

Becoming a cloud DBA: don't let these seven myths slow you down

It's a fact. Sooner or later, your databases will move to the cloud. Companies want increased efficiency, greater scalability, and new capabilities from their infrastructure, and the cloud delivers. This shift is inevitable—and so are the changes it will bring to your role as a DBA.

DBAs who embrace the cloud have a lot to look forward to: less routine maintenance, greater reliability, and more opportunity to add value for the business. The change can be a challenge, but it doesn't have to be a source of fear—as long as you don't let these myths stand in your way. Let's tackle them one by one so you can become a cloud DBA faster and reap the rewards.

• Myth #1: I'll lose a lifetime's worth of work.



You've spent countless hours carefully crafting and optimizing your scripts, queries, and macros. They're finely tuned for your on-premises environment. Now it's time to move to the cloud, and the thought of re-creating all that work makes your head spin.

Luckily, with Azure SQL, the move is simple. You can use a [rich migration script library](#) to facilitate the move, and then apply your skills toward further app innovation. Azure SQL is evergreen and always up to date: it uses the latest version of SQL and automates updates, provisioning, and backups, so you can focus on application development using familiar tools and languages.

• Myth #2: Once I've chosen a vendor, we're locked in for good.



If you've been working with one database provider for a long time, it can sometimes feel like you're joined at the hip. Proprietary extensions and platform-specific ways of working can keep you locked in, even when cost and complexity increase.

Fortunately, cloud migration is a great opportunity to break free. Microsoft is committed to database flexibility, so we've created [extension libraries](#) and a powerful [migration assistant](#) to make the process of moving from one solution to another seamless.

Furthermore, Azure can connect with outside data sources, enabling multi-cloud and hybrid scenarios. The cloud environment also lets you experiment with new technologies quickly and inexpensively, so you aren't restricted to a single solution. Pro tip: whatever system you choose, make sure to take a close look at how easy it is to get your data in and out.

• Myth #3: Open source isn't enterprise-ready.



There are many benefits to open-source databases: supportive communities, no licensing costs, and full access to the codebase. Some organizations can be reluctant to consider them, however, because of a reputation for complexity and "bare-metal" management requirements.

Today, open source doesn't have to mean doing it all yourself. Microsoft offers fully managed

[Azure database services](#) for PostgreSQL, MySQL, and MariaDB, including robust cloud infrastructure, the ability to use open-source frameworks and languages, and massive scalability with a 99.99 percent SLA. That takes a lot of the work and worry out of using open-source solutions, while providing the peace of mind that comes with Azure security and global availability.

• Myth #4: I'll be out of a job.



You've spent your career building the highly specialized skills required to manage on-premises databases at scale. Many DBAs are concerned that those skills won't translate to the cloud, requiring them to play catch-up or get left behind altogether.

The truth is, there's way more opportunity than risk when it comes to DBAs and the cloud. First of all, with the managed nature of cloud infrastructure,

you'll spend less time on patches, backups, and other repetitive tasks. You'll have more time to focus on optimization, experimentation, and deeper-level insight. Also, the data design and querying skills you use today will often translate directly to the cloud.

The opportunity for DBAs is there. The risk is not seizing it.

• Myth #5: Cloud performance can't compare to on-premises.



With all the adjustments you've made to get SQL Server running like a charm in your datacenter, how can a cloud service measure up? Simple: by complementing the skills you already have.

Azure SQL includes a fully managed database that provides an environment to modernize existing SQL applications or develop new ones in the cloud while providing leading security and threat protection and a strong track record of leading price-performance.

Azure SQL is comprised of SQL Server on Azure on Virtual Machines (IaaS), fully managed Azure SQL Database, and Azure SQL Managed Instance (PaaS). Azure SQL offers flexible and responsive serverless compute and Hyperscale storage to rapidly adapt to your changing requirements while maintaining an SLA of up to 99.995 percent.

• Myth #6: For SQL Server workloads, all clouds are the same.



Which cloud you choose can make a big difference to the bottom line. [Azure Hybrid Benefit for SQL Server](#) provides a cost-effective path for migrating hundreds or thousands of SQL Server databases with minimal effort. Using your SQL Server licenses with Software Assurance to pay a reduced rate when migrating to the cloud, you can save up to 55 percent, or up to 80 percent with [reserved capacity](#).

Plus, Azure is the native cloud platform for your SQL data—the underlying database engine is built and backed by the same engineers who support your SQL Server on-premises software. You can be confident that the Azure SQL database you know today looks and behaves as you'd expect it to in the Azure cloud—just with scale, security, and manageability advantages you'll love.

• Myth #7: I'm on my own.



Many companies are pushing cloud database migration from above, leaving DBAs feeling like they're in a sink-or-swim situation. But that doesn't mean you're starting from scratch.

Microsoft offers a full breadth of onboarding, customer support, training, and DevOps tools to ensure you have

information and resources to help you succeed. Browse step-by-step [learning modules](#) for data solutions. And, look to your [cloud database partner](#) for additional help along the way. After all, they have a vested interest in your success.

• Forward to the future



For DBAs, cloud adoption represents the biggest shift in years. With the right tools and training, it can be a big opportunity for your company and your personal success.

Learn more about how Azure data services can help you make the leap.

Become a cloud DBA