Best of the Best: Choosing the Right Cloud Computing Platform For Your Enterprise; Azure vs. AWS

Choosing the right platform for your enterprise will depend on many factors. You need to consider your existing infrastructure and applications, networking and security requirements, technology roadmap, and IT budget.

Matrix: Azure vs. AWS Pros and Cons at a Glance

	Azure	AWS
Offerings	• PaaS, IaaS. • Computing, web & mobile, data & storage, analytics, media, IoT, networking, enterprise integration, developer services, and management & security. • Seamless integration with other MS applications.	• PaaS, IaaS, SaaS. • Deployment and management (e.g., enterprise applications, mobile services), application services (e.g., administration & security, analytics), and foundation services (e.g., computing, storage & content delivery, database, networking.)
Features & Services	• Compute, performance, data management and databases, and networking. • IoT and serverless computing.	• Compute, content delivery and storage, database, and networking. • IoT and serverless computing.
AI & ML	• Machine learning & data mining. • Manage ML models across the cloud and at the edge. • Cognitive search feature to extract insight from content. • Industry-specific enterprise-level functions for finance, manufacturing, retail, healthcare.	• Pre-trained AI for text analytics, demand forecasting, chatbots, document analysis, automate code review, fraud prevention, text-to-speech, etc. • A focus on customer insights and customer interactions.
Computing Power & Scalability	• VMs pair with other tools to deploy applications to the cloud.	• EC2 grows or shrinks available resource footprint on-demand.
Storage	• 2 storage options based on access frequency. • Unlimited allowed objects with a 4.75 TB size limit. • Supports relational databases, Big Data, and NoSQL.	• 2 storage options based on access frequency. • Unlimited allowed objects with a 5 TB size limit. • Supports relational databases, Big Data, and NoSQL.
Databases	• Microsoft SQL only. • Highly available and durable, offering easy and automatic replication. • More user-friendly interface and tooling.	• Amazon Aurora, MariaDB, Microsoft SQL, MySQL, Oracle, PostgreSQL. • Highly available and durable, offering easy and automatic replication.
Network & Content Delivery	• Uses a virtual network to create isolated environments. • Uses VPN gateways to establish cross-network connectivity.	• Uses a virtual private cloud to create isolated environments. • Uses API gateways to establish cross-premise connectivity.
Pricing	• Charges per minute. • Choose between monthly or pre-paid. • Affordable BT MPLS ExpressRoute pricing, which allows users to extend private business networks into the cloud. • Discount for existing Microsoft customers.	• Charges per hour, with instances purchasable as on-demand, "spot" (bid for capability), or "reserved" (reserve an instant with upfront cost.) • More complex pricing structure and higher cost.