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The Economics of Cloud Modernization with Microsoft Azure

Inetum Empowers Organizations to Achieve Sustainable Innovation and Cost Efficiency **Through Tailored Cloud Modernization and FinOps Services on Microsoft Azure**

Content

Executive Summary

Modernizing IT infrastructure is now a cornerstone of corporate competitiveness. In 2025, European organizations face mounting pressure to reduce costs, improve agility, and ensure environmental and governance compliance. Microsoft Azure's modernization ecosystem—combining scalable infrastructure, AI-driven optimization, and native FinOps tooling—delivers measurable operational efficiency without sacrificing security or sovereignty.

01
MODERNIZATION BEYOND MIGRATION

Modernization begins where migration ends. While early adopters focused on "lift-and-shift" strategies, today's agenda is business transformation through three intertwined dimensions:

> Platform modernization—decommissioning legacy servers and moving to managed PaaS.

> Application modernization—refactoring and containerizing workloads to optimize scalability.

> Operating model transformation—embedding continuous delivery, cost governance, and security automation.

Decision-makers now view modernization as a growth multiplier, not a technical expense.

02

QUANTIFYING VALUE: THE TOTAL ECONOMIC OUTCOME

According to independent studies by Forrester and Gartner, organizations migrating and modernizing with Azure realize between 37% and 45% TCO reduction over five years through these levers:

> Elastic consumption matching business cycles

> Automated cost optimization (Azure Advisor, Cost Management + Billing)

> Workload right-sizing and hybrid pricing (Azure Hybrid Benefit)

More importantly, modernization frees up 20–30% of IT budget annually for innovation and ESG initiatives.

03

MODERN OPERATING MODELS AND FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE

Modernization redefines how enterprises run IT:

> FinOps practices on Azure provide real-time visibility of consumption trends and unit cost.

> Azure Landing Zones establish compliance-by-design foundations.

> DevSecOps integration accelerates time-to-market by up to 50%.

Executives report modernization outcomes not just through uptime or SLA, but via business-centric KPIs—cost per transaction, carbon per compute, and innovation velocity.

04

SECURITY AND RISK GOVERNANCE

Microsoft embeds zero-trust security into modernization. Defender for Cloud, Microsoft Entra, and Sentinel converge identity, endpoint, and network protection. Unlike fragmented multi-cloud setups, Azure's natively integrated model provides single-source accountability—a governance advantage for decision-makers managing multi-tenant risk.

05
AI AND AUTOMATION AS TRANSFORMATION ENGINES

Modernization in 2025 is AI-powered. Azure OpenAI Service and Cognitive APIs automate business functions from customer support to cybersecurity operations. This creates a compounding effect: modernization fuels innovation, and innovation reinforces modernization ROI.

06

REGULATORY ALIGNMENT AND EUROPEAN EDGE

Azure's modernization strategy for Europe integrates with sovereign policies: services are automatically deployed within the EU Data Boundary, ensuring compliance with GDPR, NIS2, and DORA frameworks. Decision-makers can thus accelerate modernization while maintaining EU data jurisdiction.

07
EXECUTIVE ACTION FRAMEWORK

CEOs and CIOs undertaking modernization should pursue a progressive modernization roadmap:

- ❯ Identify high-cost legacy workloads and evaluate refactor potential.

- ❯ Implement FinOps and compliance governance frameworks.

- ❯ Scale innovation by connecting modernization outcomes to new revenue channels—AI,

data-driven services, and ESG analytics.

08

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CONCLUSION

Modernization is no longer optional -it's strategic inevitability. Microsoft Azure offers the financial transparency, resilience, and compliance guardrails needed for sustainable digital transformation. For decision-makers, modernization with Azure converts technical debt into profitable innovation cycles.

About Inetum
Inetum is an agile IT services company that provides digital services and solutions to companies, institutions, and public organizations. With a strong presence in Europe and a global footprint, Inetum helps clients leverage technology to drive innovation, efficiency, and growth. As a Microsoft Azure partner, Inetum delivers cloud transformation, FinOps, and sustainability services tailored to industry-specific needs.

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