Abstract

Many companies have reoriented their IT strategy to take advantage of the public cloud, or are in the process of doing so. Systems that require huge, vertically scaled infrastructure are subject to catastrophic failures with long recovery times and have a target on them for modernization or replacement. This applies to integration middleware as much as other technologies.

In this whitepaper, we will take a look at how Azure Integration Services can fully uplift your Azure Ecosystem, curated modern integration functional and technical architecture patterns, its implementation using Azure Integration Services and best practices.
Enterprise is changing...

Rapidly evolving, fast-moving and adaptable Enterprise is the trend to sustain in the highly pervasive digital ecosystem and these changes are driven by Enterprise business, their digital priorities and IT challenges.

**Business Drivers**
- Enable data for business decision at the speed of market
- Adapting to diverse Enterprise system
- Unleash and reuse the legacy systems
- Utilize the power of the digital ecosystem

**Digital Priorities**
- Move applications to cloud and Digitizing Integration Platform
- Evolve digital integration at scale and speed
- Fast-paced innovation in Customer/Partner engagement

**IT Challenges**
- Enable pervasive integration
- Share core data with Partner securely
- Unlock digital systems for digital readiness
- Connect seamlessly diverse systems, cloud and data islands
- Integration on-demand

“Just in time cloud integration at web scale is at core for rapidly changing business drivers & digital priorities”

“Worldwide public cloud revenue to grow 17.3 percent in 2019”
- Gartner

“Cloud-first, and even cloud-only, is replacing the defensive no-cloud stance that dominated many large providers in recent years”
- Gartner

“Wealth worldwide public cloud revenue to grow from 32% in 2016 to 56% in 2019, making it the fastest-growing sector of cloud platforms”
- KPMG

“Cloud-based Integration is a critical component of Modernized Integration Strategy. IPaaS adoption is growing at 22%”
- CAGR

“Investment in PaaS will grow from 32% in 2016 to 56% in 2019, making it the fastest-growing sector of cloud platforms”
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Integration continues to be at the heart of the overall IT landscape. From point to point to application integration to process and digital, it still plays a critical role for organizations in unlocking the value.

As the world is moving towards digital and cloud, integration is evolving to stay relevant. The data centers are moving to cloud, ERP/CRM applications adopted as SaaS, new trends around API, Big Data, Integration is pivotal in the world of new digital age and the cloud Ecosystem, but it has to evolve with speed and scale, there are plenty of opportunities and untapped potential to unleash. Any evolution will have its challenges but overcoming them will present us with great rewards. Integration is no different!

Consolidation and acquisition of the business, cost optimization all present its challenges to Integration either in existing A2A, B2B or new API, Data use cases.

Figure 1: Integration Evolution

Infosys Enterprise Application Integration and Services has been delivering value to our clients for over 20 years by unlocking Integration puzzle with various tools & technologies. We strongly believe...
Microsoft’s contribution to the Integration space

Microsoft is a long-term player in Integration space. Microsoft BizTalk Server continues to be a leading Integration powerhouse and is adopted by many clients across the globe for EAI, B2B use cases with excellent capabilities around messaging, orchestration, business rules and partner management.

Microsoft is also a frontrunner in cloud and is continuously evolving its products. Microsoft Azure is a leading Cloud Platform catering to every organizations needs providing IaaS, PaaS and SaaS offerings and more recently an eIPaaS with Azure Integration Services.

**Azure Integration Services**

- **API Management** – For Digital Exposure
- **Logic Apps** – Workflow, Routing and Orchestration with 200+ Connectors
- **Service Bus** – Publish/Subscribe and Reliable Messaging
- **Event Grid** – Capture and Deliver Events. Trigger instead of Poll

**Pre-Integrated with other Azure Services**

AIS also works very well with other Azure Services such as Azure Functions, Azure Web Apps to provide custom add-ons on top of the standard functionality provided by AIS, also with Storage Accounts, App Insights, etc. As we will see in the next sections, AIS can truly uplift your Integration with its all-terrain capabilities.

**Figure 2: Azure Integration Services**

**Why Azure Integration Services**

**Business Agility** – Increase agility by making new capabilities available to the organization

**Cost Effective** – Increase reusability and reduce cost

**Security** – Increase system and network security

**Operation** – Responsive operation capability and increased maintainability

**Abstraction** – Provide a level of abstraction between systems which reduces impact of change in the IT landscape

**Automation** – Automate business process

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FIGURE 2: Azure Integration Services

- Holistic integration capabilities including APIIM, EAI, Process orchestration, Messaging & events.
- Pre-integrated access to leverage essential Azure services.
- Seamlessly interconnect everything on-cloud and on-premise including complex A2A, SaaS, B2B & IOT use cases.
- Server-less ecosystem that is massively scalable.

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TURBOCHARGE WITH AZURE INTEGRATION SERVICES – SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATE BETWEEN “ON CLOUD” AND “ON PREMISE” WITH ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES...
SaaS Integration to enable digital ecosystem

More and more enterprises are moving to cloud, migrating the workload to PaaS or replacing it with SaaS systems. Enabling SaaS helps enterprise enable digital ecosystem rapidly.

This ecosystem requires de-centralized and distributed integration with multiple SaaS systems as well as enterprise on-premise systems.

AIS helps to enable this integration.

Unleash core data from Legacy systems

In legacy modernization, it’s imperative to build a set of functionalities to abstract business capabilities and make it available to the customers, partners, internal stakeholders. This abstraction helps the business to shield the internal systems enabling rapid innovation, standard interface to the outer world at the same time releasing new capability to the markets.
Core capabilities exposed as independent functionalities or services can be then consumed by an orchestrator to form a specific business process.

**Figure 5: Legacy System Integration**
AIS can abstract this integration with low-code and higher configuration.

**API-First Integration**
For real-time and synchronous integration, where the web or mobile channel integrates with other systems through API, building integration as an API first makes more sense. API-First approach helps collaboration with multiple stakeholders to build integration solution using Headless architecture essentially decoupling service providers and consumers.

**Figure 6: API-First Integration**
It’s essentially achieved by creating API contract in terms of OpenAPI specification which can be then shared with multiple stakeholders.

Azure Logic Apps and Azure API Management can either be a consumer or provider. Each Logic Apps can be exposed as an API using HTTP trigger and published to Azure API Management. Developers from different teams can onboard and socialize the API in Developer Portal. Similarly, Logic App can also consume a Swagger based API.

**Plug-in on-premise systems to cloud**
We know Enterprise cannot move to the cloud completely. Even today, mission-critical applications are in own Data Centers. However, to enable the digital journey these on-premise systems need to be integrated with cloud systems. Idea is to re-use existing on-premise applications and enable it for cloud systems.

**Figure 7: On-Premise System Integration**
Performance and Security are an important factor while building integration. Azure Logic Apps along with on-premise data gateway and Integration Service Environment will help address these problems.

In the above diagram, a gateway will be on-premise which creates a relay to Azure cloud with minimum security hurdles. For critical latency scenarios, Express route can also be considered for direct integration to Logic Apps without the Data Gateways.

**Engage with Partners**
Organizations need a way to share the data to their partners to increase business horizons and also gain benefits in terms of digitizing the current workload to gain market share. Ability to onboard a partner and manage their Integration Lifecycle is a critical capability of B2B integration.

**Figure 8: Partner Integration**
Azure Integration Service comes with Integration Account where Partners can be on-boarded and also all digital certificates, maps, agreements related with Partners can be stored and with Logic Apps 200+ connectors you can connect to your partner no matter where they are.

**Event driven complex Integration**
Event driven architecture is crucial in today’s highly distributed landscape, more than ever before as real-time data flow increasing every day. For systems to cope up its essential to decouple the ingestion and the processing part, so it’s natural for organizations to leverage event based loosely coupled pattern to build complex integrations.

**Figure 9: Event Driven Integration**
AIS supports both Service Bus and Event Grid for reliable messaging and Eventing. Consider logic app to serve as a LEGO block which does one specific thing and forwards to the next using queues promoting reuse.
Integration Platform-as-a-Service: Cloud Design Patterns using Azure Integration Services

- Claim Check
- Anti-Corruption Layer
- Bulkhead
- Pipe and Filters
- Compensating Transaction
- Queue-Based Load Leveling
- Publish-Subscriber
- Logging and Exception Handling
- Gateway Routing

Azure Event Hub & Service Bus can be used for isolating backend process from other systems by using highly available queue mechanism.

Pipe and Filters
For highly distributed architecture and complex scenarios, it’s imperative to build microservice-like components in integration to make it individually scalable and independently deployable. Message processing, ingestion processes need to cater to various types of data/event sources so it makes sense to develop them in such pattern.

Each source needs to be parsed, transformed and stored into target format with different logic. The integration components can be decomposed into discrete tasks to include parsing and storage, as well as error handling. These components are highly configurable, allowing for use-case based parsing, transformation and storage or business services.

Claim Check
For large message processing, it is recommended to store the message to external service and use the reference of that message further processing. This will reduce the consumption of resources and make the solution cost effective. This also helps when particular service has a limit on message size.

Blob storage can be used as payload store and logic apps or any other client interested to process the message can get the message based on reference instead of the actual payload.

Anti-Corruption Layer
When integrating with legacy applications, features, technologies or message format can vary between the systems resulting in interoperability issues due to lack of connectors or message format or message structure mismatch. Anti-Corruption layer pattern helps to reduce the dependency on legacy systems which will create an abstract layer on top which is easily understood by other system or integration layer. Canonical Data Model is other pattern to reduce dependency.

Bulkhead
Overloading or failures of components involving key agnostic processes such as databases or parsing failures or storage services or failure in target systems due to heavy load can lead to failure of the source systems. This can be addressed by isolating failure-prone components from overall architecture making architecture more robust and also future-proof.
Compensating Transaction
In case of complex business process or workflow, when or if any error occurs there is most likely a requirement to reverse the effects of previously executed steps, compensating transaction pattern comes in handy.

Figure 14: Compensating Transaction
The compensating component will reverse it to the state by overwriting the changes with the original state. Azure Logic Apps can do compensation in case of any error in the workflow.

Queue-based Load Leveling
It is common for a target system to not able to cope up with the heavy load from the source system. This can cause reliability and performance issues in the overall integration solution.

Figure 15: Queue-based Load Leveling
Having queue in between the source and the target systems will level the load, queues can help with throttle and load distribution. Target system can retrieve the message at its own space. While addressing the reliability and performance issues this also results in a scalable solution.

Publish-Subscriber
In Event-based asynchronous integration, it is very common to have many interested consumers for the same message. In this case, it’s not good practice to have a queue for each consumer. Rather consider loosely coupled architecture, so that publisher can send the message without knowing who will subscribe the message, at the same time subscriber doesn’t need to know the sender’s identity.

Figure 16: Publish-Subscriber
This will decouple the systems for communication and improves scalability.
Gateway Routing
When a client needs to consume multiple services which has its end-points, it becomes unmanageable for the client.

Instead, it is recommended to use the gateway in front of all these services and route based on the path to the correct service.

Logging and Exception Handling
There are multiple moving parts in integration for example, source, target, middleware, and other peripheral systems. In case of errors or any exception, it is troublesome to identify or pinpoint the exact component which threw error if logging is not implemented correctly.

Try enabling Azure Diagnostics for the Application Components which will push the logs to a log analytics workspace and then use Azure Monitor out of the box features to either create an Alert or pin it to Azure Application Insights Dashboard. Tip: Use a common Correlation id to identify all logs for the corresponding message flow.
Azure Integration Services: Serverless and Agile

Azure Integration Services brings together serverless integration offerings as a reliable, scalable and agile platform for integrating on-premise, cloud-based applications, data, process and devices.

In today’s rapidly evolving digital ecosystem, connectivity everywhere with everything is the key to empower integration at scale and speed and adopting cloud integration architecture using Azure Integration Services can power this digital ambitions like never before.
Authors:

Dinesh Nagabushanam  
*Principal Architect, Infosys*

Dinesh is a technology enthusiast and architect in Enterprise Integration & Services group at Infosys and heads Azure Integration Services Centre of Excellence. He has over 17 years of experience in architecting and implementing projects involving EAI, SOA, ESB, API & Microservices and Cloud with diverse tools & technologies.

Chetan Makvana  
*Sr. Technology Architect, Infosys*

Chetan is a technology evangelist and architect working in Integration practice at Infosys. He has over 13 years of experience in architecting and implementing projects involving API, Microservice, Cloud-based integration and Cloud-native solutions with a diverse product background. He has a deep understanding of cloud especially Azure and has been following all the development in Azure since its inception.

Pramod Vasanth  
*Principal Cloud Solution Architect, Microsoft*

Pramod Vasanth is a Cloud Solution Architect working in One Commercial Partner (OCP) organization in Microsoft. He has over 18 years experience in Microsoft Technologies.
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