N4STACK
PART OF NODE4

Azure Innovation Services
Our tailored Innovation Services for Azure

Node4's Azure Innovation Services provides expert consulting for customers who wish to modernise an application using Azure native services without having to make a wholesale redevelopment to the application.

Understanding your move to Azure

Migrating and modernising applications to leverage Azure native services requires a number of different skills and extensive experience. Understanding how to create best practice approaches and solutions for handling micro-services and replacing legacy components with Azure services will require the experience of a partner who has been through the process before and works closely with Microsoft to apply best practices.

A best practice approach to cloud adoption

Our modernisation services are driven by a team of experts across Infrastructure, DevOps, Security and Data. When it comes to the modernisation of applications our Innovation Services are designed to address the following approaches:

We will support you through an initial envisioning workshop to delivering proof of concept environment, where the development and application teams can test and iterate the modernised application stack.

Pattern	Definition	When to Use
Refactor	Often referred to as 'repackaging', refactoring requires minimal changes to apps so that they can connect to Azure PaaS and use cloud offerings. Examples include: migrating applications to Azure App Service or Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS); migrating databases to AzureSQL or Cosmos DB.	If your app can easily be repackaged to work in Azure, if you want to apply innovative DevOps practices provided by Azure, or you're thinking about DevOps using a container strategy for workloads. For refactoring, you need to think about the portability of your existing code base, and available development skills.
Rearchitect	Rearchitecting for migration focuses on modifying and extending app functionality and the code base to optimise the app architecture for cloud scalability. Typically this includes breaking down a monolithic application into a group of microservices that work together and scale easily.	When your apps need major revisions to incorporate new capabilities, or to work effectively on a cloud platform. When you want to use existing application investments, meet scalability requirements, apply innovative Azure DevOps practices, and minimise use of virtual machines.

For more information on our Innovation Services for Azure or other products and services we offer please call our team today on 0115 933 8474 or email us at hello@n4stack.co.uk

Envisioning Workshop

Our Innovation projects start with an envisioning workshop to gain a greater understanding of the "Art of the Possible" in Azure. The following areas are discussed:

1) Application Walkthrough
The customer will provide a guided walkthrough of their application components with the team. This is an open forum whereby the Azure Engineering team will explore dependencies, features and options to gain an understanding of how malleable the application is.

2) Innovation Goals
After we have established an overview of the application the group will explore the key goals for the project which typically focus on areas such as scalability, ease of administration, availability, security, cost and current limitations.

3) Solution Options
We will offer innovation suggestions & options for modernisation in Azure, explaining how these will meet the goals. We will then discuss pros & cons with you, noting the development overhead to make the necessary adjustments to the operation of the application.

4) Innovation Phasing
There will be several short term, plus longer term aspirational options for the modernisation of the application, therefore, it's necessary to agree what the initial iteration should look like and how this can then be developed to include further modernisation.

5) POC Solution Design
Once the initial modernisation work and approach has been agreed, Node4 will then produce a costed solution design for the Proof of Concept environment.

Innovation Squad - Supporting the POC

The Innovation Squad is a team of multi-skilled Azure engineers assigned to support the customer in the building of a Proof of Concept (POC) environment. Node4 will provision the Azure services to meet the design scope and it will then be an iterative effort working with your development team to help support refactoring requirement and identity issues and opportunities. You will be assigned an amount of resource to align with the delivery cycle and support the POC build.

Data Platform Modernisation

The Node4 specialist data team bring significant experience to help customers modernise their data platforms and unlocking new potential for the data they hold. Our team of DBA's can provide a range of services to drive modernisation such as migration of SQL Server to Azure SQL, migration of Oracle databases into Azure, migration of MySQL to Azure SQL, migration of MongoDB to Cosmos DB, enterprise deployment of Couchbase, optimisation of Cosmos DB, modernisation of SSIS and ETL processes, Data Warehouse design and data modelling, Performance Tuning, and Datawarehouse/Data Lake modernisation with Databricks.

Container Workshops

Node4 has a long history of working with OpenSource technologies and our team boasts some of the UK's leading authorities on Kubernetes. Our Container Workshop has been designed for development teams to get hands on experience with Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) through guided tutorials and challenges.

We find that a one- or two-day workshop can provide your development teams with a vital understanding of operating within a containerised environment and open up new ideas and opportunities for modernisation.

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