

# APEX

## Dell APEX Cloud Platform for Microsoft Azure

Extend and optimize Azure experience everywhere

Businesses today rely on their IT organizations to support their increasingly complex operations and remain competitive in the market. To stay competitive and succeed, these businesses seek to build innovative applications and services at unprecedented speed. Many organizations are adopting a multicloud strategy to power their innovations and accelerate application roll-out. However, if not done right, multicloud computing can lead to more complexity, spiraling costs and suboptimal business outcomes.

The longstanding partnership between Dell Technologies and Microsoft is designed to help organizations unlock innovation across their IT footprints by simplifying operations while boosting IT responsiveness and DevOps productivity. We are combining Microsoft's leadership in cloud services and enterprise applications with Dell's expertise in delivering Dell's enterprise software-defined storage and software-driven management and orchestration (M&O) automation as we deliver the Dell APEX Cloud Platform for Microsoft Azure, the first Premier Solution for Microsoft Azure Stack HCI 23H2, to support Azure Stack HCI 23H2.

### Dell APEX Cloud Platform for Microsoft Azure

Collaboratively engineered with Microsoft to optimize Azure hybrid cloud.

#### CONTROL

Enforce centralized Azure management and governance from cloud to edge while optimizing workload placement to meet performance, cost and compliance goals.

#### CHOICE

Choose the right location for your workloads, whether on-premises cloud, edge deployments or Azure public cloud. Personalize payments with options for CAPEX or OPEX, featuring monthly payments based on usage.

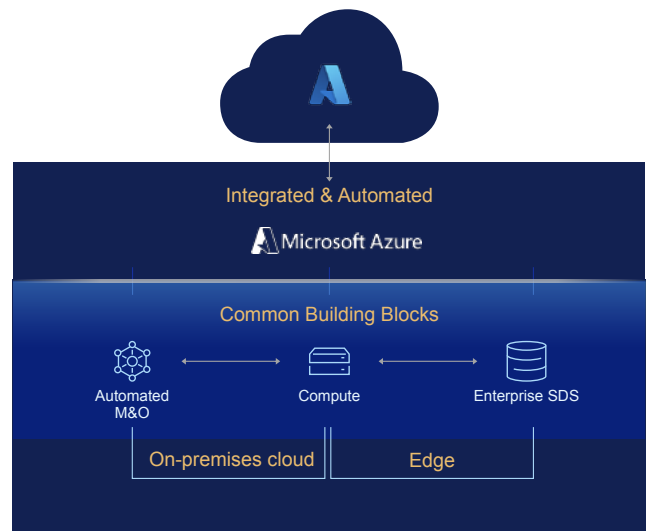
#### CONSISTENCY

Accelerate productivity with consistent operational and developer experiences regardless of location. Simplify app environments with consistent delivery of AKS and Arc-enabled services.

### APEX Cloud Platform for Microsoft Azure

APEX Cloud Platform for Azure is engineered collaboratively with Microsoft to optimize Azure hybrid cloud operations. It empowers organizations to unlock innovation with a consistent Azure experience across their IT environments. Through extensive integrations and numerous automations, the APEX Cloud Platform empowers IT organizations to simplify app modernization and accelerate DevOps.

The platform enhances Azure operations by providing consistent management and operations with centralized Azure tools, while mitigating security and compliance risks with an intrinsic approach to security that extends Azure governance across all deployment environments.



## Simplify hybrid cloud

The Dell APEX Cloud Platform Foundation Software, an integral part of the platform, provides deep, cross-layer integrations and intelligent automation that simplify initial deployments and cluster creation, in addition to ongoing operations across the complete technology stack. IT admins can use familiar tools, such as Windows Admin Center and the Azure Portal, for a simple, consistent and centralized way of operating dispersed Azure deployments.

APEX Cloud Platform for Azure is purpose-built in collaboration with Microsoft to optimize Azure hybrid cloud experiences. Microsoft engineers use a robust CI/CD pipeline to comprehensively test and certify monthly updates and patches for the complete APEX Cloud Platform stack on Dell hardware and software running in Microsoft labs, ensuring that users can access updates within just four hours. Testing includes the entire stack from the Azure Resource Bridge to the hardware. Thorough testing of baseline upgrades by both Microsoft and Dell engineers instills customers with confidence in the reliability of their upgrade experience. Collaborative engineering means Dell and Microsoft engineers partner to proactively remediate bugs before each release, securing the reliability of every upgrade.

## Accelerate application delivery

The platform empowers organizations to innovate faster by boosting DevOps productivity and IT agility with a responsive cloud operational model that's delivered on-premises. Designed to support both virtualized and modern, containerized apps, the platform accelerates app modernization and DevOps initiatives by optimizing delivery of Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS) on-premises. In addition, Azure Arc-enabled on-demand application and data services simplify application environments and accelerate app modernization. API-driven programmability also enables simpler DevOps and app workflows. Extend Azure on-premises to private cloud and edge deployments with flexible compute, storage, and GPU resources to help you address a broad set of workloads, helping you drive innovation everywhere.

## Optimize workload placement

The platform uniquely offers flexibility to utilize Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct (S2D) as well as Dell's enterprise block software-defined storage (SDS). With a shared, universal storage layer based on Dell's SDS across on-premises and public cloud locations, the APEX Cloud Platform for Azure simplifies workload mobility, giving you control over where your applications and data reside. The platform is the only offer in the Microsoft Premier Solutions for Azure Stack HCI category that supports linear scaling of storage resources independently from compute.

Additionally, the platform mitigates potential security and compliance risks effortlessly by integrating with Azure management and governance services. IT can use the centralized Azure portal to enforce consistent full-stack security and governance policies across locations. The APEX Cloud Platform for Azure takes a full-stack approach to security with sophisticated controls and multilayered protection from security threats. Advanced lifecycle-management capabilities help ensure that the full technology stack always remains in compliance and up to date. Furthermore, by delivering developer-friendly app and data services on-premises, application teams can avoid data and application sprawl across insecure or noncompliant locations.

## Dell Services: Expertise you need anywhere along your cloud journey

Dell provides an extensive, flexible portfolio of services designed specifically for APEX Cloud Platform for Azure. From solutions that are fully managed, deployed and supported by Dell, to individual services you need to deploy, support, optimize and maintain your systems, or to help train your staff, Dell Services can help you make multicloud by design a reality.

## Optimize hybrid cloud with flexible deployment models

APEX Cloud Platform for Azure is the result of extensive engineering collaboration between Dell and Microsoft. The turnkey platform provides deep integrations and intelligent automation between layers of the Dell Technologies and Microsoft technology stack, accelerating time-to-value while eliminating complexity and boosting IT agility and productivity. Centralized app, data, management and governance services delivered via Azure Portal simplify app environments while delivering consistent management and governance across locations. APEX Cloud Platform for Azure provides flexible deployment options including hyperconverged infrastructure nodes and Dell software-defined storage. Dell APEX Subscriptions enable customers to acquire the technology they need with usage-based monthly payments to support changing business requirements. With the Dell APEX Cloud Platform for Microsoft Azure, organizations can efficiently drive innovation everywhere.

Accelerate time to value with

# 88%

fewer deployment steps

Compared to manual deployment. Based on internal analysis. Results may vary. September 2023.

Stay current with

# 4 hour

availability of updates

Based on continuous joint CI/CD testing with Microsoft. Results may vary. September 2023.



Learn more about  
Dell APEX Cloud Platform for Azure >



Contact a Dell Technologies expert  
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