

MICROSOFT AZURE IaaS HEALTH CHECK

Fact Sheet

Microsoft Azure Health Check

CDW is an award winning Managed Service Provider trusted by some of the UK's largest businesses to provide and manage complex cloud services.

CDW's portfolio includes many aspects of managing and maintaining public cloud services for a diverse range of organisations, each with their own different needs and objectives.

Need to know

- A fixed price, time, and outcome professional service engagement.
- Delivered by highly skilled, Microsoft-accredited teams.
- Customers gain a clear understanding of their 'current state' Azure IaaS infrastructure.
- Identify areas of improvement according to the Azure Architecture Framework.
- Helps to maintain secure, well-architected, & scalable environments for workloads.

Microsoft Azure has changed the way that businesses, their customers, and their end users interact with and consume technology. Scalability and global coverage enable applications, business data, and customer-facing content to be served anywhere in world conveniently and securely with less cost and complexity than a traditional Data Centre.

These benefits need careful balancing against operational costs and maturity to deliver value for money while avoiding under or over-utilisation of Cloud services caused by improper configuration, which can affect security, service stability and budget controls.

Introducing Microsoft Azure IaaS Health Check

Innovative and complex cloud infrastructures require regular maintenance to ensure it runs smoothly, remains compliant, and is financially governed.

Expert advice and guidance from a trusted and credible partner can help organisations to leverage the possibilities that Microsoft Azure offers.

Microsoft Azure IaaS Health Check is a fixed cost, time, and outcome professional services engagement delivered by CDW to help customers to gain valuable insights into their Azure environment and to help protect their investment in cloud technologies.

Using cutting-edge Cloud toolsets and CDW expertise, customers can better understand how they currently utilise a wide range of Azure IaaS resources and identify ways to plan and optimise their utilisation.

Optimized Azure Environments

A Health Check engagement is ideal for both cloud native organisations as well as those who have extended or migrated their on-premise environment and workloads to Azure.

CDW will compare the current configuration of customer environments to

Microsoft best practices and the Azure Architecture Frameworks to identify areas of improvement that support their business needs and objectives.

Common use cases for a Health Check can include: meeting updated regulatory requirements; improving resource usage; eliminating the risk presented by shadow IT; or aligning processes within multinational organisations who may have begun cloud adoption at different times, and to different standards.

Guidance Provided by a Credible Partner

CDW has invested heavily in Microsoft and Azure technologies, has skilled, experienced, and vendor-accredited subject matter experts in architectural and operational teams.

CDW's expertise and knowledge is borne out by a heritage in private and public cloud managed services, supporting a wide range of customers.

This means that customers receive practical and impartial advice from true technology experts that give businesses a valuable insight into the way that cloud technologies can be utilised effectively.

Practical Advice in Less Time

CDW will engage with customer stakeholders to understand how they want to use Azure technologies and will analyse current resource configuration and utilisation to make recommendations based on best-practice architectural guidance, as part of a fixed time engagement.

This enables customers to begin improving the way they use technology sooner, helping to ensure both the longevity and stability of their Azure workloads.

Access to Experts without the Expert Price Tag

Being a fixed cost engagement means that customers are not committed to ongoing and recurrent costs, or costly consultancy fees.

With a clear and easy to understand report, executives, stakeholders, and technical teams will be able to identify areas of improvement, enabling them to better use Azure services while saving money and streamlining efficiency.

Microsoft Azure IaaS Health Check has been designed carefully to help businesses realise the potential of their Azure IaaS environment, rather than advocate additional services and solutions that could blur the lines between efficiency and practicality.

Best Practice Alignment

CDW works internationally across private and public sectors and understands the demands and requirements that each organisation needs to meet to ensure they remain competitive and compliant with various regulations.

By completing a Health Check, and discussing and implementing best practice methodologies, businesses can be assured that their Azure environment, applications, and data are configured and run in a safe, secure and compliant way.

Increased Control over Resource Usage

Microsoft Azure IaaS Health Check assesses a customer's Azure account, capturing a variety of information about resources and how they are configured and used.

With a data-driven approach, CDW can help customers to understand where and how resources are configured, how they are running, and if there is an opportunity to improve the controls around them.

CDW can help customers to prepare a plan of action to decrease the likelihood of "shadow IT" resources being setup or used incorrectly by capturing a comprehensive

overview of their Azure environment and all the services that are running within it.

Improper configuration or the need to meet tight deadlines can mean taking shortcuts, which might prevent workloads from running correctly, or resources being over or under-utilised.

A Complete Overview of Azure IaaS

CDW considers seven key areas when helping customers to understand the way they use their Azure IaaS services:

Governance: By analysing a customer's as-is environment and comparing it to Microsoft's Azure Architecture Framework, CDW will be able to make recommendations on how customers can improve the security and governance of their Azure IaaS environment, from root account through to resource configuration. This enables customers to run workloads, and process/store data with the assurance that improperly configured user accounts or resources do not pose a risk to compliance, regulatory requirements, or to cost and budget controls.

Examples of governance aspects that CDW will review include subscription design, use of management groups, Azure policy, RBAC, tags, naming conventions, use of Infrastructure as Code, & cost management processes

Storage: CDW will review Storage Account and VM disk configuration against best practices.

Compute: CDW will review the use of VM agents/extensions, and other elements such as use of scale sets, boot diagnostics, ephemeral disks and proximity placement groups.

Networking: CDW will review aspects such as hybrid connectivity, vNet topology/peering, subnet use/design, NIC configuration, NSG usage, and correct usage of load balancers.

Reliability: CDW will work with customers to understand their requirements around reliability, high availability and business criticality, and identify opportunities to improve the resilience of workloads. This provides customers with the confidence they need in their cloud-based workloads by preventing or mitigating failure through robust design.

Monitoring & Security: CDW will review such elements as NSG flow log configuration, use of the Microsoft Monitoring Agent, VM log configuration, and Network Watcher configuration. Security of all Azure IaaS resources is reported on at the resource level, so this will be addressed throughout the report.

Management: Some examples that will be covered during the IaaS Health Check are: Use of the portal, deployment mechanisms and processes, and use of jump servers/Bastion hosts.

Microsoft Azure IaaS Health Check Benefits

Operational Excellence: By understanding how customers currently use Azure resources, and the way that they are configured, deployed, and managed, CDW will be able to help customers to identify areas for evolution and improvement.

Security: In assessing the underlying configuration of their account, customers will be able to understand how they can make changes to the foundation of their environment to improve the overall security, compliance, and governance of their environment and resources that run inside it.

Reliability: Cloud is often seen as a way to improve the reliability of critical workloads. CDW is well positioned to help customers identify areas where resources could be better used to reduce the likelihood of failure, and to decrease the recovery time objective in an event of an outage.

Performance efficiency: By understanding how Cloud resources are consumed, and the likelihood for increases in demand at key times, customers will be able to plan for better provisioning of resources to enable their business to work faster and leaner, without needing to make drastic changes to architecture, or significant capital investment.

Cost efficiency: In addition to helping customers to understand how they can improve the way their account and resources are used, CDW can help customers to identify areas where cost savings could be made, either by changing the way they consume resources, or by redistributing the ones they already have.

With Microsoft Azure IaaS Health Check, CDW can help customers unlock the potential of the Cloud to achieve the best possible return on investment, whilst adhering to current best practices.

Best in Class Tools

CDW has carefully chosen the tools used to assess customer environments. Deployed remotely, these tools are non-invasive and do not require customers to reduce the security of their environments

Cloud Industry Forum

In addition to holding Microsoft Gold Partner status, CDW is a member of the Cloud Industry Forum, non-profit organization that serves to improve the adoption and use of public cloud services

by organisations and individuals alike.

In addition to advocating the use of cloud services, the Cloud Industry Forum aims to bring customers and service providers like CDW together in a trusted and sustainable marketplace.

CDW is proud to be a member of the Cloud Industry Forum and shares a vision of increasing the adoption of high-quality cloud services by implementing and upholding best-practice standards.

Managed Cloud Services

Following a Microsoft Azure IaaS Health Check, customers may want CDW to take over the ongoing management of their cloud infrastructure.

Available in three distinct service offerings, CDW's Microsoft Azure managed service offerings are designed to remove the technical burden and complexity of managing an Azure environment.

Customers can confidently delegate responsibilities to a partner with the skills, experience, global coverage, and key vendor relationships needed to enable their business to succeed.

To learn more about Microsoft Azure IaaS Health Check, or the wider portfolio of CDW Professional Services contact us via:

Telephone:	020 7791 6000 or enquire online
Email:	info@uk.cdw.com
Website:	uk.cdw.com
Twitter:	@CDW_UK