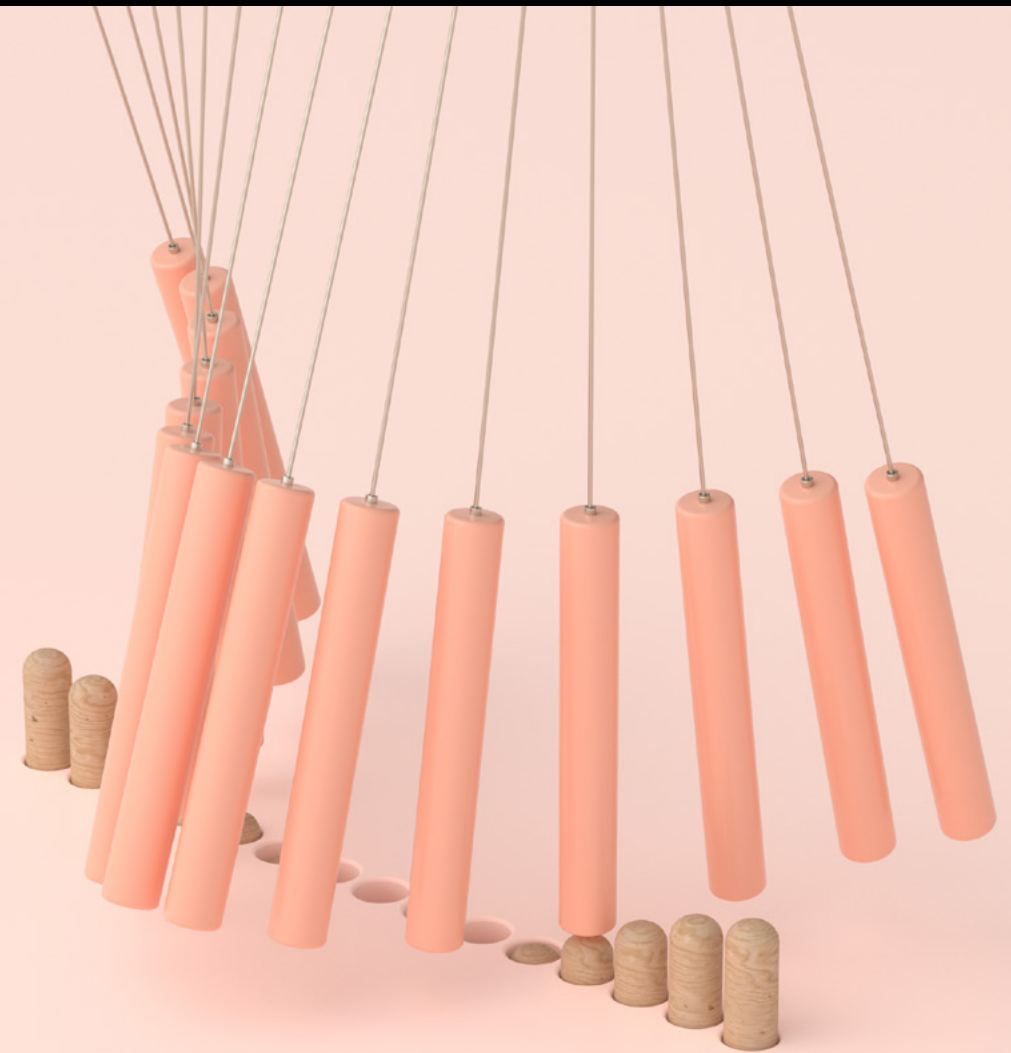E-book

Migrate enterprise workload data easily.

High-performance cloud file storage for enterprise operations.

NetApp

Microsoft Azure

Prelude

Deploying and running enterprise applications in the cloud is fast becoming industry standard—and for good reason.

Transitioning to cloud-based operations is significantly lowering overhead costs, improving data security, and increasing overall productivity.

While these benefits position cloud migration as an increasingly critical business move, there are daunting challenges for companies operating in the cloud at scale—especially when file-based applications are involved. The complexity and volume of their data files raises valid concerns around data availability, corruption, loss, and mismanagement when moving operations to the cloud.

This is especially true for enterprises working with:

- Open source/Linux
- Oracle or SQL Server databases
- SAP workloads, including SAP HANA
- High-performance computing (HPC) workloads
- Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) scenarios

But migration is still possible, and highly beneficial, for organizations operating under even the most demanding workloads.

In this e-book, we will explore how companies with complex environments can securely migrate operations to the cloud—and harness all the associated benefits—without sacrificing performance and availability.

"Azure NetApp Files is the only cloud storage service that does what it said it was going to do and provides consistent, predictable performance."

- Fortune 500 Financial Firm

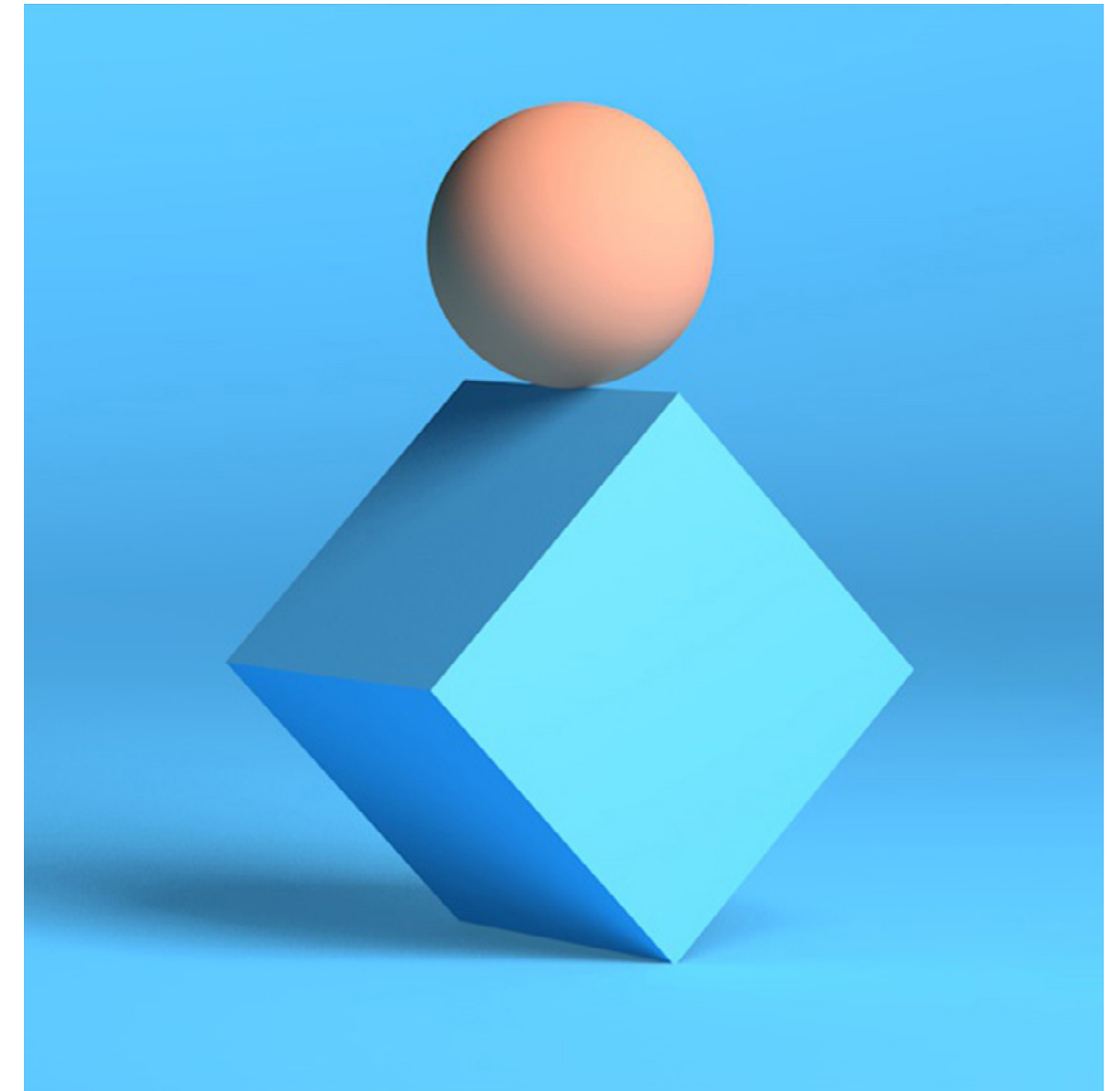Migrate enterprise workload data easily

Cloud migration vs. risk mitigation

Business leaders across all industries are balancing their desire to push forward into cloud-based operations with a cautious need for risk aversion.

Considering that IT processes are increasingly becoming the lifeblood of a modern business, the idea of putting systems and files at potential risk of corruption, loss, mismanagement, or simply lack of immediate availability, is a critical vulnerability. Especially for on-prem databases, storage can be complex, and could result in bottlenecks that slow migration and general functionality.

Many organizations also begin their push to the cloud before experiencing costly, unforeseen setbacks that they may not have the resources to overcome. While fears surrounding these outcomes are understandable, they are also based on traditional methodologies that have now been outmoded by new technologies.

Innovations in cloud file storage and application management are simplifying the process of cloud migration and putting these concerns to rest forgood.

Making the perfect migration a reality

What would cloud migration look like if it were easy?
Transfer speed would be optimal, with a high uplink bit rate, turning the entire process into a matter of hours, not days.

If the volume of data still necessitated multiple deployment stages or architectures, you could seamlessly adopt a hybrid environment— either as an interim measure or on an ongoing basis—as part of your new architecture strategy.

Transfer costs between services and regions during data distribution within your cloud environment would be predictable, transparent, and competitive.

Streamlined onboarding wouldn't interrupt your workloads and disrupt business continuity.

Refactoring applications or rearchitecting would be minimized by advanced IaaS technology to make sure existing applications function properly in the new cloud infrastructure.

While it may sound too good to be true, there are now solutions that can offer organizations these features as part of a frictionless cloud transition.

To achieve this vision, organizations should explore a cloud-native enterprise file storage service—a fully managed and high-performance option designed to make cloud migrations easy, fast, and secure for highly demanding workloads. Consider Azure NetApp Files: it's built on the world's number-one branded storage operating system, NetApp ONTAP®, and is available directly from Microsoft in the Azure portal for a seamless and expedited migration experience.

Azure NetApp Files has the tools and features that help bring enterprise migration experiences closer to perfect.

Reaching for the cloud with Azure NetApp Files

The Azure NetApp Files premier enterprise file storage service provides the foundation for a seamless transition to Azure— for even the most demanding workloads—by providing companies with:

High availability and performance

Azure NetApp Files is built on highly reliable NetApp storage systems within the Azure data centers, which reduce your risk of data loss. And with this architecture, not only is it highly available by default, it is fast—you get the performance of a dedicated enterprise storage system—all within Azure.

Azure NetApp Files features sub-millisecond performance— unparalleled file performance in the cloud that means your applications' runs complete faster—freeing up resources quicker and saving you money.

Customized performance

Azure NetApp Files allows you to choose between three service levels, from the cost-efficient Standard tier for simpler storage needs, all the way up to the Ultra service tier for highly complex, business-critical workloads.

Azure NetApp Files' three performance tiers enable you to **resize your volume—and performance—in seconds. It's the only service that offers this benefit.**

- Standard service level: 16 MB of throughput per TB

- Premium service level: 64 MB of throughput per TB

- Ultra service level: 128 MB of throughput per TB

Reaching for the cloud with Azure NetApp Files (continued)

Bulletproof data restoration

For data protection, no other solution supports a file service more efficiently than NetApp Snapshot technology. Snapshot copies uniquely give Azure NetApp Files the ability to provide point-in-time backups that can be created instantly and do not add to their data footprint in Azure—saving time and money while ensuring that important data-protection goals are maintained.

Powerful, high-speed data copies based on any one of these Snapshot copies can be rapidly restored in the event of accidental or malicious data-loss events.

NetApp Snapshot technology vastly **improves the frequency and reliability of backups**, since it incurs minimal performance overhead and can be safely created on a running environment.

"Azure NetApp Files' fully managed NAS and SMB file shares gives us the opportunity to meet our business initiative of moving mission-critical applications to Azure."

- Fortune 500 Healthcare Provider

Automated testing environments

Azure NetApp Files can quickly create writable copies, or clones, of existing data based on any point-in-time Snapshot copy. This is especially useful for database administrators who need the flexibility to rapidly create database test environments without the overhead of manually copying large volumes of data.

Stop dedicating resources to managing complex, enterprise storage systems internally—Azure NetApp Files is simple to use and fully managed. Leverage comprehensive, optimized file storage to quickly and easily migrate and deploy workloads including:

Innovation backed by experience

Azure NetApp Files is an Azure first-party service delivered and supported by Microsoft, offering seamless business-critical application operation, global scalability, and unparalleled security.

Microsoft and NetApp's partnership is built on Azure's industry-leading cloud technology for enterprise customers together with NetApp's industry-leading reputation and years of experience building enterprise storage solutions that provide data protection, scalability, and advanced storage management.

For organizations that need to deploy enterprise-class file volumes for Linux, SAP, or Windows Virtual Desktop, Azure NetApp Files and its powerful data management capabilities are an ideal solution.

"The performance of Azure NetApp Files with the simplicity of native Azure service made it a no-brainer. It just doesn't make sense to spin up and manage file servers anymore."

- Global Enterprise Software Company

n NetApp

Microsoft Azure

Begin your journey to the cloud— with Azure NetApp Files

When you use Azure NetApp Files as part of your cloud migration toolset, you'll maintain enterprise efficiency with fast file sharing, automation, and seamless operations across interfaces and devices—while saving resources you once used on internal data management. Plus, you'll do it all without risking a bottleneck or compromise in your data access during the transition.

Migrate and manage your data in the cloud today. For instructions on how to get started, visit the Microsoft Azure NetApp Files web page.

Learn More

■ NetApp

Microsoft Azure

About NetApp

In a world full of generalists, NetApp is a specialist. We're focused on one thing, helping your business get the most out of your data. NetApp brings the enterprise-grade data services you rely on into the cloud, and the simple flexibility of cloud into the data center. Our industry-leading solutions work across diverse customer environments and the world's biggest public clouds.

As a cloud-led, data-centric software company, only NetApp can help build your unique data fabric, simplify and connect your cloud, and securely deliver the right data, services, and applications to the right people—anytime, anywhere.

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Microsoft Azure