Service Definition

Azure Data Factory - Data Integration Services

G-Cloud 14

Microsoft
Partner

Contents

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1 Azure Data Factory - Data Integration Services

Deliver trusted data securely into Azure from a myriad of sources, both on-premises and in the cloud, with our Data Integration Services using Azure Data Factory. A serverless cloud data integration tool that scales out on-demand, automating data movement securely and cost-effectively.

With Azure Data Factory you can develop low code hybrid ETL and ELT data pipelines that integrate with Azure's monitoring, auditing and alerting capabilities and adhere to industry leading CI/CD practices. Build on your existing investment in SSIS by seamlessly migrating these workloads to the cloud or build anew through an intuitive user interface or code first approach.

Pivotal BI is a Microsoft Partner specialising in data-related services both on-premises and in the cloud. We focus on delivering modern data platforms in Azure across all aspects of solution delivery, from planning, setup and migration to training, quality assurance and on-going support. We can offer planning, setup and migration, and training across the full suite of Azure Data Analytics products, including but not limited to:

- Microsoft Power BI
- Azure SQL Database
- Azure Data Factory
- Azure Databricks
- Azure Data Lake Gen2
- Azure Synapse Analytics

We offer a flexible and informed service that can be customised to suit your specific needs, budget and timescales as required. We use modern development practices where value can be delivered faster and with full transparency. By working closely with your delivery team, we help you to build on your understanding of the Azure Data Platform services and upskill as part of the delivery.

2 Our Approach

2.1 Agile Delivery

At Pivotal BI we draw on elements of Agile and Rational Unified Process (RUP) as part of our project delivery process. These approaches, originally defined for application development projects, have been adapted by us to cater for the differing challenges presented by data integration, data warehousing and complex data analytics projects.

Agile software development practices provide several advantages over traditional delivery methods. When applied to projects based around data processing, business intelligence and analytics, some additional principles and roles allow the approach to remove elements of risk and improve success rates. By delivering business value frequently and reliably all stakeholders are kept informed and engaged throughout the lifecycle of the project, helping to provide valuable champions within the organisation.

2.2 The Engagement Process

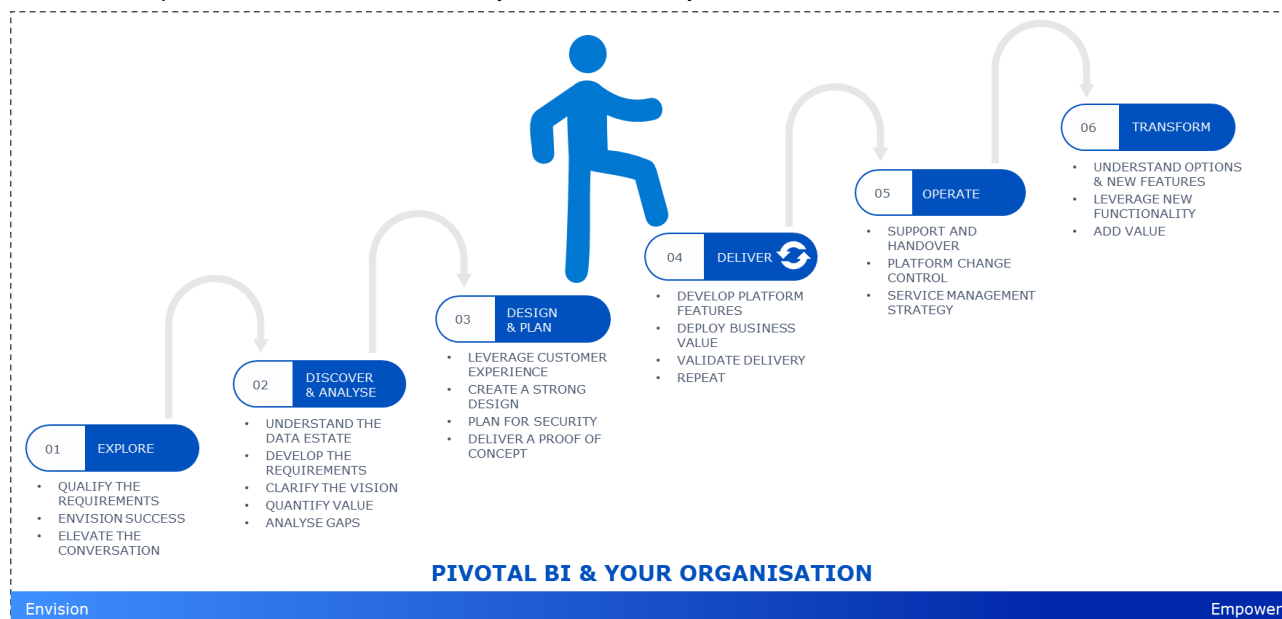We follow the process below as we work with you to successfully deliver our services.

Figure 1: The Engagement Process

2.2.1 Explore

We discuss with you the main drivers for the project, including vision statements, stakeholders, enterprise-wide considerations, and all other high-level factors that will come into play as the engagement proceeds. At the end of the process, a consensus is reached on what success will look like and how this will be achieved.

2.2.2 Discover and Analyse

The project team will gather further information relating to various aspects of the proposed system. Considerations such as upstream data dependencies, the systems landscape into which the project must fit, and functional and non-functional requirements will be captured in the form of 'Epics', 'Features' and 'User Stories' to form the 'Product Backlog'. Understanding the related priorities, business value and underlying risks will direct the efforts of the team towards a successful delivery.

2.2.3 Design and Plan

The intention of this phase is not to produce an in-depth and detailed specification for the design of the project, but rather to arrive at an understanding of what is required that is sufficient for starting development with a level of risk that is reduced to an acceptable level. The delivery process recognises that requirements will change during the lifetime of the project and requests will be reprioritised throughout the release cycle. For this reason, a detailed initial specification will provide little resemblance to the final delivered application. 'Sufficient' design upfront is the condition for proceeding to the next phase.

We work with you to ensure that your experience is leveraged to the full in arriving at a design that provides the best fit for your business and culture.

By agreeing release and operations plans early we ensure that delivery achieves the highest value with the lowest risk throughout.

To reassure stakeholders we recommend a Proof of Concept (POC) that confirms key elements of your vision are achievable. This POC can serve as the basis for future deliverables, expanding into a 'production-ready' solution.

2.2.4 Deliver

Using Agile delivery methods, we work with your teams to develop and deploy the features in an iterative fashion, typically over two-week cycles or 'sprints'. Each sprint addresses new features which are validated and delivered during the sprint, providing new value to the business from each cycle. By immersing ourselves with your delivery teams your people have the opportunity to upskill as part of the delivery.
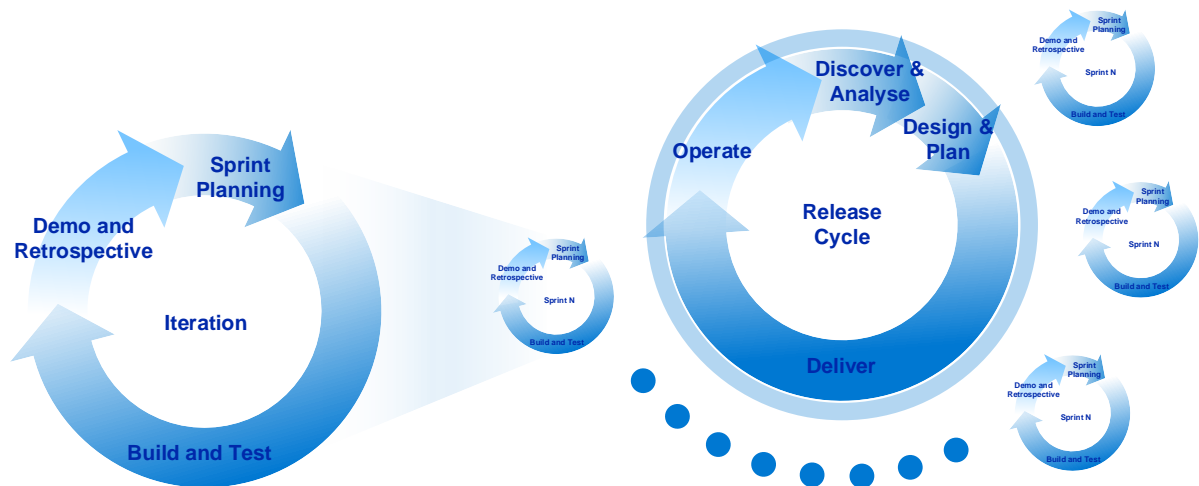

Figure 2: Delivery Cycles

2.2.5 Operate

We help you transition from delivery to operations, ensuring a solution that is robust, secure and performant. Whether for your Operations teams or using our Managed Services offering, we provide technical support and handover on all aspects of the delivery.

2.2.6 Transform

Continuing with the Agile approach, together we bring new feature requests into scope for delivery. Additional business value is added, further expanding the analytical capabilities available to your organisation.

3 Quality of Service

At Pivotal BI we pride ourselves on our level of understanding of all aspects of the data services consulting work we do. After all, it is this understanding that helps ensure success. Our Data Analytics Consultants understand the technology, processes and pitfalls that come with data projects. We believe in offering value for money in all we deliver.

Microsoft partners are able to provide the latest in-depth knowledge and support regarding the products and services available for cloud native and on-premises data technologies.

Certified Scrum Masters are Scrum Alliance approved Agile specialists who understand the processes, benefits and pitfalls involved with Agile delivery. At Pivotal BI we adapt Agile for data services projects.

Cyber Essentials certified organisations take all necessary measures to ensure that data security is treated with the highest priority that it requires. All staff are trained in the handling and protection of all levels of sensitive data and all necessary steps are undertaken to safeguard against any possible data breach.

No padding, bulking out of teams or simply overstating the problem, we consider ourselves different from what you may have experienced with other operations.

4 Training

Pivotal BI will provide ongoing training throughout the delivery of this service engagement to ensure that your staff understand the solution, the decisions made along the way and how best to carry it forward. We are also able to provide bespoke training in all areas relating to this service. Should these be of interest please do feel free to discuss these with us during the initial stages of the engagement so that we can determine how best to tailor our work together to meet your needs in this area.

5 Ordering and Invoicing

To discuss your requirements and how we can assist you through this service engagement, please contact us via the details below:

Tel: +44(0)20 3880 2095

Email: info@pivotalbi.com

All discussions are completely confidential and provided with no client obligations.

For invoicing information regarding the service engagement, please refer to the Supplier Terms and Conditions.

6 Termination Terms

For terms relating to the termination of the service engagement, please refer to the Supplier Terms and Conditions.

7 Working with Us

We work closely with you to determine exactly what your current and future needs are and how we can help in the most cost-effective manner.

Our broad and deep understanding of data analytics allows us to offer a flexible and informed service.

Our client relationships are open, honest and equal. We believe this is the real key to successful engagements.