In the first and the foremost stage, start with defining your business strategy. Document your key business goals, objectives, evaluate and understand financial & technical considerations and lay down what you aim to achieve by migrating to the cloud. This will help in mapping your cloud adoption strategy to specific cloud capabilities.

Once you have a strategy in place, the next step is to chalk out a clear roadmap that will assist you in achieving your desired goals. Assess your current infrastructure, existing processes, people, and IT assets, to determine what needs to be moved to the cloud and the best way to host the applications on the cloud platform.

This stage is divided into two parallel parts – Migrate and Innovate

**Migrate** – In this stage you migrate your workloads to the cloud using approaches such as lift & shift, lift & optimize or modernize, and typically has three phases: assessing your workloads, deploying the workloads, and releasing workloads.

**Innovate** – When you decide to move to the cloud, you discover that most of your workloads would need to be migrated or modernized, but in some scenarios cloud innovation can maximize the business value.

Proactively monitor and maintain your Azure cloud environment to ensure consistency and performance. The platform needs to be continually managed, monitored, and optimized through regular data collection and alerts to know where we are heading.