Microsoft officially in love with open source

Discover open source on Microsoft Azure

The time of hostility between Microsoft and open source is a thing of the past. Microsoft is now providing solutions based on open-source software. Microsoft Azure, one of Microsoft's cloud services, supports a wide range of open-source operating systems, languages, tools, and frameworks. And to cap it all off, alongside distributions such as Ubuntu, CentOS, and Suse Linux, support for Red Hat will soon be available to Microsoft Azure customers, too.

Microsoft falls more deeply in love with open source

Microsoft has been working with open source for a while—over ten years already. It started with support for Novell and PHP, but the relationship wasn't mutual. Last year, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella publicly declared the company's love for Linux, and he's remained true to his word ever since. Microsoft is now involved with 140 workgroups dealing with open standards, and actively supports more than 400 projects where code is written before being given back to the community. Have a look at GitHub, which has examples of APIs, SDKs, and open-source projects on Microsoft's Azure cloud service. But that's not all.

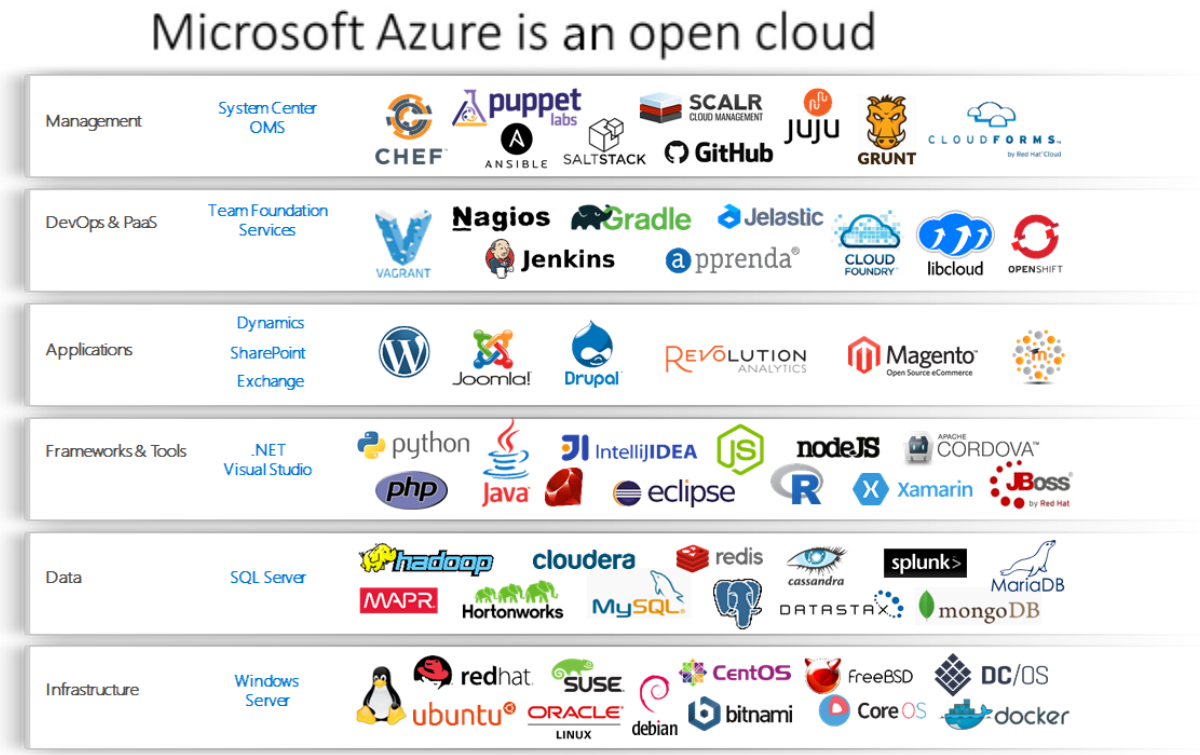
Microsoft surpasses its own standard

According to Mark Russinovich, CTO of Microsoft Azure, Microsoft has passed the point of not using business software that wasn't developed in Redmond. He mentions the integration of OpenSSH for secure remote logins with PowerShell as an example. 'We didn't want to waste any time building our own variant in PowerShell. So instead of developing our own interfaces, we're making use of Yarn and HDFS in HDInsight—for example, the big data Hadoop service for Ubuntu Linux on Azure."

A third of virtual servers on Azure run Linux

We're stronger together. That's why Microsoft has really embraced open source, and left the choice up to the customer. Not everyone knows, but a third of all virtual servers on Microsoft Azure are currently based on Linux. This is not without reason—you can easily run numerous Linux solutions on the Microsoft cloud service.

It also no longer matters which programming language you speak. It really doesn't have to be just .NET anymore. You can also code in Java or PHP. Microsoft ensures you can run everything any way and in any location you want. Whether that's in your own data center, a service provider's data center, or one of Microsoft's data centers, it's all about freedom of choice for the customer.



Freedom of choice for open-source applications

There are, for example, more than a thousand ready-made solutions in the VM depot, an open-source database of Linux images which run on Microsoft. Do you want to run an Apache server on Ubuntu with Tomcat? No problem! After a couple of clicks, you can start using the configuration you want. A WordPress or Drupal website with a MySQL database behind it? That's also not a problem on Azure. Because you never know exactly how popular your site will be, it's useful to be able to scale it easily using a slider.

Cross-platform tools for resource management

Cross-platform resource management is also possible on Microsoft Azure, for example with the cross-platform CLIs for OSX and Linux. Microsoft Azure also provides direct support for Chef and Puppet extensions on the servers which you can configure in Microsoft Azure.

Docker also on Azure

Docker is a relatively new and popular open-source technology for quickly rolling out applications and services in containers. You can now run Docker containers on Linux on Microsoft Azure. Microsoft is also working closely with Docker for the management and integration of Docker technology, both on Linux and Windows. The integration offers cross-platform support for Windows Server, Linux, and Hyper-V containers. Microsoft has released a Docker image of Linux distribution Ubuntu, for example. This Docker image, available in the Azure Marketplace, makes it easier to use a virtual Ubuntu server in Microsoft Azure cloud.

Red Hat now a Microsoft partner

Microsoft and Red Hat are collaborating to support customers with hybrid cloud computing. This gives them more choice and greater flexibility when using Red Hat solutions on Microsoft Azure. An important part of this collaboration is that Microsoft offers Red Hat Enterprise Linux as the preferred operating system for enterprise Linux workloads on Microsoft Azure. Microsoft and Red Hat are also working together to meet the shared requirements of enterprises, Independent Software Vendors, and developers for building, deploying, and managing applications using Red Hat software in private and public clouds.

Red Hat solutions for Microsoft Azure customers

Microsoft Azure is a Red Hat Certified Cloud and Service Provider. This means customers will be able to run their Red Hat Enterprise Linux applications and workloads on Microsoft Azure. Red Hat Cloud Access subscribers can take their virtual machines with them to run in Microsoft Azure. Microsoft Azure customers benefit from Red Hat's application platform, including Red Hat JBoss Enterprise Application Platform, Red Hat JBoss Web Server, Red Hat Gluster Storage, and OpenShift, Red Hat's platform-as-a-service offering. Microsoft and Red Hat will also start offering Red Hat On-Demand in the coming months. Red Hat Enterprise Linux images will then also be available in the Azure Marketplace and supported by Red Hat.

Integrated support at enterprise level

Customers receive integrated cross-platform and cross-company support for both the Microsoft and Red Hat portfolio, in contrast to previous collaborations in the public cloud. Because support teams are placed together, the service will be easily and seamlessly available at cloud speed.

Uniform management of workloads in hybrid cloud deployments

Red Hat CloudForms is interoperable with Microsoft Azure and Microsoft System Center Virtual Machine Manager. This means Red Hat CloudForms customers can manage Red Hat Enterprise Linux on both Hyper-V and Microsoft Azure.

It is expected that support for managing Azure workloads from Red Hat CloudForms will be added in the coming months. This will expand existing System Center options for managing Red Hat Enterprise Linux.

Collaboration with .NET opens up new possibilities for application development

Microsoft announced a preview of .NET on Linux in April 16. This gives developers access to .NET technologies within the Red Hat range, including Red Hat OpenShift and Red Hat Enterprise Linux, which Red Hat and Microsoft support together. Red Hat Enterprise Linux is the primary development and reference operating system for .NET Core on Linux.

Microsoft Azure

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