

Amazon AWS and Microsoft Azure

Buyer's Guide and Reviews

August 2019

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Overview

SOLUTION



Amazon AWS



Microsoft Azure

OVERVIEW

Amazon Web Services (AWS), is a collection of cloud computing services, also called web services, that make up a cloud-computing platform offered by Amazon.com. These services operate from 12 geographical regions across the world. The most central and well-known of these services arguably include Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud, also known as "EC2", and Amazon Simple Storage Service, also known as "S3". Amazon markets AWS as a service to provide large computing capacity more quickly and more...

Windows Azure is Microsoft's cloud platform where developers can create, deploy, and maintain their apps. This cloud application platform allows developers to concentrate on the actual applications, while it takes care of all the elements behind the apps. Windows Azure offers open across multiple frameworks, languages, and tools. It is fully scalable, localized in that it is hosted globally in many datacenters, and has widespread capabilities are, catering for all elements of application...

SAMPLE CUSTOMERS

Pinterest, General Electric, Pfizer, Netflix, and Nasdaq.

BMW, Toyota, easyJet, NBC Sports, HarperCollins, Aviva, TalkTalk Business, Avanade, and Telenor.

TOP COMPARISONS

[IBM Cloud vs. Amazon AWS](#)
Compared 17% of the time

[Heroku vs. Microsoft Azure](#)
Compared 20% of the time

[Oracle Cloud Platform vs. Amazon AWS](#)
Compared 11% of the time

[Oracle Cloud Platform vs. Microsoft Azure](#)
Compared 19% of the time

[Google Firebase vs. Amazon AWS](#)
Compared 10% of the time

[SAP Cloud Platform vs. Microsoft Azure](#)
Compared 10% of the time

TOP INDUSTRIES, BASED ON REVIEWERS*

Non Tech Company ... 8%
Comms Service Provider ... 8%
Manufacturing Company ... 15%
Software R&D Company ... 15%

Media Company ... 6%
Manufacturing Company ... 12%
Retailer ... 12%
Software R&D Company ... 18%

TOP INDUSTRIES, BASED ON COMPANIES READING REVIEWS*

Non Tech Company ... 8%
University ... 14%
Financial Services Firm ... 14%
Marketing Services Firm ... 19%

Transportation Company ... 8%
Media Company ... 12%
Comms Service Provider ... 13%
Financial Services Firm ... 14%

COMPANY SIZE, BASED ON REVIEWERS*

201-1000 Employees ... 11%
1001+ Employees ... 38%
1-200 Employees ... 52%

201-1000 Employees ... 9%
1001+ Employees ... 35%
1-200 Employees ... 56%

COMPANY SIZE, BASED ON COMPANIES READING REVIEWS*

1-200 Employees ... 35%
201-1000 Employees ... 6%
1001+ Employees ... 58%

* Data is based on the aggregate profiles of IT Central Station Users researching this solution.

Top Reviews by Topic

SOLUTION



Amazon AWS



Microsoft Azure

VALUABLE FEATURES



Brian Corbell



Rodrigo Ramele

Bidding on instances with dynamic pricing. So, I can do something that is not critical in terms of speed, like a production system, but testing and bid at an uber low price, and I will usually get what I want. [\[Full Review\]](#)

The time-to-market. Once you master the technology, you can create running, mobile back-ends in a few weeks. Additionally, it easily enables integration with legacy environments (like connecting to existing servers). [\[Full Review\]](#)



Joseph Matthew



Edgar Parra

Serverless computing: This can be more cost-efficient just regarding computing resources than renting or purchasing a fixed quantity of servers, which involves periods of underutilization or nonuse. It can even be more cost-efficient than provisioning an autoscaling group, because even autoscaling groups are typically designed to have underutilization to allow time for new instances to start up. Also, a serverless architecture means developers and operations specialists do not need to spend time... [\[Full Review\]](#)

Azure Active Directory, Azure VMs, Azure network security groups (NSG), and monitoring endpoints across different regions to check how your platform operates from different geographic locations. Azure backups are another feature which are quite useful, especially since they allow us to backup our Azure VMs and our on-premise servers. Data can be backed up to Azure, saving time, space, and using clunky tapes to restore data, when needed. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Ajay Mendez



PeterSimonsen

* It's pay-as-you-go. * It has a breadth of solutions for databases, data mining, AI. * They release new solutions almost every quarter and you don't get that kind of innovation from an enterprise company. [\[Full Review\]](#)

Update two years later... Microsoft Azure continue to expand its Platform as a Service value and has set itself apart from other cloud providers that are focused on the IaaS world. If you are a Microsoft house e.g. Visual Studio, .Net, Xamarin, O365, Windows Server or Windows Users this is a clear winner. It is easy to expand you in-house, in-data center knowledge into the cloud and Microsoft's enablement of hybrid/spanning on-premise with Cloud makes transitions easy. In general, the entire su... [\[Full Review\]](#)

Top Reviews by Topic

SOLUTION



Amazon AWS



Microsoft Azure

IMPROVEMENTS
TO MY
ORGANIZATION



Brian Corbell



Rodrigo Ramele

It improves the speed for us to access vendors, etc. AWS is extremely slow over the internet. Where we have GigE fiber over dedicated OC48 links, and when ping times to Dallas, TX from San Francisco is 30ms RTT on average, AWS is always 20ms higher. To AWS East, it is 70-110ms RTT, and the data transfer almost seems throttled. So I spun up an instance, made a BRAS image, like how DSL customers access the internet, and set up a peer with AWS to transfer data privately, then publicly from our inst... [\[Full Review\]](#)

When mobile is a necessity for an already-running corporate system, you do not want to lose time setting up a whole new environment and platform. You need something that can help you easily put in place all the scaffolding you need, and concentrate on the business solution that you are providing. Azure does this. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Joseph Matthew



Edgar Parra

AWS helped us reduce costs from CapEx to OpEx. Some of the introduced one-year and three-year reservations helped us reduce costs early on. With time, we learned how to minimize our at REST capacity, allowing us to scale up and scale down in near seconds. [\[Full Review\]](#)

Azure is a platform which allows our organization to be agile. It very quickly provisions servers, infrastructure, and apps on the fly and complies with security requirements and data safety. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Ajay Mendez



Aaron Krytus

With the pay-as-you-go model, we don't have to predict future IT needs. We can just scale up as we want. That helps with a lot of agility in deploying stuff in our IT infrastructure. [\[Full Review\]](#)

Creating VMs for development has been huge since we ran out of resources locally. Creating Hybrid solutions provides us with greater confidence in higher availability. Storage has made remote access to files much more painless and easy. Using SSO has also been great reducing the number of passwords and locations required to use them. [\[Full Review\]](#)

Top Reviews by Topic

SOLUTION



Amazon AWS



Microsoft Azure

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



Brian Corbell



Edgar Parra

The network is way overloaded. Comcast is overloaded. So between the two, it sucks. I am used to Level (3) or Verizon/Alter.net AS701 with fabulous ping times and throughput, where I click something and it works. It is the problem with the nomenclature of SDN [software defined networking] as engineers today do not understand networking, TCP/IP, or anything. I was 18 during the .com bust, but I remember accessing tools, as I worked for a Global ISP NTT, which owned Verio, the largest webhost at t... [\[Full Review\]](#)

Azure ARM console can be a bit overwhelming at the beginning. If you are not aware of costs, pricing, etc., you can end up with a hefty bill. However, I found that the Azure price calculator is a valuable tool to use before starting to deploy VMs in Azure. This tool will give you an overview of the costs you should expect on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Joseph Matthew



Aaron Krytus

AWS Marketplace: Somehow Amazon associated their marketplace as a place to find images of various installs (preconfigured software) and was late in the game enabling and promoting SaaS-based solutions. Thus, the AWS marketplace has near zero awareness in the mind of the prospect to find solutions to various problems plaguing them. [\[Full Review\]](#)

Pricing is very difficult to guesstimate. With so many a la carte options and individual pricing it can be a hassle to understand. I constantly need to go over the report to find out where I can save money and what is eating up the monthly costs. [\[Full Review\]](#)



Ahmed Poshi



Roberto Rubio

There's not specific things for improvement but that being said, they can improve the overall process and features of the product and to enhancement the stability. [\[Full Review\]](#)

I would like to have more certified servers for SAP. Our customers need an easier interface to manage Azure. They don't have people who have cloud knowledge. The knowledge group is taking time and they use our services to manage the cloud data. Azure is built for auto services but it's not easy. The interface is not easy to use. I'd like to see them develop a better interface and more graphical information about the resource and the consumer. There's a machine, the server. The smallest machine t... [\[Full Review\]](#)

Vendor Directory

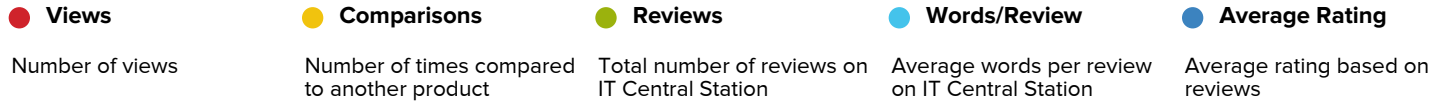
Alibaba	Alibaba Cloud
Amazon	Amazon AWS
Anexinet	Anexinet Infrastructure Automation
Neverfail	Artisan Infrastructure
AT&T	AT&T Synaptic
Bigstep	Bigstep Metal Cloud
BitRefinery	BitRefinery
Bluelock	Bluelock IaaS Cloud
BT	BT IaaS
QTS Data Centers	Carpathia IaaS Cloud
CenturyLink	CenturyLink Cloud
CenturyLink	CenturyLink Symphony
City Network	City Network City Cloud
ClearDATA	ClearDATA
Cloudee.eu	Cloudee.eu [EOL]
Connectria	Connectria IaaS Cloud
DXC Technology	CSC CloudCompute
DXC Technology	CSC CloudLab
Datapipe	Datapipe
DigitalOcean	DigitalOcean
ElasticHosts	ElasticHosts
Faction	Faction Cloud
Flexiant	Flexiant Extility
Fujitsu	FUJITSU Cloud Service S5
Datapipe	GoGrid
Google	Google Compute Engine
Google	Google Firebase
HOSTING	HOSTING Cloud Enterprise
IBM	IBM Cloud Infrastructure as a Service
iland	iland

Interoute	Interoute
Joyent	Joyent Triton Compute
KeyInfo	KeyCloud Infrastructure as a Service
Datapipe	Layered Tech IaaS Cloud
Media Temple	Media Temple IaaS Cloud
Microsoft	Microsoft Azure
NaviSite	NaviSite NaviCloud
Nimbix	Nimbix
NTT DATA	NTT Cloud
Oracle	Oracle Bare Metal Cloud Services
Oracle	Oracle Cloud
Oracle	Oracle Cloud Machine Cloud Service
Oracle	Oracle Network Cloud Service
Oracle	Oracle Ravello
Qube	Qube
Amazon	SAP Business One on AWS
SAP	SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud
Amazon	SAP Hybris on AWS
Amazon	SAP S/4HANA on AWS
Backbone Solutions	SecureRack
Skytap	Skytap Cloud
Stratoscale	Stratoscale
Sungard Availability Services	SunGard IaaS Cloud
Tata	Tata Communications InstaCompute
C Spire	Teklinks [EOL]
CenturyLink	Tier 3 [EOL]
Virtustream	vCloud Air
Virtacore Systems	vCloud Express
Virtustream	Virtustream xStream
INAP	Voxel VoxCLOUD

Top Infrastructure as a Service Clouds (IaaS) Vendors, Weighted

Over professionals have used IT Central Station research. Here are the top vendors based on product reviews, ratings, and comparisons. All reviews and ratings are from real users, validated by our triple authentication process.

Chart Key



Bar length

The total ranking of a product (i.e. bar length) is based on a weighted aggregate ranking of that product's Views (weighting factor = 17.5%), Comparisons (17.5%), Reviews (17.5%), Followers (17.5%), and Average Rating (30%). Reviews and ratings by resellers are excluded from the rankings. For each ranking factor, the score (i.e. bar segment length) is calculated as a product of the weighting factor and its position for that ranking factor. For example, if a product has 80% of the number of reviews compared to the product with the most reviews in its category, then the product's bar length for reviews would be 17.5% (weighting factor) * 80%.

1 Amazon AWS



2 Microsoft Azure



3 Google Compute Engine



4 Google Firebase



5 vCloud Air



6 Stratoscale



6,999 views

2,522 comparisons

1 reviews

51 words/review

9.0 average rating

7 SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud



2,847 views

2,371 comparisons

0 reviews

0 words/review

8 DigitalOcean



3,317 views

1,584 comparisons

0 reviews

0 words/review

9 Skytap Cloud



1,863 views

749 comparisons

0 reviews

0 words/review

10 SAP Hybris on AWS



1,112 views

842 comparisons

0 reviews

0 words/review


Top 5 Solutions by Ranking Factor

 Views

SOLUTION		IEWS
1	Amazon AWS	72,749
2	Microsoft Azure	61,322
3	Google Firebase	9,936
4	Stratoscale	6,999
5	DigitalOcean	3,317

 Reviews

SOLUTION		REVIEWS
1	Microsoft Azure	18
2	Amazon AWS	16
3	Google Compute Engine	2
4	vCloud Air	1
5	Google Firebase	1

 Words/Review

SOLUTION		WORDS/REVIEW
1	vCloud Air	1,070
2	Google Compute Engine	648
3	Microsoft Azure	507
4	Amazon AWS	283
5	Google Firebase	136

About this report

This report is comprised of a list of enterprise level vendors. We have also included several real user reviews posted on ITCentralStation.com. The reviewers of these products have been validated as real users based on their LinkedIn profiles to ensure that they provide reliable opinions and not those of product vendors.

About IT Central Station

The Internet has completely changed the way we make buying decisions. We now use ratings and review sites to see what other real users think before we buy electronics, book a hotel, visit a doctor or choose a restaurant. But in the world of enterprise technology, most of the information online and in your inbox comes from vendors but what you really want is objective information from other users.

We created IT Central Station to provide technology professionals like you with a community platform to share information about enterprise software, applications, hardware and services.

We commit to offering user-contributed information that is valuable, objective and relevant. We protect your privacy by providing an environment where you can post anonymously and freely express your views. As a result, the community becomes a valuable resource, ensuring you get access to the right information and connect to the right people, whenever you need it.

IT Central Station helps tech professionals by providing:

- A list of enterprise level vendors
- A sample of real user reviews from tech professionals
- Specific information to help you choose the best vendor for your needs

Use IT Central Station to:

- Read and post reviews of vendors and products
- Request or share information about functionality, quality, and pricing
- Contact real users with relevant product experience
- Get immediate answers to questions
- Validate vendor claims
- Exchange tips for getting the best deals with vendors

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