

# How to transform online citizen engagement in weeks

State and local governments rely on their websites as key resources to engage the public. When a site goes down, residents are cut off from critical information and services.

Many government agencies are migrating their online presence to the cloud to provide residents with more reliable access to critical information. Cloud service providers offer the advantage of being able to scale applications up and down on demand to deal with unanticipated traffic spikes – without requiring staff to fund and manage added infrastructure.

“Moving our website infrastructure to the cloud provides the scalability and availability we need to ensure more than one million citizens have continuous access to critical information from all county departments, while also reducing operating costs.”

- Cliff Dupuy, Director of Infrastructure Services, Mecklenburg County



# Transform your digital connection to residents

It is common for state and local government to experience events that cause traffic to flood their websites – everything from large lottery jackpots to civil unrest incidents. To deal with unexpected demand, many agencies have moved their websites to Azure. With Azure IaaS and PaaS, they have the ability to seamlessly handle traffic spikes so that residents have uninterrupted access to the information they need.

## Flexible deployment options

Azure offers more deployment options than any other cloud provider – IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS. IaaS allows you to migrate existing VMs intact to Azure infrastructure. With PaaS, platform services like Redis cache and Azure SQL you can increase resiliency and remove the need for server maintenance to boost scalability.

## Fast time to market

Moving a website to Azure can be extremely quick – several government customers have completed the migration in three weeks or less.

## Reduction in operating costs

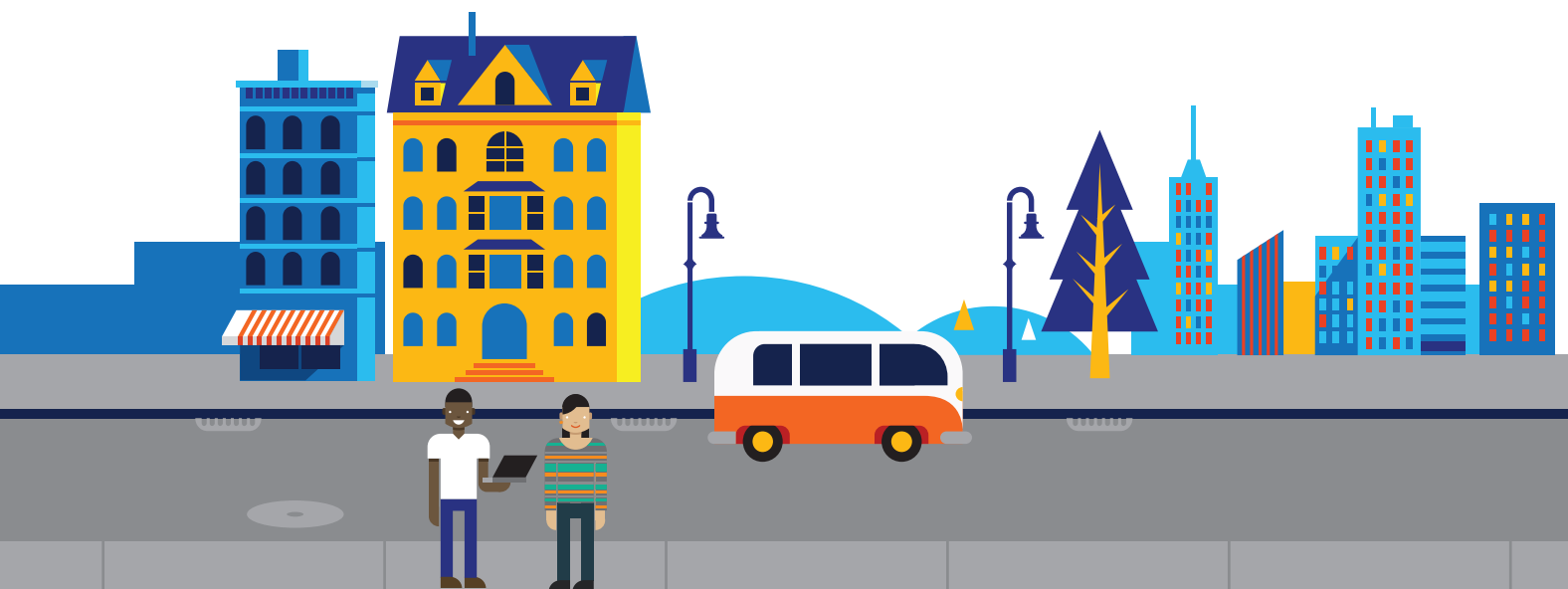
Agencies only need to buy capacity for peak usage when it is needed, so the hosting costs for cloud-based websites are much lower than building out on-premises infrastructures. Because Microsoft handles infrastructure maintenance, admins can focus on more critical projects.

### County of Mecklenburg, North Carolina (IaaS)

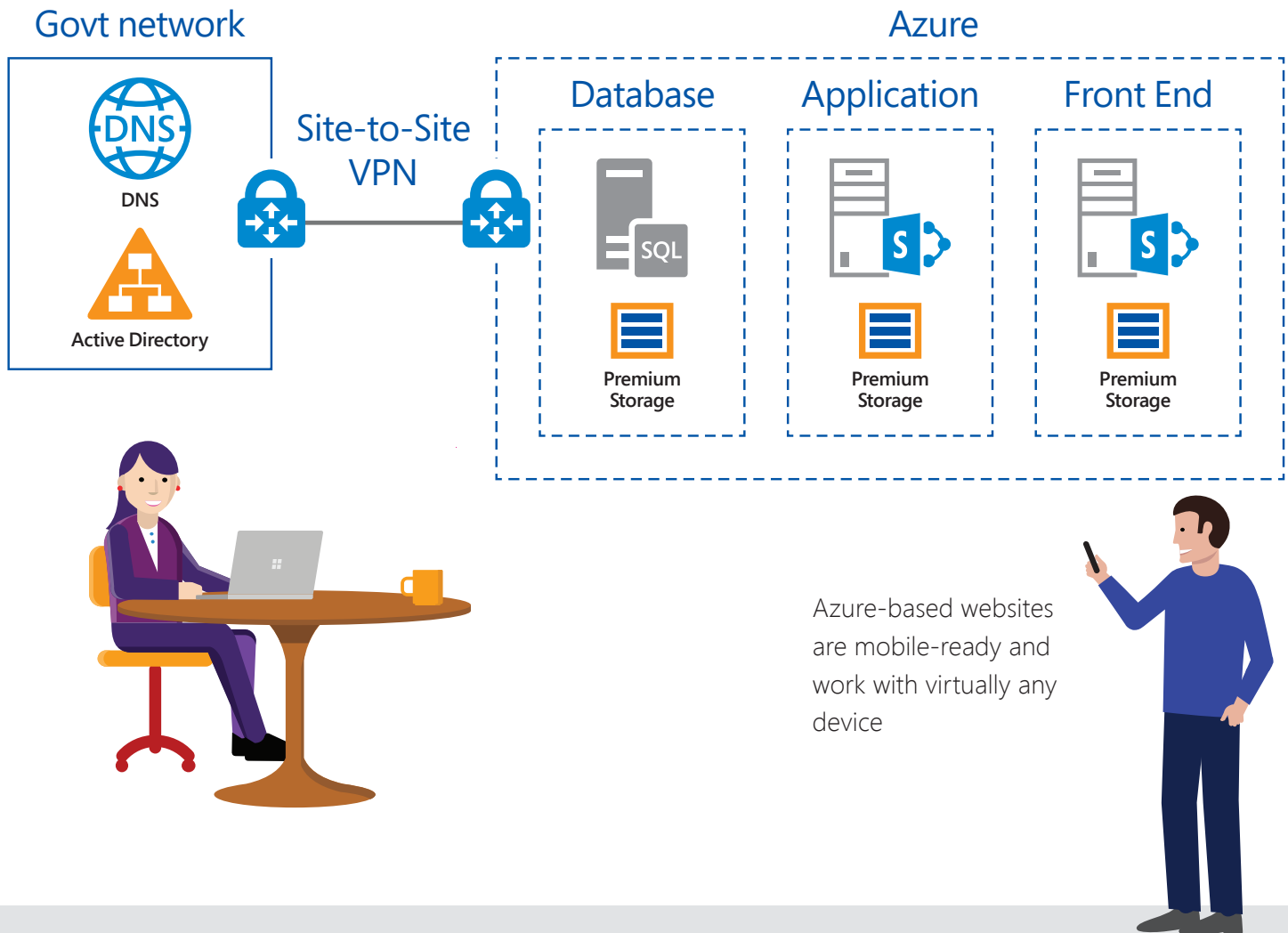
- Reduced website hosting costs by 29%
- Eliminated network load by moving web traffic to the cloud
- Migrated development environment in three months

### Large state lottery agency

- Increased scale to accommodate jackpots up to \$1.5 billion
- Deployed in about two weeks
- Reduced admin maintenance workload



# Solution overview: IaaS Website



Azure-based websites are mobile-ready and work with virtually any device

## How it works

There are many options for moving a government website to Azure. The County of Mecklenburg chose to use an IaaS deployment model where they migrated their SharePoint Server Farm directly to the cloud. To build the IaaS solution, they:

- Built and optimized SQL Server for storage
- Installed and configured SharePoint services
- Configured their web applications for authentication and security permissions
- Migrated on-premises database and web applications to the new Azure environment

### Project examples:

- 311 services
- Utility billing and service updates
- Housing and urban development applications
- Tax collection
- Recreation and parks

# Why Azure Government

Microsoft Azure Government helps to enable digital transformation of state and local governments with a government-only, secure, and flexible approach that offers a choice of public, private, and hybrid cloud services.

**100% government-only cloud** Azure Government is designed for the sole use of U.S. regulated government entities. Even though all data is encrypted, every staff member is a U.S. citizen and receives a full background check – no exceptions. It offers six isolated government-only regions and six ExpressRoute locations for direct on-premises to cloud connections.

**Secure and compliant** Microsoft has more certifications and attestations than any other cloud service provider, including 32 services with FedRAMP High authorization, DoD Level 5 authorization, and 30 state-signed CJIS agreements.

**Open and flexible** Azure Government is the only fully integrated platform that gives state and local governments cloud on their terms. It provides integration with Office 365 and Dynamics 365 Government, a hybrid platform that allows you to move apps and data to the cloud and back, and broad support for open source technologies and developer tools.

## Get started today

Request your [90-day Azure Government trial](#) subscription.

