Breaking Cloud Barriers
Moving Stubborn Workloads to the Cloud

Cloud adoption is accelerating across industries, but let's face it—some workloads are still stubbornly planted on-premises. Not because they can't move to the cloud, but because specific challenges make the migration seem like climbing Mount Everest in flip-flops.

By understanding why these workloads stay grounded, you can create practical paths to the cloud that address real concerns while unlocking cloud scalability, cost benefits, and innovation potential.

1. Legacy Applications
Breaking Free from the Past

Legacy applications present several challenging factors. Applications are often chained to Paleolithic-era operating systems or specialized hardware, while custom code would need a complete makeover to run in modern environments. Organizations face the terrifying prospect of expensive downtime during modernization, alongside prohibitively costly outsourcing options.

For these challenges, containerization is your secret weapon. By wrapping legacy applications in modern, cloud-compatible environments, you maintain all the functionality while ditching hardware dependencies. Think of it as putting your application in a protective bubble that can live anywhere.

This creates a bridge to eventual modernization while preserving your custom code and business logic. The right approach combines infrastructure modernization, app innovation, and smart data integration strategies to give your business a competitive edge—without disrupting operations. Depending on your business priorities, that might be a full migration and modernization, or it might be a strategic approach to workload modernization on a defined path.

Take for example Grundfos, who partnered with SoftwareOne to deploy Azure Kubernetes to build a highly scalable application infrastructure, which they use to test and build new ideas faster, resulting in improved access to safe, managed drinking water while maintaining operability and compliance.

2. High-Performance Workloads
When Every Millisecond Matters

High-performance workloads encompass systems that require sub-millisecond response times and applications that depend heavily on specific hardware configurations. They include workloads in locations with unreliable internet connectivity, as well as trading platforms, manufacturing controls, and other systems that demand exceptional precision.

Start with a thorough performance assessment to establish your baseline metrics. Then, design deployment architectures that leverage low-latency zones and specialized hardware with a cloud that can handle your demanding workloads.

A phased approach to sizing ensures performance requirements are met without paying for computing power you don't need. And hybrid configurations can keep the most sensitive components close to users while moving other elements to the cloud.

With recent advances in Azure's performance capabilities, such as enhanced virtual machines and even lower latency, workloads previously considered too demanding for the cloud now transition without breaking a sweat.

3. Compliance and Security-Sensitive Workloads

Protection Without Compromise

Compliance and security-sensitive workloads involve several complex challenges. Data sovereignty requirements necessitate storing information in specific geographic locations, while regulatory frameworks like HIPAA, FedRAMP, and GDPR impose stringent compliance obligations. Organizations face legitimate concerns about maintaining sensitive information security, alongside comprehensive auditing and access control requirements.

Map cloud capabilities directly to your specific regulatory requirements—taking advantage of a global data center presence means you can meet data sovereignty requirements while enhancing security.

Implement advanced security controls including encryption, robust access management, and comprehensive monitoring to create a security ecosystem that often exceeds what most organizations maintain on-premises.
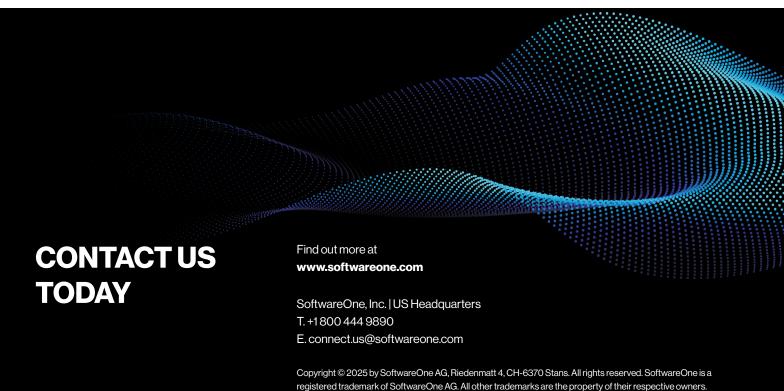
Moving Forward

Your Cloud Migration Journey

The path to the cloud doesn't have to be intimidating, even for your most stubborn workloads. By addressing these common barriers with practical solutions, you're setting your organization up for significant benefits. You'll realize substantial cost savings compared to maintaining aging on-premises infrastructure while achieving operational improvements through standardization and automation. Additionally, you'll gain greater scalability to support your business growth along with enhanced security and compliance capabilities.

Microsoft's Azure Migration and Modernization (AMM) funding can help offset transition costs, making the business case even more compelling. With the right partner guiding your journey, you can transform those migration roadblocks into stepping stones.

SoftwareOne is Microsoft's #1 Azure license sales partner and an Azure Expert MSP since 2017. By offering a comprehensive analysis comparing current infrastructure costs to Azure alternatives, SotwareOne enables IT leaders with concrete data to build compelling business cases that typically demonstrate significant cost savings and operational improvements.

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CONTACT US TODAY

Find out more at
www.softwareone.com

SoftwareOne, Inc. | US Headquarters
T. +1 800 444 9890
E. connect.us@softwareone.com

software One