Across today’s digital landscape, technology and innovation have driven new business, opened new opportunities, and delivered unprecedented results. But with the power of these advancements come new business challenges. From choosing the right solutions to maintaining new systems and infrastructures, more focus than ever is being placed on IT.

Providing analytics, application platforms, data management, security, and more, SAP is a cornerstone of countless organizations. Serving across industries from mining to aerospace, the enterprise application software is the definition of an industry standard.

But maintaining an on-premises SAP environment is a challenge, both to a business as a whole, as well as to its individual IT professionals. It’s a complex system that demands substantial investments in infrastructure and hardware, as well as a team of employees to build and sustain all systems involved. Cost is also a factor, with scalability requiring further infrastructure spending and services bound to rigid hosting periods.
These challenges have direct and severe impacts on day-to-day business, from solution and development stagnation, to application vulnerabilities, to operational strain. Delay in addressing these issues can lead to long-term risks and falling behind the competition, not due to a lack of innovation, but to being weighed down by cumbersome infrastructure.

**Migrating SAP to the Cloud Brings Agility, Efficiency, and Security**

Migrating your SAP deployment to the cloud results in a far more cost-efficient, flexible, and scalable environment. A consumption-based pricing model ensures organizations are only charged for the resources they need. Assets can be added and removed as necessary. And users can rest assured that their cloud is protected with a highly secured app environment.

**Two Tech Giants Partner to Optimize Cloud-Based SAP Deployments**

Cognizant enables fast and successful cloud adoption while mitigating risk and ensuring industry compliance. As a SAP-certified Cloud Service Provider, our digital-first approach drives relentless innovation that serves to both modernize the organization and strengthen its offerings.

While best known for their operating systems and productivity suites, Microsoft is a world leader in enterprise IT. Boasting 120,000 new customers a month and over 100 datacenters worldwide, Microsoft Azure is their proven public cloud platform.

These two pillars of the technology industry have partnered to offer best-in-class digital transformation methodologies that deploy SAP on Azure. Our combined forces offer over 1,000 Azure experts who work with customers to make the most out of their SAP deployment. Cognizant has been leveraging the power of Azure for years, having implemented the first SAP production on Microsoft’s platform in 2015.

**Microsoft Azure Brings Flexibility to SAP**

Microsoft Azure is a growing collection of integrated cloud services that developers and IT professionals use to build, deploy, and manage applications. Rapid provisioning, security, portability, and system availability help businesses work smarter, not harder.

With Azure, organizations have the freedom to build and deploy across global datacenters using their preferred tools, applications, and frameworks. The platform’s standardized, pooled, and high-availability server configurations improve efficiency and reliability. Users can provision individual servers or whole applications from templates, reducing deployment time from weeks to hours. Operational costs are driven down with self-service provisioning, extensive automation, and standardization. By enforcing security and auditing policies, Azure counteracts unpatched, misconfigured, or unaudited servers, creating a safer environment for the organization and its customers.

**Cognizant’s Frameworks Augment SAP’s Benefits**

Cognizant has developed an array of frameworks, tools, and accelerators to add even more functionality to an Azure-based SAP deployment.

Cognizant’s extensive experience with SAP migration can accelerate your return on investment and minimize...
downtime. We achieve this by applying our best-in-class Cognizant Cloud Assessment and Transformation (cCAT) Framework to each organization’s unique requirements. This workflow helps customers achieve a 30% to 45% improvement in productivity. We map customers’ business needs to over 40 transformational blueprints containing workflows, prepackaged COTS, and customized apps. The SAP Cloud Assessment and Transformation Framework’s effectiveness has been substantiated by the SAP Cloud certification process, covering best practices and standard operating procedures.

Digital transformation with Cognizant and Microsoft doesn’t end with implementation. We continue to support customers with managed services so they can focus on what they do best. Cloud governance, integration with on-premises resources, and monitoring and billing are just a few solutions we offer.

Cloud Migrations Are Fast and Unobtrusive

Cognizant and Microsoft offer three focuses during implementation. Data Center Modernization backs up all SAP data for safekeeping, consolidates existing systems, migrates all data to Azure, and enables the platform. Application Platform Transformation develops and tests environment optimizations, enables DevOps and websites via Azure, commits to database migration, and implements micro-services. And Digital Solutions Enablement grants native desktop and mobile app development within Azure, IoT features, analytics, machine learning, and Azure API functionality.

Automation Brings Agility

With a SAP deployment optimized for Azure, automation replaces expensive, manual maintenance. Building out a deployment is only a matter of clicks rather than a lengthy planning and implementation process. Fast and easy scalability and reconfiguration grants the ability for organizations to rapidly address market changes, conform to new operating models, and meet emerging business needs head-on. All of these benefits lead to a lower total cost of ownership and a broadened horizon for further investment in digital solutions.

Experience Leads to Excellence

Combining efforts with Microsoft, Cognizant has the experience, expertise, innovation, delivery excellence, and knowledge to make us the partner of choice when migrating and deploying SAP to Azure. With a proven methodology, Cognizant and Microsoft help organizations run more efficiently and enable new business opportunities by adopting public cloud hosting for SAP applications. Begin your cloud journey to an Azure-based deployment today.

Next Steps

To achieve a successful migration of SAP to Microsoft Azure, and enable an SAP digital roadmap by migrating towards HANA or S/4HANA, SAP landscapes must be “right sized.” To ensure your success, Cognizant offers a turnkey assessment, including:

1. Quick Sizing: Current state review, early watch report, remote turnaround.
2. SAP Cloud Assessment Workshop: 1/2 day, 2 days, or 2 weeks joint workshop by Cognizant and Microsoft to define an advanced and optimized SAP landscape sizing.

Rely on Cognizant and Microsoft to help your organization run more responsively and efficiently by adopting public cloud hosting for SAP applications. Begin your cloud journey to an Azure-based deployment today. Email us now at SAPTechnologyConsulting@cognizant.com to learn more.
"We have a long successful partnership with Cognizant and they have a rich understanding of our business and technology environment. Their domain expertise, proven transformation process and strong alliances with Microsoft and SAP, enabled us to modernize our IT infrastructure allowing our business to succeed in the digital era."

Joseph Pekala
Chief Information Officer, ACCO Brands

Read full Press Release.