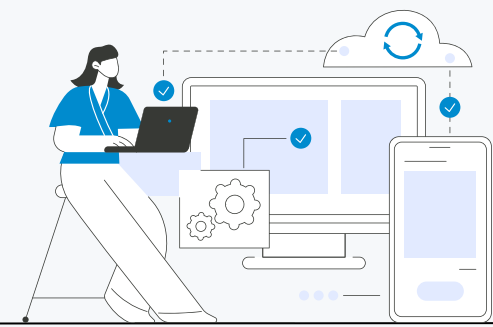


IBM MIGRATION TO CLOUD

Optimise how you host and manage your IBM middleware and software by migrating to Cloud.

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Overview

Cloud-first initiatives and strategies are pushing organisations to migrate away from self-hosting on-premises software as a way to improve scalability, agility, and security.

Cloud service providers (CSPs) such as Microsoft Azure and AWS are stepping into the spotlight with platforms that are easy to procure and set-up. This decision occasionally neglects the need to maintain and migrate existing applications and systems.

For businesses utilising IBM middleware and software, including IBM BAW, IBM ODM, IBM RPA, IBM MQ, and IBM ACE, the decision of where to host these critical services is pivotal to operational capability and costs.

Capabilities delivered by IBM products can be moved to Azure by (1) purchasing and self-hosting, or by (2) migrating applications and configurations to another platform. Both options increase service risk, project delivery risks and delays, and the cost of operation throughout development with little return on investment (ROI). Both options will also likely require new skills in IT development and infrastructure.

Our experience suggests that moving to a new set of products is subject to the 'partial move' risk; a common problem caused by partially moving workloads and then incurring double the hosting costs.

Responsiv has identified the opportunity to

- Meet the cloud migration requirements
- Reduce overall costs
- Reduce technology and skills risk

Azure Hosting

Option 1 leverages the Microsoft Azure platform to provide a robust environment for hosting IBM technologies. Azure's infrastructure and services support IBM BAW, IBM ODM, and IBM ACE to align modernisation strategies whilst offering scalability and enhanced security.

However, data egress charges and dependence on Azure's ecosystem pose important considerations.

Pros

- Seamless integration with Azure-native services and tools
- Advanced scalability and security features
- Alignment with a cloud-first approach and modernisation strategies

Cons

- Data egress charges for applications not hosted on Azure
- Dependency on the Azure ecosystem

Responsiv Cloud Hosting

Option 2 uses the Responsiv Cloud as an alternative hosting option to Microsoft Azure. Responsiv own platforms (Responsiv Cloud and Responsiv Unity) provide purpose-built dev, test, and prod environments for hosting IBM BAW, IBM ODM, and IBM ACE.

This solution offers 100% compatibility with existing IBM applications and configurations to ensure a smooth transition without the need for extensive and costly redevelopment or migration efforts.

Pros

- 100% compatibility with existing IBM applications to minimise migration risks
- Lower hosting costs
- Access to more accelerator capabilities
- Flexible support options including developer mentoring and managed service provision

Cons

- Similar transition challenges during the transition phase
- Thorough evaluation and planning require to select suitable services



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Comparison Table

This comparison table identifies key consideration criteria for a cloud migration project, with comparison between the Responsiv Cloud and Microsoft Azure platforms.

Criteria	Azure Hosting	Responsiv Cloud Hosting
Alignment with Strategy	Aligns with Azure's modernisation and scalability	Meets cloud-first approach with enhanced capabilities
Compatibility	Seamless integration with Azure services	100% compatibility with existing IBM applications. MPLS connection to Azure
Scalability and Security	Advanced Azure-specific scalability and security	Dedicated <u>security service</u> that can be used across applications and cloud platforms
Data Management	Data egress costs for non-Azure applications and systems	No data egress charges. Flexible support options including managed service provision
Dependency	Tied to Microsoft Azure ecosystem	Flexibility in vendor choice for reduced dependency on a single ecosystem
Migration Effort	May involve complexities in migration planning	Compatibility reduces migration risks and effort
Cost Efficiency	Scalable pricing but potential additional costs	Lower hosting costs with advanced accelerators, cost-effective over time

Decision Framework

Strategic Alignment

Both options align with the cloud-first approach and modernisation priorities, aiming to enhance capabilities, scalability, and security.

Risk Consideration

While both options present migration challenges, Option 2 offers a more streamlined transition, safeguarding existing investments and reducing migration risks through code compatibility and low-code nature.

Cost Implications

Option 2 has the potential to offer more effective cost-efficiencies by minimising operational changes, reducing testing efforts, and leveraging existing investments

Optional Services

Both options provide viable routes to modernising IBM technology hosting, each with advantages and challenges.

Optional services may be the tipping point for your decision beyond costs and risks.

Responsiv offer Consulting and Support services for installation and service preparation, and run the Responsiv Cloud as a managed service; removing the strain and responsibility for hosting, managing, patching, and upgrading the cloud platform from your in-house teams.