

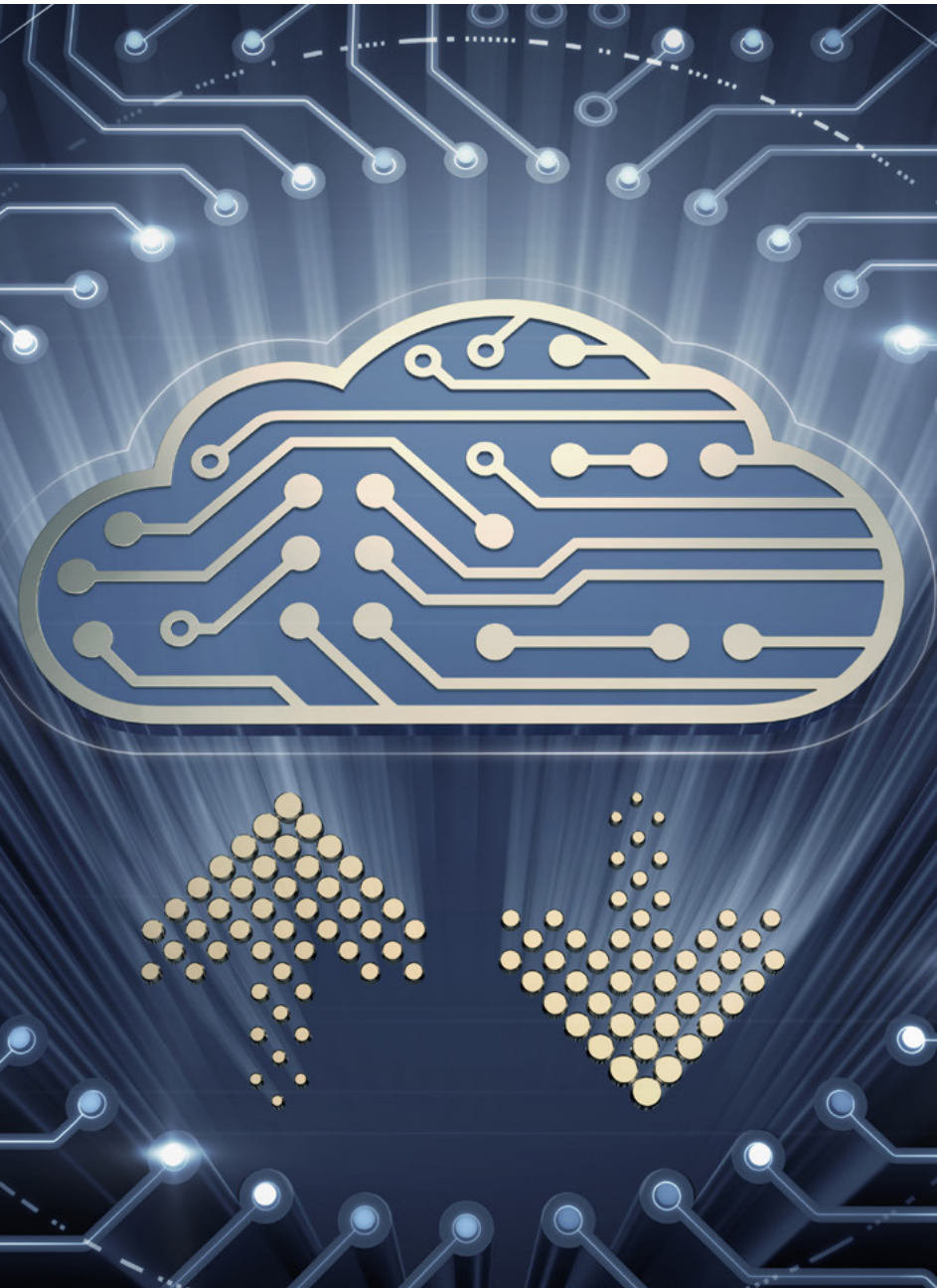
Removing the hardware handcuffs: 6 steps to data centre liberation

Leverage your investments in VMware and kick start your journey to Microsoft Azure Public Cloud, with Claranet's 6 steps to transformation.



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Move fast and address key datacentre challenges

Switching to the cloud from on-premises infrastructure appears to be a reluctant step for some, yet the decline in the datacentre and hardware supply chain crisis has created the need for immediate action.

Thankfully an Azure VMWare Solution (AVS) from Claranet is a fast, risk free and cost-effective way to simply lift and shift your existing on-premises infrastructure to the cloud, with zero downtime.

If you are still considering whether an AVS solution is for you, the following six steps will help you evaluate whether it's time for your business to take the leap.

Step 1: Discover

The first step to seamlessly moving your VMware-based workloads to AVS is to review your existing hardware and datacentre situation. There are several challenges to work through, to determine:



Infrastructure stability

40% of organisations report that a single hour of downtime now costs from **\$1 million to over \$5 million**¹. That's excluding any legal fees, fines, or penalties. In addition, during the first seven months of 2021 alone, 815 data breaches and cyber-attacks were recorded in the UK - accounting for **3,980,757,735 breached records**².

Here it's important to consider how stable your physical estate is. How secure is your infrastructure? What downtime are you experiencing, and what are the financial and reputational implications?



Depreciating assets

When comparing a modern uninterruptible power supply (UPS) bearing the same load profile as a legacy UPS, over a period of 10 years the cost of losses such as additional energy spend due to inefficiency can be up to **\$400,000**³.

With this in mind, how much time, resource, and money is spent on repairs and maintenance? And, how much are your depreciating assets costing you?



Datacentre exit

Moving to AVS can lower migration costs by **69%** and reduce time from years to months⁴. This presents big savings, when a physical datacentre relocation can cost between **\$5,000-\$20,000 per rack**⁵.

If you need to move, what are the associated timelines? Have you identified scope, contingencies, and cost?



Hybrid workforce needs

76% of IT teams admit security took a backseat to business continuity during the pandemic, while **91%** felt pressure to compromise security for business continuity⁶.

How are you prioritising security, and providing easy secure access to apps and data from any device?



Business goals

Britain's economy, which contracted almost **10%** last year, is set to grow **6.5% in 2021**. That's compared with a previous prediction of **4%** and marks the biggest upgrade since at least the 1980s⁷.

To stay competitive, what are your plans for growth and how can you scale in support of this?



End of life hardware

Servers can cost tens of thousands of dollars, and over time become nearly worthless due to age, mechanical difficulties, and evolving hardware capacities⁸.

How will you manage costly refreshes? Have you factored in labour and infrastructure spend?



Physical datacentre requirements

Due to the global datacentre hardware supply chain issues, there is currently a **52-week⁹ lead time** for many components.

How are predicted supply chain disruptions impacting your plans to expand?



Sustainability efforts

75% of all UK organisations report commercial benefits after going green¹⁰, with **75% of customers** choosing organisations because they are sustainable¹¹.

What is your organisation doing to reduce environmental impact and demonstrate sustainability to your employees and customers?

Step 2: Prepare

Next, ensure your datacentre is prepared and suitable for your business growth ambitions by assessing the following:



Continual transformation

In just 12 months, Azure grew by more than **1,000 new capabilities**¹², enabling organisations to test new apps and innovate at speed with more features than ever before.

Are you able to transform fast in a safe and secure learning environment with limited risk? Can your team make mistakes, and turn them into steppingstones for future development?



The sustainability of your supply chain

20% of UK generation could be devoured by datacentre power consumption in the next few years¹³

Is your supply chain sustainable? Can you demonstrate a more ethical approach to customers, employees, your company, and investors?



Your scalability capability

The average enterprise datacentre costs between **\$10 million and \$12 million per megawatt to build**¹⁴.

Are you able to scale at ease? What are your main challenges when it comes to meeting demand and avoiding over provisioning at peak times?



Physical datacentre cost implications

On average it costs **\$10 million to \$25 million per year** to operate a large datacentre¹⁵. In contrast, organisations using Azure¹⁶ realise up to **80% savings**, with \$10 million saved¹⁷ from avoided on-premises infrastructure and staff costs.

Do you know how much you are paying vs how much you consume?

Step 3: Replicate

At this stage review whether you will need to continue in your existing situation for the next three to five years, or move to an innovative, scalable online and low risk solution like AVS. Do you:



Reproduce your existing situation, continue to enjoy the sweet hum of the server room, and prepare to pay a monthly datacentre charge?

◀ **If yes, in three to five years head back to Step 1.**



Do you now liberate your business from the datacentre and migrate to the Microsoft Azure Public Cloud with AVS, preparing you for a move to the public cloud?

If yes, progress to next step. ▶

Step 4: Step-up

When handled by experts, preparation to move to cloud is a simple, risk-free process. Here's why:

- ✓ Experts, like Claranet, provide risk free, zero downtime set-ups that enable a seamless switch over
- ✓ Nothing changes except the platform, so no extra IT resource is required
- ✓ You can remain in full control every step of the way using your existing investments in tooling and skills
- ✓ Recovery time can be reduced from weeks to minutes
- ✓ You can start to build projects and modernise your applications with Azure native services at your own pace with an expert partner to guide you

Acting as a steppingstone, AVS enables you to move out of your on-premises datacentre, giving you time to work out the next steps on your cloud journey. You can continue to use your apps in the same way, managing your environment with the same VMware tools you already know. Not only does this allow you to re-use existing skills and avoid associated costs, **it enables you to continue leveraging your VMware investments in the cloud.**





Step 5: Switch

In a matter of 48 hours, hundreds of Virtual Machines can be switched from on-premises to the cloud. With the right support, this enables you to:

- ✓ **Avoiding lengthy dual running costs**
- ✓ **Move with the simplicity of a light switch**
- ✓ **Put ideas into action at serious pace**
- ✓ **Access Azure's built-in security across all layers of your architecture**
- ✓ **Become Net Zero once all workloads are migrated**
- ✓ **Lay the foundation for developers to build new cloud-based applications**

Whether you're looking to consume hardware-as-a-service and avoid incurring further Capex costs, consolidate your datacentre footprint with speed and simplification, or move away from in-house datacentre management to focus more on your core business, Claranet's VMware and Azure experts can help you meet your unique business goals. **As a Microsoft Gold Partner, an Azure Expert MSP, and a Premier VMware Partner, we offer pure play AVS expertise and a fast, effective, convenient path to migration: no matter where you are on your Azure journey.**

Step 6: Transform

And now to the unlimited possibilities and time to discover how the cloud can transform your business. You can stay in AVS, benefitting from improved sustainability, disaster recovery, and the ability to scale with automation and fast provisioning. Or, you could do so much more, with Claranet's experts who provide a flexible, modalized Competitive Edge Framework designed to help organisations modernise and optimise their IT infrastructure.

“ We’ve been absolutely delighted with how Claranet have supported us, demonstrating passion and expertise when it comes to sustainable cloud migration. Thanks to Claranet, not only are now able to continue working towards building a more resilient environment, community, and profits. We can be more committed to attracting, retaining, and progressing talent and a diverse workforce, that better reflects the communities we serve.”

Head of Architecture
Top UK **Construction Company**



Ready to kick start your transformation with a fast, cost-effective, and risk-free route to the **Azure Public Cloud?**

Get in touch with us today

Tel: 0330 390 0507

Through the Microsoft Azure Modernisation and Migration Program (AMMP) there are zero upfront costs on over 50 servers.

Learn more about moving your existing on-premises infrastructure to the cloud, with zero downtime.

1. ITC 2. Farsight UK 3. Datacentre Dynamics 4. Microsoft VMWare Solution Overview 5. Exit Technologies 6. TechHQ 7. Bloomberg 8. Tech Republic 9. Data Center Knowledge 10. Renewable Energy Hub 11. Business Leader 12. Microsoft 13. Computer Weekly 14. Data Center Dynamics 15. Dummies 16. Azure Savings Calculator 17. Forrester Consulting Total Economic Impact

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