. And by building you a hybrid environment that's readily designed for AI, DevOps, the Internet of Things, and much more, we change how you work for the better, introducing smarter initiatives that save you money by streamlining your business processes, or even create new revenue streams.

We know what works

Having worked with businesses of all sizes from all industries for more than two decades, you can be sure your hybrid cloud will be the right fit for you – our first-class advice, expert design, exceptional delivery, and unrivalled support will see to that.

Advice

We're experts in Microsoft, and know their portfolio of cloud-based products back to front. Wherever you are on your cloud journey, we're ready to guide you to the next step and see you get the most out of your hybrid cloud.

Design

Getting the design of your hybrid cloud right is critical. Led by your requirements and by getting to know your business, we'll design a comprehensive plan for your hybrid cloud that's detailed, easy to understand, and realistic.

Deliver

We'll scope out a blueprint for your hybrid cloud. You can be as involved as you want to be throughout the whole process, but regardless of how hands-on you've been, we make sure we handover everything your team needs so that you're fully in-the-know once the project's complete.

Support

We're known for our exceptional support. So, if at any point you encounter an issue or unexpected challenge, we're always at the end of a phone ready with the solution.

One cloud, one partner

All too often, organisations find that they're unnecessarily over- or under-provisioning for their licenses and services. We ensure this never happens to you and you only ever pay for what you consume. We've developed our own administration and billing engine for the Microsoft Cloud, simplifying many of the processes surrounding your services. So, by the time your bill comes around you know exactly what to expect. Everything you use is consolidated into a single all-encompassing invoice, making your Microsoft experience even easier.

Experts in everything Microsoft

We've been a leading Microsoft partner for 20 years

Our strong relationship with Microsoft has enabled us to constantly build on our expertise, meaning our knowledge of their products and services is second-to-none, so you can be sure your business is in very safe hands.

We have lots of real-world experience

We've been deploying hybrid cloud for our customers for years, and because of the mix of businesses we've helped, we know exactly what works and what doesn't for different organisations.

We've done it ourselves

Having experienced the transition to hybrid cloud first-hand, we know the risks and we've reaped the rewards, so we're perfectly positioned to build the best hybrid cloud for your business.

Just like hybrid cloud, Highlander's expertise combined with Microsoft's rich service line-up brings you the best of both worlds.

Cloud in action

A complete migration made easy

Customer – One of the UK's fastest growing house builders.

Challenge – Looking to break away from the restrictions of legacy on-premises infrastructure and build their cloud using cutting-edge services ready to scale with the speed of their business.

Solution – Orchestrated an end-to-end migration to Microsoft Azure, where all critical apps are now hosted within an optimised environment.

Outcome – The business can now rely on its infrastructure to support future growth, with all critical IT now paid for monthly via a consumption-based subscription service.

Get in touch

To learn more about the Microsoft Cloud or to start your own cloud journey, please get in touch with a member of the team.

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