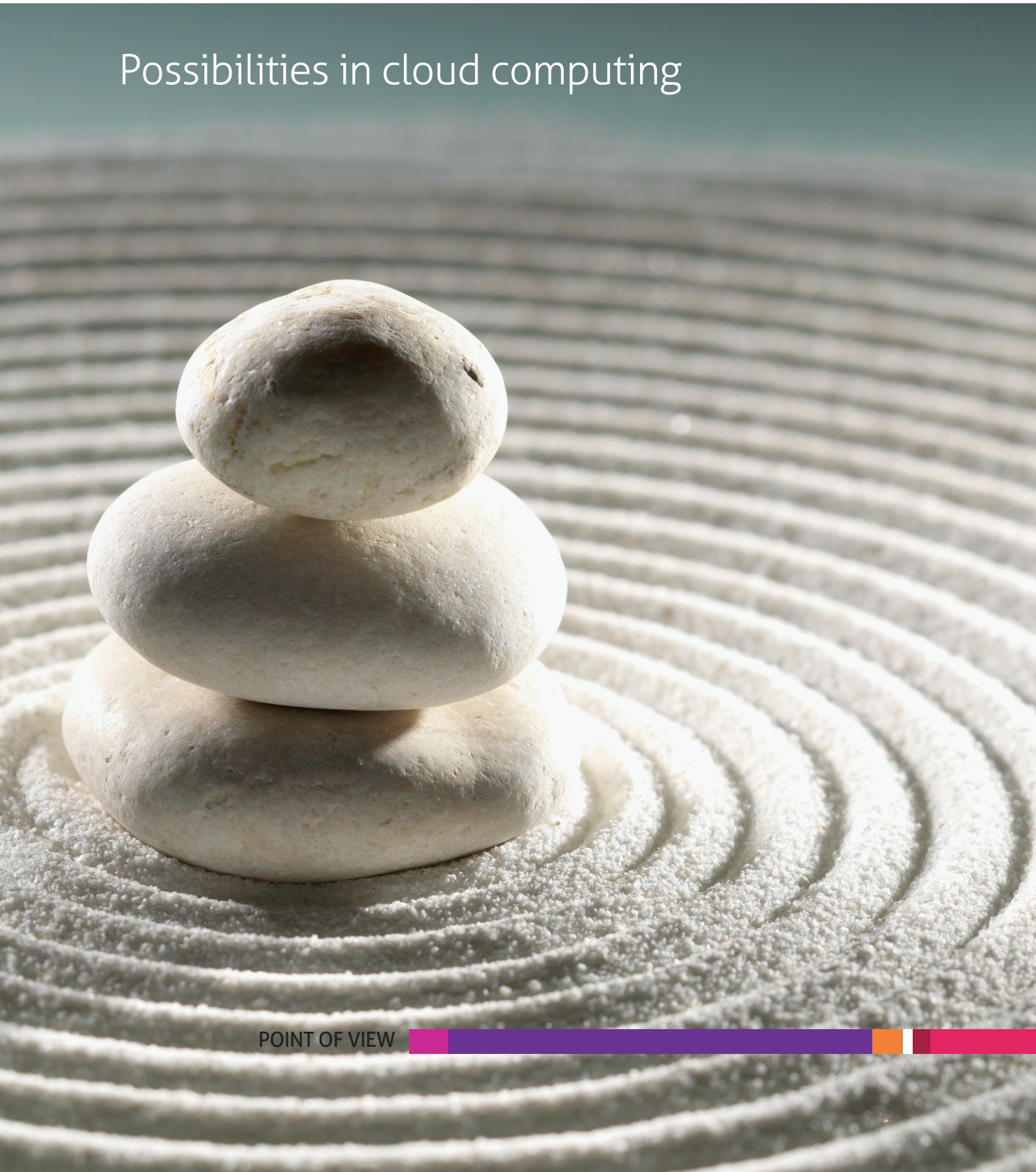




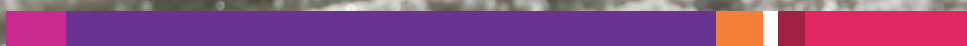
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Welcome to possible

Possibilities in cloud computing



POINT OF VIEW



Adopting Microsoft Azure Cloud Services - Where to Start?

By Koushik Ramani, Lead Architect & Head, IMTS Consulting at Mindtree

Large enterprises have been using the cloud for years to gain scalability and to move quickly to capture new business opportunities without making additional investments in IT staff and equipment. Now smaller enterprises are exploring what cloud technologies such as Microsoft Azure can do for them.

However, the approach to the cloud isn't working for many of these enterprises. They're hazy on the real benefits of cloud, so they're unsure where to start or who should initiate the investigation. In addition, many cloud initiatives are driven by business decision makers who see the cloud as a panacea for all of their challenges, yet they lack the technical insights into the processes and interfaces critical for success.

Without a clear plan on how to move forward, some companies halt their move to the cloud and miss out on the benefits. Others jump in without doing enough background work and end up spending time and money without producing measureable results. So, how do companies prepare for an effective migration to the cloud and create a strategic plan for success in this significant initiative?

Three simple steps to Microsoft Azure cloud migration

Many enterprises are drawn to Microsoft Azure as their platform of choice because it's the world's largest public infrastructure. But to make the most of migrating to Microsoft Azure and avoiding time-consuming and costly false starts, companies need to take a strategic, carefully-considered approach. This means combining big-picture business perspectives with technical know-how to create a structured plan of action. Here are three simple steps to get started:

Step 1: Clearly define the problems and challenges you are trying to solve

This step sounds deceptively easy, but glossing over goals and expectations can doom any cloud project. Before jumping to conclusions about what the cloud will do for them, companies need to first think about where the problems or bottlenecks in their operations lie. Do the problems occur in the production network or in areas of non-production? Which applications, systems and processes would benefit most from the cloud's strengths of agility, availability and scale?

Step 2: Build an inventory your current user services and business applications portfolio

The next step is to take a comprehensive look at the existing infrastructure. Companies need to thoroughly understand the platforms they have and determine how many operations are running on legacy technologies and systems. The older the systems, the more expensive the move to the cloud will be. It's also essential to survey user services, such as messaging and collaboration as well as productivity applications that support everyday operations: payroll, HR, SAP, R&D, and so on. Heavily customized applications typically found in HR or finance are not good choices for the cloud. Standard applications and services like messaging that already run on Microsoft platforms are the best candidates and will be the easiest to move.

Step 3: Define success criteria and install mechanisms to measure and ensure them

It's essential to define the criteria for success in quantifiable, measureable objectives, such as reducing TCO by 20% or increasing transactions per second by 30% or improving uptime. Other areas to set criteria include greater insight into expenditure or reduced management costs. Whatever the criteria, they help lower the chance for failure during execution.

By taking a structured approach to cloud services adoption, companies gain three important benefits. First, they have a better understanding of what areas of the company will derive the most value from adopting cloud technologies. Second, they now have a reference architec-

ture that defines the contact points between infrastructure and cloud, a key factor to making critical interfaces work as expected. Finally, the plans and procedures created during the process give companies greater predictability and control over the resulting outcome.

The value of working with a cloud partner for Azure migration

While it's understandable that businesses want to handle cloud migrations internally, most companies don't have the internal resources or the specific technical knowledge to take on such an ambitious project successfully. That's why many companies opt to work with a managed service provider with proven experience with Microsoft Azure cloud deployments and a solid grounding in major business application platforms.

Relying on experts can prove to be a smart move for these organizations because it saves time, eliminates costly misdirection and reduces the risk of failure. In addition, offloading cloud planning and integration to experts gives companies more time to focus on key initiatives while still controlling the scope and expenditures.

Microsoft Azure cloud services deployment in the real world

The best way to choose a competent cloud partner is to see what they're doing for other organizations. Let's take a look two companies that have adopted Microsoft Azure cloud services for key business operations.

1) Generating new revenue stream for an enterprise search solutions provider

A leading enterprise search provider needed a cloud solution that would integrate with existing customer-facing applications, make services available across multiple data centers and be cost effective. The company collaborated with a carefully chosen managed service provider to design, build, test and launch a cloud-based version of its flagship product on Azure under a demanding deadline.

The cloud partner enabled new revenue streams, delivered optimal application performance and ensured reliability and high available. [\[read more\]](#)

2) Improved service offerings for multinational conglomerate

A multinational conglomerate wanted to use Microsoft Azure to deliver applications on the internet to gain scalability, increase worker productivity and avoid capital expenditures. The cloud partner delivered a broad range of IT services and software-product engineering to implement the solution and help the company migrate four applications to Microsoft Azure. The subscription model made it possible for the company to access technology at a fraction of the cost of an on-premises deployment. By delivering these applications through the cloud they will increase profitability and reduce costs by 65 percent.

[\[read more\]](#)

Summary

To gain the benefits of Microsoft Azure cloud services, companies must take a structured approach to evaluation and deployment. To ensure success, the right managed service partner can guide this process and accelerate the jump to the cloud. To make the process easier, it's important to choose a cloud partner with proven experience with Microsoft Azure cloud deployments. This saves time and increases the chances of success.

At Mindtree, we have extensive experience with Microsoft Azure. In fact, we manage the platform for Microsoft. We bring the best in technology, people and processes to bear on the projects we undertake. We work hard to resolve challenges, no matter how complex they may be. Through our unified approach to applications and infrastructure, what we call "applistructure", we help lower costs and expand business opportunities. We do this through MWatch, our end-to-end visibility intelligence platform that monitors applications, cloud and infrastructure on a common dashboard.



Contact us

For more information about how Mindtree can help your organization migrate to the Azure cloud, [get in touch](#).

About Mindtree

Mindtree [NSE: MINDTREE] delivers technology services and accelerates growth for Global 1000 companies by solving complex business challenges with breakthrough technical innovations. Mindtree specializes in e-commerce, mobility, cloud enablement, digital transformation, business intelligence, data analytics, testing, infrastructure, EAI and ERP solutions. We are among the fastest growing technology firms globally with more than 200 clients and offices in 14 countries.