

MOVING TO CLOUD

Expert advice, planning and execution of our customers' journey to the cloud



The popularity of public cloud continues to grow. But did you know quite to what extent? According to the Flexera 2022 State of Cloud Report, more than half of enterprise data and workloads will be in the public cloud within the next 12 months, which is hugely significant.

What this highlights is that many organisations still plan on doing more in the cloud. And the drivers are often clear – such as refresh cycles and upcoming datacentre closures, as well as goals that include meeting sustainability targets, reducing cost or decreasing time to market through the use of modern, on-demand technologies.

This is where our approach for helping customers move systems to the cloud comes in. We provide the expert advice, planning and execution required to accelerate the use of cloud.

Doing more with cloud

Moving to Cloud is most often executed using two very different approaches. You may often hear these being referred to as migration (being in cloud) vs modernisation/transformation (being in cloud). And sometimes the latter follows the former.

In either scenario, we have a standardised journey to ensure we support customers achieve their stated benefits, whilst leveraging our extensive cloud experience.



Approach 1:

'Top down', application modernisation

We focus on a small group of applications in a 'wave' to understand how we can refactor the application and/or underlying process to make it more cloud native from the outset. In most cases, this approach is ideal for net new, greenfield applications.

This approach is often more time consuming for application owners, but it typically yields more amplified business results.

If there are no immediate IT events (such as a datacentre closure) or you're seeking to do something radically different, this approach is most appropriate.



Approach 2:

'Bottom up', infrastructure migration

We focus on moving IT systems, either through a 'lift and shift' mechanism or by building new infrastructure (virtual machines, databases) in cloud. We then work with you to migrate data without fundamentally changing how the applications work.

This approach is often less time consuming for application owners, and when aspects such as right-sizing and turning things off when not needed are actioned, they yield infrastructure cost savings and increases in agility.

If there are immediate IT events (such as a datacentre closure) or your business is facing an imminent refresh cycle, this approach is most suitable.



Proven experience and expertise

We've been working with the UK Police to develop and deploy the Softcat and AWS DI Platform Service – giving digital forensics technicians the ability to upload, manipulate and analyse data via the AWS platform in a secure, controlled environment. The approach is modernising the delivery of IT services in line with the National Police Digital Strategy.

+

90%	80%
<i>reduction in storage costs vs. on-premises file storage</i>	<i>reduction in analysis time for single mobile phone image</i>

+

[Find out more here >](#)

What are the key benefits of our service?

Moving to Cloud with Softcat offers a wide range of advantages to organisations of all sizes – with benefits spanning people, technology and commercials:



People

Our industry leading delivery squads, comprised of cloud architects and engineers, provide advice and support with decision-making, design, build and migration. We work as an extension of your business, sharing knowledge, skills and expertise.



Technology

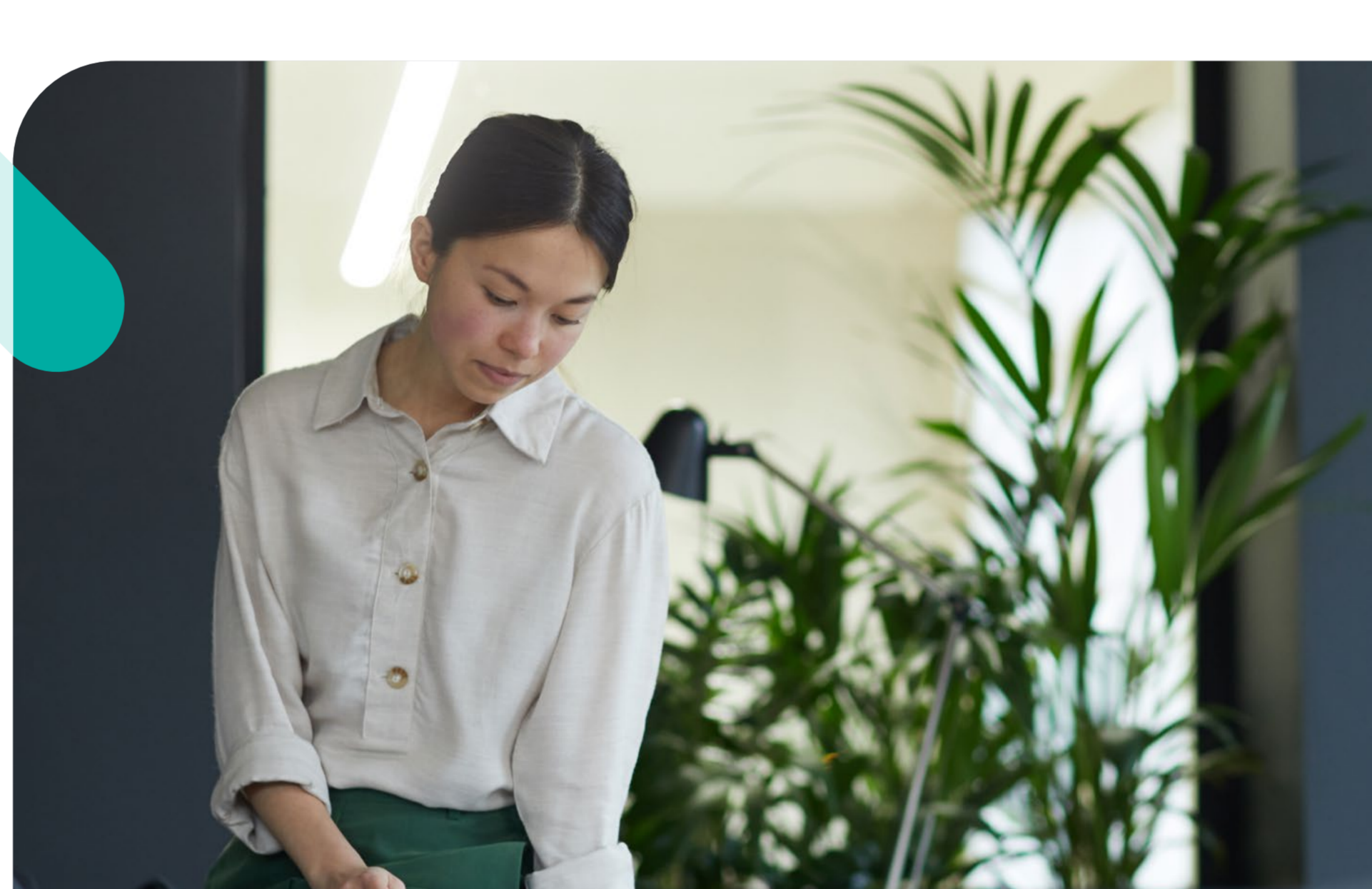
We have an intrinsic knowledge of the tools, approaches and techniques required to make meaningful progress. We can facilitate the efficient capture, analysis and recommendations needed to build, migrate and modernise solutions on AWS and Microsoft Azure.



Commercials

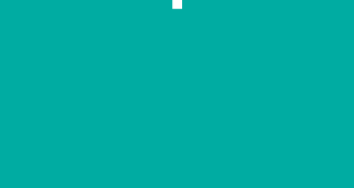
Our engagements are based on a 'fixed price, fixed scope' approach to remove any risks around hidden costs. These engagements have helped our customers such as The AA and NHS-Digital reduce costs by an average of 25%, while supporting customers such as the UK Police with modernisation of digital forensics to reduce the time to analyse a single mobile phone image by up-to 80%.

What are the key steps in Moving to the Cloud?



Approach 1:

'Top down', application modernisation



Workload advisory and architecture

Review and recommendations of which cloud is most suitable for your applications, followed by cloud native architecture of the chosen applications to be modernised.



Build

Development of the target architecture with optional support for any data migration.



Approach 2:

'Bottom up', infrastructure migration



Migration planning

A combination of automated and workshop-based activities to assess all of your infrastructure and core applications in scope; group them using a 6Rs framework; and organise them into move groups.



Build and migration

Development of the target environment together with the use of highly automated tooling such as Microsoft Azure Migrate or AWS Application Migration Service.

Our credentials

At Softcat, we're proud to be one of the UK's leading public cloud solution partners. By working with us, you can leverage our investments in people and technology to support your cloud goals including closing the skills gap. Some key reasons why our customers choose to work with us:

Microsoft Advanced Specialisation and UK's largest CSP Partner, and AWS Advanced Consulting Partner

24x7 UK resource

'Squad' approach to manage end-to-end execution with consistency

Fixed price, fixed scope engagements to ensure predictability using our standard frameworks

Our various cloud provider certifications provide you with access to support and funding to offset the risk and cost of moving to cloud

+ Services that bring your technology to life.

Do you plan to do more with cloud? Learn more about Softcat's Moving to Cloud Service. Please contact your Softcat Account Manager or email us at cloudsales@softcat.com