# Microsoft and Dell: realising the full potential of Dell APEX Cloud Platform for Microsoft Azure









APEX Cloud Platform for Microsoft Azure (ACP) allows organisations to modernise their data centres and run virtualised workloads using familiar tools and technologies. See how it is helping organisations to take advantage of Azure services and management capabilities within their on-premise environments.

As organisations strive to meet their objectives, they recognise that an agile and flexible IT infrastructure is crucial for delivering great user experiences. This realisation has caused a surge in digital transformation to enhance operational capabilities and stay competitive in a fast-paced market.

To achieve this, organisations need to create an IT environment that allows you to:

- Enhance your user experience
- Process data and make informed decisions with analytics
- Expedite DevOps and evolve best practices
- Increase cost-effectivesness, output, and efficiency
- Ensure data security and compliance

# What is APEX Cloud Platform for Microsoft Azure?

ACP is a hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) solution that enables organisations to run virtualised workloads on-premise, while leveraging the power of Azure's hybrid cloud capabilities.

This solution provides a comprehensive platform for virtualisation, software-defined storage, and networking.

Leveraging the power of Azure's hybrid cloud capabilities, ACP is a solution for organisations looking to balance the benefits of cloud and on-premise infrastructure.



## The benefits of APEX Cloud Platform for Microsoft Azure

- Consolidate compute, storage, and networking in a single platform
- Scale your infrastructure based on your organisation's needs
- Leverage cloud capabilities for on-premise workloads



# Why are organisations deploying a hyperconverged infrastructure?

HCI has become a go-to solution for organisations looking to implement a hybrid cloud infrastructure or upgrade their onpremise servers and storage.

By utilising a hyperconverged infrastructure, you reduce the complexity and cost of managing multiple siloed systems and gain a more scalable and flexible infrastructure that meets the needs of your organisation.

Additionally, ACP improves data centre performance and availability by consolidating all functions into a single platform. It also simplifies backup and disaster recovery processes by enabling data replication and protection to be managed at the virtual machine level, rather than at the storage array or network level.

### Five reasons your organisation should deploy ACP:

For organisations to meet the needs of their citizens, patients, employees, and students, it's vital they have a solid and reliable framework, enabling them to capitalise on cloud capabilities and manage digital transformation.

Here's several advantages of adopting APEX Cloud Platform for Microsoft Azure:

### Meet your organisation's requirements

Your organisation is developing rapidly and requires an IT infrastructure that deploys quickly, accelerates application performance and demonstrates resiliency. With ACP, your IT team will:

- Simplify IT infrastructure
- Facilitate quick response times
- Significantly improve performance



### Enhanced security

Cyber security and data protection are as important as productivity. By leveraging the tight integration with hypervisors, new security layers can be integrated, offering unmatched visibility of threats.



### Cost savings

ACP will help your organisation to meet its cost targets by:

- Requiring less physical space and reducing the need for large data centre footprints
- Reducing manual work and the requirement for specialists with automation
- Consolidating storage, compute, and networking
- Reducing downtime and simplifying the recovery process
- · Reducing maintenance contracts and vendors



### Data power

Enable your organisation to maintain its data on-premise, while still benefitting from Azure services. This is particularly important for organisations that have strict data sovereignty and compliance requirements.



### Seamless integration with Azure

Leverage Azure services and tools without moving all your workloads to the public cloud.

## The Dell APEX Cloud Platform for Microsoft Azure

CRN's 2022 Tech Innovator winner for HCI and IT Brand Pulse 2022's HCI Appliances winner, Dell Technologies is a proven leader in the HCI market and server space. The Dell APEX Cloud Platform for Microsoft Azure is an optimised, tested, and verified solution that empowers organisations to create a cloud consumption experience on-premise, while maintaining data security and full-stack lifecycle management.

### Key features of Dell APEX Cloud Platform for Microsoft Azure



MC nodes from Dell Technologies enable flexible and scalable configurations across two different models for varying application performance, capacity, or location needs



Dell EMC Networking 10/25/100GbE switches that underpin a complete hyperconverged infrastructure solution



Hardware innovations such as RDMA networking and high-performance SSD drives

Designed to support both virtualised and modern containerised apps, the platform accelerates app modernisation and DevOps initiatives by optimising delivery of Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) on-premise. In addition, Azure Arc-enabled on-demand application and data services simplify application environments and accelerate app modernisation.

Data centre and edge optimised node configurations with flexible compute, storage and GPU resources help address a broad set of workloads across data centres and edge locations, helping to drive innovation everywhere.

### What is Microsoft Azure Arc?

Azure Arc is a service from Microsoft Azure that extends Azure's management and services to on-premise and multicloud environments and edge locations. It allows organisations to manage and govern resources across varous infrastructure environments using familiar Azure tools and services.

- Hybrid management: Azure Arc enables the management of resources through a unified Azure portal
- Consistent Azure services: leverage Azure services like Azure Policy, Azure Monitor, and Azure Security Center for consistent governance and compliance across environments
- Infrastructure as Code: Arc supports the use of Azure Resource Manager allowing you to define and manage across different environments



Dell EMC OpenManage Integration with Microsoft Windows Admin Centre (WAC) and Azure Arc enabled services makes management, configuration, and monitoring much easier



Dell EMC ProDeploy and Dell EMC ProSupport service deliver efficient onsite deployment and single source of technical support



Pre-configured and optimised features such as caching Dell ACP and storage tiering



## Designing your IT infrastructure for sustainability with Dell APEX Cloud Platform for Microsoft Azure

Servers and data centres, which are typically used by larger organisations, consume significant amounts of energy with some estimates suggesting that data centres can consume up to 3% of global electricity<sup>2</sup>.

On average in the UK, a single data centre will consume 481,800 kWh per year<sup>3</sup>, which is equivalent to:



To support the 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals, UK organisations need ways to reduce their energy usage to reach their overall sustainability targets. ACP allows organisations to reduce their energy consumption in a number of ways, including:

- Consolidation of physical servers and storage into a single software-defined platform
- Adding and removing resources to match your workload requirements
- Adopting a hybrid cloud solution to reduce the number of on-premise servers



### Microsoft's commitment to sustainability

Microsoft is deeply invested in sustainability and has taken significant steps to help organisations reduce their carbon emissions. Since 2012, Microsoft has been a carbon neutral organisation and has a goal of becoming carbon negative by 2030, meaning it will be actively removing historical carbon emissions equivalent to all the organisation's direct emissions since its founding in 1975.

By utilising Microsoft's technology, there are numerous ways for your organisation to reduce its carbon footprint:

### Renewable energy and energy efficiency:

By 2025, Microsoft has a goal to rely on 100% renewable energy to power its operations and have implemented this technology in their data centres, buildings, and operations

#### Supplier engagement and carbon reduction:

As a significant portion of emissions often originate from the supply chain, Microsoft collaborates with suppliers to improve their sustainability practices

### Sustainable data centres:

Microsoft has implemented innovative techniques in order to reduce the energy consumption of its data centres

#### Carbon reporting and data management:

Microsoft provides tools and platforms that enables organisations to collect, track, and analyse their carbon emissions data, giving you visibility into where you can improve



# Discover Dell APEX Cloud Plaftorm for Microsoft Azure for your organisation

Arrange your free one-to-one call with our Dell and Microsoft specialists to discuss how Dell APEX Cloud Platform for Microsoft Azure helps you to transform your data centre to one which seamleslly meets the needs of today and tomorrow.

If you're not quite at this stage of your cloud journey, why not speak to our specialists about Azure Arc and how it'll help you take the next step.

 Book your free call now
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