# ultima

## Azure IaaS Health Check

Virtual machines deployed within public clouds can deteriorate over time as system updates, modifications and continual operation take their toll on performance. Since many organisations rely heavily on the functionality provided by Azure's Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) platform, having confidence that your workloads are operating efficiently is essential. Proactively assuring your organisation's critical business services are functioning optimally is a fundamental requirement, and one that should not be ignored.

Ultima offers a comprehensive range of services aimed at helping organisations keep up with the pace of change regarding public cloud providers, while managing the implications to workloads deployed on those services. Azure has an evergrowing list of "pre-packaged" platform features that provide lower management overheads than DIY private clouds. Ultima's data centre and Azure specialists can review your existing IaaS footprint to confirm that you're operating within best practice, before providing recommendations on which efficiencies and improvements could be applied.

## Scope

Ultima will conduct a health check against Azure IaaS-based VM's, in order to provide assurance regarding the health of cloud-based workloads. The engagement reviews the following:

- What is currently deployed within Azure IaaS
- The suitability for workload migration to Azure Platform as a Service (PaaS)
- Available features and their current configuration
- Gap analysis between current and vendor best practice
- The most appropriate billing model and potential cost savings as a result of future optimisations

## Engagement Approach

Ultima adopts a simple, but effective, four stage process, allowing us to interrogate your environment and deliver best practice recommendations. This assessment is limited to 40 VM's within Azure IaaS only, with additional time procured in 20 VM blocks.

### Azure IaaS Health Check

#### Key Benefits

- Flexible engagement from a Microsoft cloud partner
- Validate your Azure IaaS against best practice
- Optimise your billing model to lower existing TCO
- Prevent critical failures and performance degradation
- Confidence to make changes to production systems

#### Prerequisites

- Support at management and technical levels
- Access to the Azure subscription being checked
- Completed schedule of engagement

#### Key Deliverables

- Comprehensive service improvement report
- Consultant-led walkthrough, outlining the issues found
- Option of on-going consultancy to remediate issues

| Standard Health Check | 3 Days |
|---|---|
| Each 20 Additional VM's | 1 Day |

## Step 1 - Analyse

Our consultant will lead a planning call to agree the scope and objectives of the health check, while identifying the issues and operational challenges affecting Azure IaaS. Once a schedule of engagement has been created, we will conduct the following analysis:

- Perform virtual machine and platform discovery
- Gather Azure classic and ARM components, including cross platform links
- Analyse current virtual machine usage, sizing and capacity
- Examine availability sets, scaling sets and storage availability
- Understand region placement for components
- Determine use of value-added components, such as security centre and antivirus
- Discover platform integrated services, e.g. backup, disaster recovery and automation
- Ascertain the test and development environments in place and review lab opportunities

### Microsoft Partner

Gold Datacenter
Gold Cloud Platform
Gold Cloud Productivity
Gold Identity and Access
Gold Devices and Deployment
Gold OEM
Gold Messaging
Gold Volume Licensing
Gold Communications
Gold Enterprise Mobility
Silver Software Asset Management

## Step 2 - Review

We will examine the data to ensure optimal configuration and consistency, as per best practice. We will also capture, qualify and prioritise issues which may impact business operations, as well as identify areas for service optimisation.

## Step 3 - Define

The ability to understand precisely what's going on inside your environment is as important as diagnosing the issues or threats facing it. Ultima's comprehensive service improvement report will provide your organisation with the following insights:

- Recommended performance improvements
- Potential cost savings
- Capacity and quota limits
- Deployment of platform features
- Next steps, alongside the effort required to bring environment in line with best practice - or Ultima's recommendations

Each component assessed will have a 'RAG' status aligned, detailing the following status levels:

- **Red - The component requires a degree of remediation to be brought in line with best practice**
- Amber - There is a risk associated with this item and the customer should conduct further analysis
- Green - No issues have been found with this component

## Step 4 - Present

Ultima will email the report for review, before presenting the management summary to your team via Skype. We will drill down into the headline findings including the risks, issues and recommendations we have made around your subscription and IaaS configuration. You will gain the opportunity to ask questions, gain advice and plan for potential remediation activities.