



Optimizing Your Azure Environment: A Guide to Achieving the Gold Standard



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Azure's configuration helps businesses improve efficiency, enhance performance, save money, and button-up security. However, applying Azure to your workflows takes forethought to setup, maintain, and optimize. Just as an Olympic athlete has to work on their physical and mental mindset day after day, so do IT teams,

At Dataprise, our clients hire us to act as a coach, so they can hit their goals. We're not just attuned to the many nuances behind Azure, we can also foresee the potential clashes between their priorities and yours. Below, we look at what it means to achieve the Gold Standard, and why it matters to your budget, productivity, and data protection.



Defining the Gold Standard

The Gold Standard ultimately depends on both applications and resources. The optimum memory, CPU, throughput, and response time are all specific to your organization. Ideally, you're looking to maximize use without hindering performance, contributing to network errors, or threatening your security defenses.

For example, if you were running a small startup, you might aim for between 60 and 70% CPU utilization. For a larger organization, you might aim for between 70 and 80%. Just as a 120 pound female has a different diet and workout routine than a 350-pound male, both need constant effort to optimize and maintain if they're going to win the gold.

Benefits of Achieving the Gold Standard

Achieving the gold standard supports your business efforts from multiple angles:

- **Performance:** Just as Olympic athletes get faster and stronger with more training, optimizing your work environments means faster applications, reduced latency, and increased workloads (without degradation).
- **Efficiency:** Optimized environments spend resources wisely. With Azure, it's easier to automate redundant tasks, and execute rapid development and deployment for your most time-sensitive applications.
- **Cost-savings:** In addition to Azure's convenient pricing models, optimization ensures you're using only the energy you need to complete your daily to-do lists — similar to Olympic coaches and individual athletes keeping their overall costs down without sacrificing the welfare of the team or themselves.
- **Security:** The Gold Standard for athletes means reducing their odds of illness and injury however possible. In the Azure environment, it means reducing vulnerabilities, identifying potential threats, and meeting all compliance goals. With a more strategic approach, it's easier to shrink your attack surfaces, so it's harder for even the most motivated criminals to hit their mark.

Assessing Your Current Azure Environment

An athlete starts with a thorough assessment of not just how they stack up against competitors but how they stack up to their ideal image. This helps them understand how they can use their strengths to their advantage during competitions and how to prioritize areas of improvement.

Azure offers several built-in tools to help you get a better sense of where you're starting. For instance, their Monitor, Advisor, Resource Health, and Cost Management tools monitor memory, performance, cost efficiency, system errors, and administrative actions.

You can also use third-party tools, such as cloud-management platforms, for more advanced monitoring. If you choose the right Managed Service Provider, you can partner with experts to help you get a better sense of what it will take to give your organization the edge.



CASE STUDY

A Baseline Assessment Example

Dematic engaged Dataprise to assess its infrastructure, so the company could decide how to best migrate their data. The Dataprise team considered the inventory, performance, costs, flexibility, and interconnectivity, which were all crucial given their global presence. Eventually, they chose a hybrid cloud infrastructure in Azure, which allowed the teams to drastically reduce deployment time. Much as an athlete can't skip the hard work, they can use their time and energy wisely to get the best performance in the shortest time period.

Key Strategies for Optimization

Azure already has some very intuitive tools that can help their clients become more aware of their performance patterns. With Azure, you can track your Key Performance Indicators, investigate issues with powerful query language, receive personalized suggestions, and set up precise configurations. Just as an athlete has to adjust their training regimen to ensure they can handle the next hurdle, better monitoring tools ensure you don't miss a beat.

COST MANAGEMENT

From food to equipment to travel, the costs for an athlete can balloon quickly. The key to keeping those costs in check is to break down each expense into its fundamentals. With Azure Cost Management, you can analyze and manage your spending, cutting down on resources without sacrificing your flexibility.

This is a careful balance, especially if you're in an ebb-and-flow industry. A Managed Service Provider like Dataprise can help you better allocate your dollars so you're able to handle excess capacity without overspending.

SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

With Azure, you can implement better security measures, including single sign-on, security groups, firewalls, network peering, key vaults, information protection, and vulnerability assessments. Chances are, either have all or most of these defenses set up, but in Azure, organizations get stronger all-over protection to keep criminals out and recover data in the event of a disaster.

These defenses were built not only to help organizations maintain their workflows and revenue, but to ensure compliance within their industry. Much like athletes need to adhere to numerous rules before going for the Gold, organizations have to cope with and anticipate how the rules of their event affect their planning schedules.

Advanced Optimization Techniques

Here, we'll look at how different techniques can help you improve your optimization:

- **Automation and Orchestration:** Azure Automation and Logic Apps can automatically rightsize and scale your efforts without writing endless code for each process. Simple drag-and-drop tools allow you to handle higher workflows with more reliability and consistency. You can think of them as athletic hacks that help Olympic contenders stay competitive without devoting 24-hours to the gym.
- **Scaling and Load Balancing:** Azure's built-in scaling and load balancing tools help you maintain performance when times are good and when things hit the fan. Just as an athlete may have to adjust to high altitudes, rain, snow, or record-breaking heat, Azure ensures that you can get the reliability you need at all times.

- **Resource Management:** The Azure Resource Manager template helps you see where your resources are going and provides tailored recommendations to ensure better performance. This is similar to how coaches create individual wellness plans for athletes, so they can both train and recover while still leaving them with some gas in their tank.
- **Monitoring and Improvement:** Athletes need to know how their bodies respond to everything from their diet to the environmental conditions, and they need to be aware of how their bodies change over time. The Azure Monitor, Log Analytics, and Application Insights establish a continuous monitoring and feedback loop of any potential system issues.
- **Audits and Updates:** Audits and updates help you optimize your environment, much like performance reviews help athletes adjust their training regimens. The more you stay up to speed with Azure's latest suggestions and best practices, the more prepared you'll be.

Conclusion

It's critical to optimize your Azure environment with regular monitoring and updates, in much the same way that athletes must continuously train and improve. If you're looking for an elite coach to keep your organization going strong, consider how Dataprise's successful track record can give you the support and guidance you need to maintain and scale as needed.



Get Started with Dataprise

If you're looking for a free initial Azure assessment, [click here](#) to learn more about how we can help or [book a 30-minute call](#) with us today!