VERSION 1

Optimising Your Data with an Azure Synapse Migration Strategy

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There are other issues as well.
Do any of these sound familiar to you?

- A lot of manual work is needed to produce weekly or monthly reports
- Difficulty in meeting new compliance obligations
- Inability to use modern analytical tools
- Data in siloes or you are unable to cross-tab across platforms
- Users are not able to do their own reporting
- High-touch or costly maintenance
- Concerns about data security
- Running out of space to store data with extra capacity being costly

These types of concerns can prevent you from taking full advantage of your data. For example, it might prevent you from using analytics to reduce excess inventory and improve the efficiency of your supply chain. It prevents you from reducing operational costs. And, it limits your ability to use data to inform key decisions in your organisation.

Solving the Challenges

For enterprise organisations that are struggling to become data-driven and extract value from data, Version 1 provides data analytics services that turn signals and trends in your data into actionable business insights. We use unique tools, accelerators, and an experienced data science team to bring all your data together on a single platform and provide one source of truth that everyone can rely on.

We can help you eliminate the constraints posed by your legacy systems by consolidating your data in a modern analytics platform like Microsoft Azure Synapse. Our proprietary IP and Accelerator tools reduce the time and cost to modernise your data platform. Our experience gets the job done right, so you can set a solid foundation for analysing and extracting value from your data.

It can also significantly improve your ROI. A Forrester study determined that migrating from on-premises legacy applications to Azure can produce a [271% improvement in ROI](#).

- 25% lower total cost of ownership (TCO)
- 27% faster time to data insights
- 60% improvement in customer satisfaction

One recent example is the pharmacy chain Walgreens. Their modernisation with Azure Synapse created a data warehouse that was a third of the cost of an on-prem solution and produced a 3X improvement in performance. Walgreens benefited from faster, more reliable data, at a third of the cost of replacing legacy systems in-house.

The Pathway to Modernisation

Modernising your data using Microsoft Azure combines the benefits of cost-efficiency with limitless scalability. This provides your organisation with a unified experience in a secure cloud environment that is future-proofed.

There are three phases to migrating your on-prem data to Azure Synapse Analytics:

- Preparation
- Migration
- Post-Migration

Preparing for an Azure Synapse Migration

Getting ready for your migration to Azure Synapse requires making some important decisions that will govern the process. The more carefully you plan, the easier your migration and post-migration process will go. That is one of the reasons so many companies engage Version 1. We are experienced with the process and can ensure the planning covers everything you need to avoid costly changes post-migration.

Migration Preparation Checklist

- ✔ Define the scope of data migration
- ✔ Inventory data and processes
- ✔ Secure the budget for migration
- ✔ Define resources and roles for migration
- ✔ Define the skills and training required
- ✔ Identify any potential roadblocks
- ✔ Create a contingency plan
- ✔ Prepare on-premise/legacy data for migration
- ✔ Plan your transition to production support

Managing an Azure Synapse Migration

Now that the planning has been completed, it is time for the actual migration to occur. Many of the tasks involved can be automated if you are using the right tools and the right migration partner to assist you.

Migration Process Checklist

✔ Prepare the metadata to be migrated

✔ Resolve any compatibility issues

✔ Export schema for tables using automation/scripting

✔ Ensure data is in the right format

✔ Migrate or refactor existing ELT and processes

✔ Import schema & legacy data into Azure Synapse

✔ Build the reporting layer to enable users access & analyse the data

Managing Post-Migration

Once the data and processes have been migrated from your legacy systems to the cloud, there is still work to be done to complete the process.

Post-Migration Checklist

✓ Testing of data against existing systems (Schemas, Data Quality, Reporting, Access, ETL processing)

✓ Test drive the system, tools, processes, and applications

✓ Benchmark performance against legacy systems

✓ Make any needed adjustments based on testing

✓ Provide documentation of the process

✓ Establish monitoring and maintenance schedule

✓ Roll out and train users

Migrating your legacy data from an on-premise data warehouse to Azure Synapse can be complex. If you skip a step or fail to execute your migration strategy properly, there can be long-term (and costly) consequences. Version 1 has deep experience in managing data migration for success. Let our experience guide you.

The checklists above can get you started thinking about the migration process and what is involved. Working with Version 1, we will walk you through our 6-part data migration plan that flushes out your unique requirements and creates the foundation and framework to optimise your data.

Version 1's Six-Part Strategy for Migration

At Version 1, here is how we approach the data migration process.

1. Discover

The discovery phase looks at the health of your applications and data and your current constraints. A thorough examination of the estate and your organisation's unique needs will allow us to create a fast, time-boxed strategy to handle your migration.

2. Advise

Because of our depth of experience, you will not need to start from scratch. We know how to plan for emergent requirements and configure your business-critical applications and data.

3. Protect

Your legacy systems represent significant business value. As part of our services, we protect and maximise your existing investment while surfacing hidden and emergent value to create innovation within the existing estate.

4. Enhance

We enhance your data by exploiting the modern capabilities of Azure in the cloud to deliver greater value to your organisation. While improving the quality and performance, we optimise value for your investment.
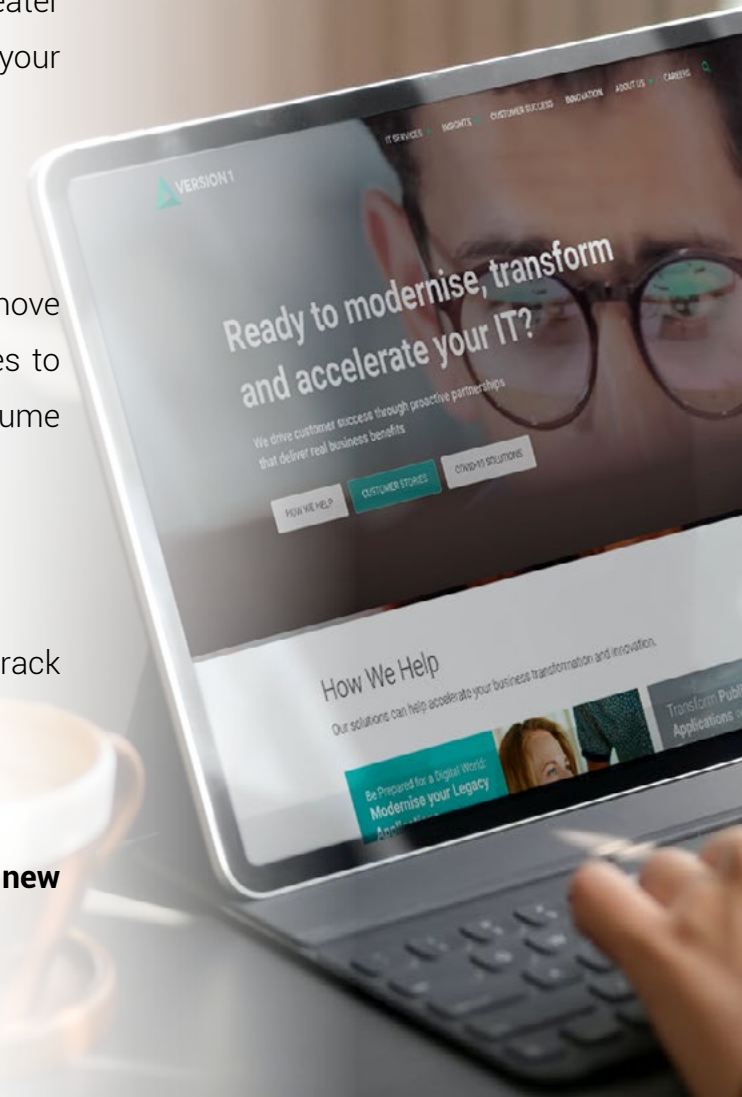
5. Migrate

After all the pre-planning has been completed, we handle the actual migration rapidly. We will move application estates and data to the cloud with proven, repeatable, and best-practice approaches to cloud migration developed over years of experience. We can deploy our Factory model for high-volume workloads and our Service model for complex systems.

6. Run

Share or delegate risk and operational responsibility by working with a partner with a proven track record of supporting, managing, and improving enterprise cloud and digital estates.

You can [download our Application Modernisation Playbook](#) to learn more about how to create new business value and overcome the challenges by leveraging the potential of legacy systems.

Conclusion

The pandemic has brought up new business demands, and IT management needs to ensure technology and data is effectively used to deliver the services demanded by the business — while mitigating risk and minimising spend. In the hybrid working environment, you need to make sure employees are productive and always have access to the right data and a single version of the truth. Azure Synapse and Version 1 are the solutions.

Version 1 develops strategies for rapidly connecting underperforming or legacy systems to modern capabilities and implements these improvements in an incremental manner for major Public and Private Sector customers across the UK and Ireland.

Contact Version 1 today to accelerate your business transformation and modernise your existing applications for greater innovation and agility. Start turning your data insights into actionable business outcomes faster and more cost-efficiently.

Request Complimentary Discovery Call

Get in Touch

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