

Microsoft and Oracle Interoperability Partnership FAQ

Oracle and Microsoft have announced a cloud interoperability partnership that empowers customers to migrate to the cloud and seamlessly develop, deploy, and integrate solutions across Microsoft Azure and Oracle Cloud Infrastructure.

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General

- [What are we announcing?](#)
- [Is this a new product or service?](#)
- [What capabilities are we offering with this announcement?](#)
- [For whom did we build these capabilities?](#)
- [Why is this partnership beneficial to customers?](#)
- [Why is this beneficial for both Oracle and Microsoft?](#)
- [Why is this beneficial to partners?](#)
- [When will this ready for production workloads?](#)
- [Will this interconnectivity be available globally?](#)
- [Where do customers go to get support?](#)
- [How will billing work?](#)
- [Will customers have separate enterprise agreements with both Microsoft and Oracle?](#)
- [What industry certifications are available and for which specific combination of cloud and application deployments?](#)

Technical

- [Is there a significant latency impact to connecting Azure to OCI?](#)
- [Do customers need an Express Route Service Provider like Equinix?](#)
- [Is the communication between OCI and Azure 'secure' and 'encrypted'?](#)
- [What aspects of Azure and Oracle are connected?](#)
- [Are there first-party or third-party tools that enable integrated monitoring and management?](#)
- [Who will provide support for customer applications split between Azure and OCI?](#)
- [What technical documentation is available to support cross connect deployments?](#)
- [What is the Service Level Agreement \(SLA\) for cross connect deployments?](#)
- [Will Oracle certify apps on Azure as part of this agreement?](#)
- [What does Oracle "certified" mean?](#)
- [What is the difference between "certified" and "supported?"](#)
- [Are there recommended architectures for deploying applications across Azure and OCI?](#)
- [What are the most common use cases?](#)
- [Will customers have to pay for egress traffic?](#)

General

Q What are we announcing?

A Oracle and Microsoft are announcing a cloud interoperability alliance that empowers customers to migrate to the cloud and seamlessly develop, deploy, and integrate solutions across Microsoft Azure and Oracle Cloud Infrastructure. We're jointly offering a unified enterprise cloud that provides an interconnected network across Azure and Oracle Cloud Infrastructure, a unified single sign-on experience, and collaborative support.

Q Is this a new product or service?

A This is a new set of capabilities being provided by the two companies to give customers flexibility in moving complex enterprise solutions – which may include both Azure and OCI deployments - to the cloud.

Q What capabilities are we offering with this announcement?

- A We are collectively making available a new set of capabilities, including:
- Simplified cross-cloud implementation, via interconnect with network optimization and extremely low latency among select Azure Regions and OCI datacenters.
 - Unified identity and access management, via a unified Single Sign On experience to manage resources across OCI and Azure.
 - Supported deployment of Microsoft and Oracle applications on Azure with Oracle databases deployed on OCI.

Q For whom did we build these capabilities?

A We built this primarily for existing Microsoft and Oracle customers who want to accelerate their cloud adoption and have existing investments in Oracle applications and Azure. Specifically, large enterprise-class customers.

Q Why is this partnership beneficial to customers?

A Both Oracle and Microsoft recognize the business benefits the cloud brings to the enterprise. Mission critical, enterprise scale applications are often highly customized and span multiple technology stacks, and this interconnectivity offers customers the flexibility to move on-premises workloads to the cloud, taking concurrent advantage of the respective cloud infrastructures that best suit their business and/or technical requirements while leveraging the investments they have already made with each.

This partnership enables Oracle and Microsoft customers to migrate their solutions to the cloud, and take advantage of benefits of performance, scale, and cost without the need to re-architect their solutions or compromise on capabilities.

Q Why is this beneficial for both Oracle and Microsoft?

A Customers have many on-premises, mission-critical applications that depend on both Oracle and Microsoft technologies. By Oracle and Microsoft providing a unified enterprise cloud for our respective cloud services, we enable swift migration of on-premises applications, giving our customers the power to leverage a broader range of tools integrated as a single unified enterprise cloud solution. As a result, we not only retain our respective customers, but enhance existing relationships and deliver value leading to customer satisfaction and loyalty.

Q Why is this beneficial to partners?

A Partners who have existing relationships, expertise, and investments with Oracle and Microsoft, and who have developed on-premises customer solutions that span these technologies, will have the flexibility to move applications to the cloud in the configuration that delivers the best value for their customers. This reduces friction, and often allows customers and partners to move more quickly to a cloud model.

Q When would I consider this solution?

A This partnership provides a number of advantages for customers that utilize Oracle and Microsoft technologies. By providing a direct connection between Oracle Cloud and Azure, joint customer support, and validated solution architectures; customers have more options than ever before when considering how to migrate their mission critical applications. For customers evaluating their path to the cloud for their Microsoft and Oracle assets including customized applications, this may be viable solution worth considering.

Q When will this ready for production workloads?

A On June 5th, 2019, customers will have the ability to deploy production workloads on tested and validated interconnect between Oracle's Ashburn and Microsoft's Azure's US East regions.

Q Will this interconnectivity be available globally?

A Currently, Oracle Cloud's Ashburn region is connected to Azure's US East, and is available for use from any location. Oracle and Microsoft plan to jointly review expansion of this partnership in the future with no defined timeline.

Q Where do customers go to get support?

A Customers can leverage their existing Microsoft Azure and OCI customer support relationships and processes. Microsoft and Oracle support teams are trained on ExpressRoute and FastConnect, basic network architecture, common support scenarios, and identity integration scenarios.

Q How will billing work?

A Customers will continue to get their invoices and bills through the existing processes with Microsoft and Oracle respectively. There are currently no plans to integrate billing, invoicing or contracting.

Q Will customers have separate enterprise agreements with both Microsoft and Oracle?

A Yes they will continue to have separate agreements with Oracle and Microsoft as applicable.

Q What industry certifications are available and for which specific combination of cloud and application deployments?

A While OCI and Azure have a number of industry and regional certifications, we are not yet able to certify for combined cross-cloud deployments across both clouds.

Technical

Q Is there a significant latency impact to connecting Azure to OCI?

A Testing has shown the average RTT latency between the two clouds in the Ashburn region to be comparable to running an application across two AZs/ADs. Customers are encouraged to validate the performance for their scenarios using the benefits Microsoft and Oracle extend for early adopters including support from dedicated engineering teams that can help optimize performance through the POC phase.

Q Do customers need an Express Route Service Provider like Equinix?

A No. Microsoft and Oracle have directly connected Microsoft Azure with Oracle Cloud Infrastructure. As such, customers can leverage this connectivity without the need for an intermediate service provider. Customers will simply have to select 'Oracle Cloud Infrastructure' as a Service Provider when setting up their Express Route and select 'Microsoft Azure' as a Service Provider when setting up FastConnect in OCI.

Q Is the communication between OCI and Azure 'secure' and 'encrypted'?

A Interconnectivity between Oracle FastConnect and Azure ExpressRoute is deemed to be highly secure, but it is not encrypted.

Q What aspects of Azure and Oracle are connected?

A Oracle and Microsoft have worked very hard to provide integration points between OCI and Azure to help customers easily connect solutions spanning Azure and OCI. Integral parts of this interconnectivity include:

- o Pass-through of console credentials: While customers will continue to manage their cloud environments via their respective consoles, credentials will be securely cached to enable seamless switching from one to the other.

Q Are there first-party or third-party tools that enable integrated monitoring and management?

A Neither Microsoft nor Oracle currently provide integrated monitoring capabilities. However, this will be an area of focus moving forward.

Q Who will provide support for customer applications split between Azure and OCI?

A Support will be provided through standard channels of Oracle and Microsoft respectively. We intend to include collaborative support in the future (No timeline yet).

Q What is the Service Level Agreement (SLA) for cross connect deployments?

A No SLAs are currently in place for the interconnect service. Microsoft and Oracle Cloud offer Service Level Agreements for their respective infrastructure components including FastConnect and ExpressRoute. See the following resources for more detail:

- Azure Service Level Agreements: [ExpressRoute](#)
- OCI Service Level Agreements: [FastConnect](#)

Q Will Oracle certify apps on Azure as part of this agreement?

A Oracle plans to certify apps when they are used in the cross-cloud configuration, where the application is deployed on Azure and connected to an Oracle Database deployed on OCI, with the two connected via Microsoft's ExpressRoute and Oracle's FastConnect respectively.

Q What does Oracle “certified” mean?

A A certification is a combination of Oracle and third-party products, operating systems, or hardware that Oracle has tested and validated work together in a exact defined architecture. A product is certified for a specific release of an operating system on a particular platform.

Q What is the difference between “certified” and “supported?”

A *Certified* is not the same as *supported*. Each product has its own support policy and timeframe, completely separate to certification. For example, a product combination may have been certified by Oracle in 1995. However, one or more of the products in that certification may no longer be supported by Oracle or a third-party vendor.

Q What are the most common use cases?

A This partnership will serve customers who have existing on-premises workloads split between Microsoft applications and Oracle databases. In the case where they are looking to move the application to the cloud, this interconnect allows them to do so with minimal if any re-architecting on either side. Use cases include:

- o Oracle or custom applications on OCI and Azure that interoperate and share data
- o Oracle Apps (PSFT, JDE..) on Azure using Oracle Database in OCI
- o Custom Cloud Native applications on Azure using Oracle Autonomous DB
- o Custom .NET application on Azure IaaS using Oracle Database on RAC, Exadata
- o Applications/Oracle Database in OCI, Azure Data Lake for analytics & Cognitive Services for AI
- o SQL Azure, SQL Server, SQL DW on Azure and Oracle Analytics Cloud on OCI
- o Oracle Stack on OCI + Microsoft Stack on Azure for data sharing purposes

Q Will customers have to pay for egress traffic?

A Standard Oracle FastConnect and Azure ExpressRoute charges apply and no intermediate network provider is required. FastConnect pricing is described [here](#). There are no inbound or outbound charges for FastConnect. Azure ExpressRoute pricing is described [here](#). Existing Oracle Cloud Universal Credit customers and Azure Credit customers can take advantage of the new capabilities today.