

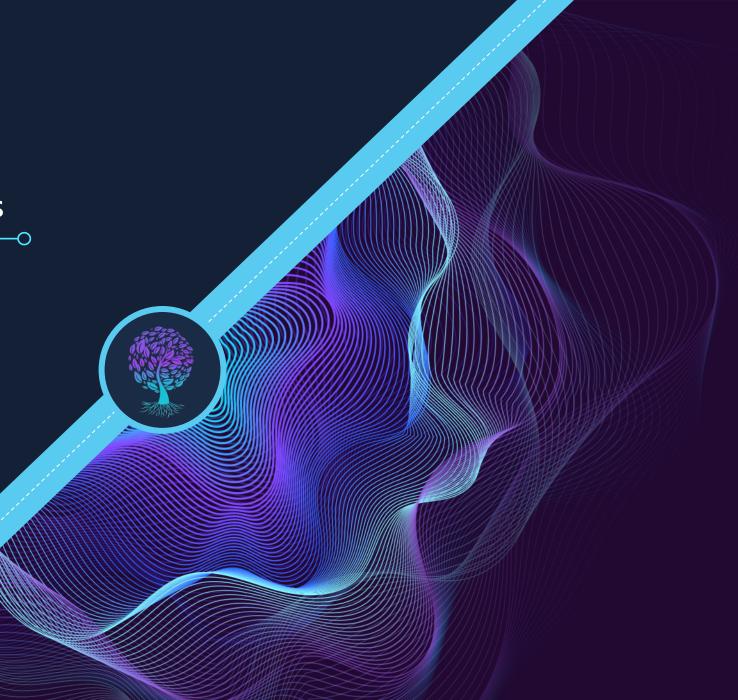
GTM, Programs, & Operations

Solutions Partner with certified software

Partner Facing Walking Deck

Updated September 2025

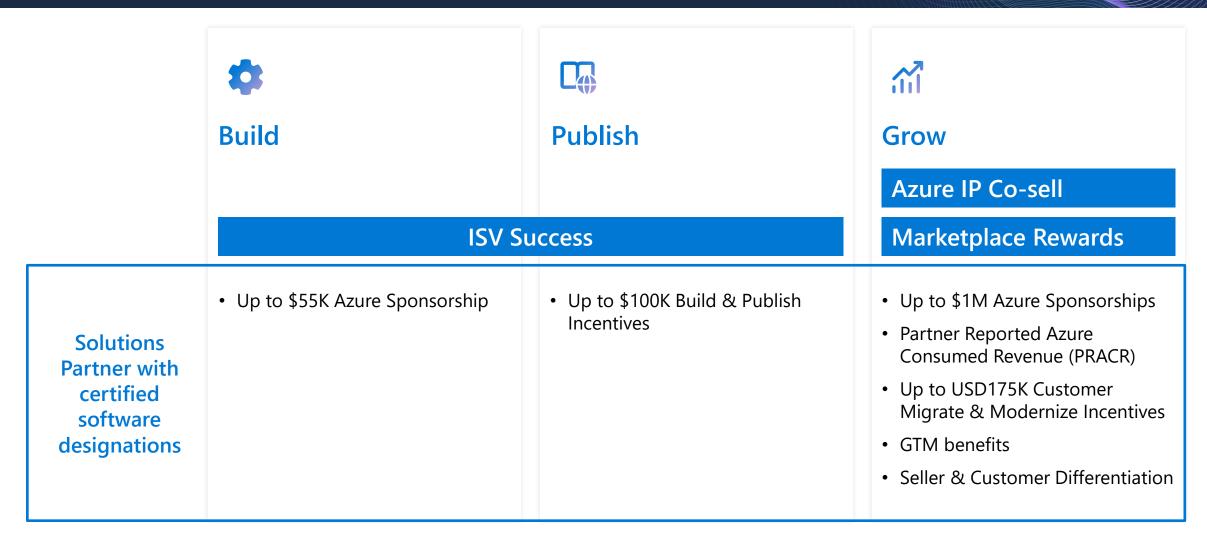
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The Microsoft Al Cloud Partner Program

Investing in your success with benefits to help you grow





Solutions Partner with certified software designations



There are two pathways to become a Solutions Partner* with certified software**: A pathway for solution areas and a pathway for Industry AI.



Solutions Partner with certified software for solution areas

- Certified software for Azure
- Certified software for Business Applications
- Certified software for Modern Work
- Certified software for Security



Solutions Partner with certified software for Industry AI

- Certified software for Healthcare AI
- Certified Software for Sustainability Al
- Certified software for Financial Services AI
- Certified software for Retail AI
- Certified software for Manufacturing AI
- Certified software for Energy AI
- Certified software for Telecommunications/Media AI
- Certified software for Government AI
- Certified software for Education AI
- Certified software for Non-Profit Al
- Certified software for Defense & Intelligence AI

Certified software designations | Criteria



Solutions Partner with certified software validates the partner solution and provides differentiation externally to Microsoft Customers and internally to Microsoft Sellers



Demonstrates commercial marketplace readiness and performance



Has a proven track record of customer success



Meets technical requirements for interoperability with the Microsoft Cloud

Attaining a designation will build trust customers of the quality, interoperability, reliability and relevance of their software solution with Microsoft Cloud.



Note: Please find detailed content at aka.ms/CSDResources and for assistance reach out to Partner Support

Updated value of with certified software designations



Streamlines and unlocks access to top benefits and incentives with a single motion: Solutions Partner* with certified software** designation



Partner Incentives

Incentives unlocking up to \$175,000 for Customer Migrate and Modernize and up to \$100,000 for Build and Publish



Marketplace Rewards Azure Sponsorship

Up to \$1,000,000 in Azure sponsorship with 2 new certified software designation exclusive tiers



Co-sell benefits

Unlock PRACR* and prioritized visibility with Microsoft Sellers



Go-To-Market Benefits

Solution play cards, solution video and more



Differentiation

Customer facing badging and seller prioritization

^{*} Note: Access Partner Reported Azure Consumed Revenue (PRACR) by attaining certified software designations for Azure or one of the Industry AI designations on Azure.

Solution area pathway: Requirements and validation process



Solutions must address three requirements to attain certified software designations for solution areas. To pass these requirements, your solution needs to

Requirement 1 Requirement 2 Requirement 3



Microsoft commercial marketplace readiness, such as <u>transactability</u> and Azure IP Co-sell eligibility.

Microsoft will validate this automatically within Partner Center.



Fulfill customer satisfaction and commercial performance requirements according to the relevant solution area.



Meet technical requirements and demonstrate interoperability with the Microsoft Cloud.

Prepare documentation for the technical audit, such as architectural diagrams.

Industry Al pathway: Requirements and validation process



Solutions must address five areas of requirements to attain certified software designations for Industry Al. To pass, your solution needs to

Requirement 1



Requirement 2

Requirement 3

Requirement 4

Requirement 5

Microsoft commercial marketplace readiness, such as transactability and Azure IP Co-sell

Microsoft will validate this automatically within Partner Center

<u>eligibility</u> (if applicable)



Show a clear track record of customer success by submitting customer evidence. such as case studies

Prepare two pieces of customer evidence. including case studies



Align to Microsoft **Industry Clouds** and map to one or more of the defined Industry Cloud Customer Scenarios

Ensure your customer evidence aligns to a defined scenario.



Meet technical requirements and demonstrate interoperability with the Microsoft Cloud.

Prepare docs for the technical audit, such as architectural diagrams.



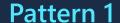
Meet additional technical requirements that show the use of an AI capability

Ensure solution meets the criteria of one of the three Industry Al capability patterns

Industry Al capability patterns



To satisfy the Requirement 5 technical audit, your solution must meet the criteria of one of the three Industry AI patterns listed below.





Industry-specific Microsoft Copilot Agents

Pattern 2



Industry-specific Microsoft Fabric solution

Pattern 3



Industry-specific AI model or service hosted by Azure

<u>Detailed guidance AI Patterns for Industry AI</u>

Performance & Customer Success Criteria



Performance criteria: Only 1 of the aligned criteria needs to be achieved

Area	IP Co-sell Eligible**	Marketplace Billed Sales	Marketplace Transactions	Net New Customers	MACC	PIR	MAU	Customer Evidence	Al Patterns
Azure	Azure IP Co-sell eligible	USD4M	30 with 8 unique customers*	12 greater than USD10K each	USD200M or USD30M and 5 marketplace transactions	NA	NA		NA
Security	Azure IP Co-sell eligible	USD4M	30 with 8 unique customers*	12 greater than USD10K each	NA	NA	NA	4.5 customer rating with 15 reviews	NA
Modern Work	NA	USD100K	NA	NA	NA	NA	50K MAU	or 2 customer cases	NA
Business Applications	Business Applications Co-sell eligible	USD1M	NA	NA	NA	USD4M	NA		NA
Industry Al	Azure IP Co-sell eligible (if applicable)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2 Enterprise customer cases, aligned to Industry Clouds and defined customer scenarios	Aligned to one of the 4 Al patterns

^{*}Must be a minimum value of USD100

Note: Where a marketplace transaction refers to your Microsoft commercial marketplace sale or deal with a customer and must be at a minimum value of USD100. The transaction does not refer to the individual billing event with a customer (i.e., not counting each billing event for a subscription as multiple transactions).

^{**}Please see this documentation on IP Co-sell eligibility

Azure technical requirements & validation process



Streamlined Azure technical validation process to help you attain a certified software designation faster

	Secti	Section 2		
Solution Representation	Azure Well- Architected Review	Azure Advisor	Security Posture	Solution Requirements
Build architecture diagram and solution demo	Conduct well-architected framework (WAF) assessment	Provide Azure Advisor score	Provide current security posture score	Gather details on solution to ensure workload requirements
Reference architecture diagram + Solution Demo	WAF Assessment	Azure Advisor Score	Secure score in Microsoft Defender for Cloud	Review solution specific requirements for your solution

Detailed guidance on Azure Technical Audit Critera

Who will validate my solution? *





Certified software designation will be validated through an independent partner



What is validated?

- <u>Persistent Solutions</u> conducts independent technical and customer evidence validation for Certified Software Designation
- Refer to the <u>certified software designations playbook</u> for validation details
- Audit timeframe: 17 business days, contingent on timely evidence
- Audit questions: Persistent ISV Audit Group@persistent.com



How to prepare

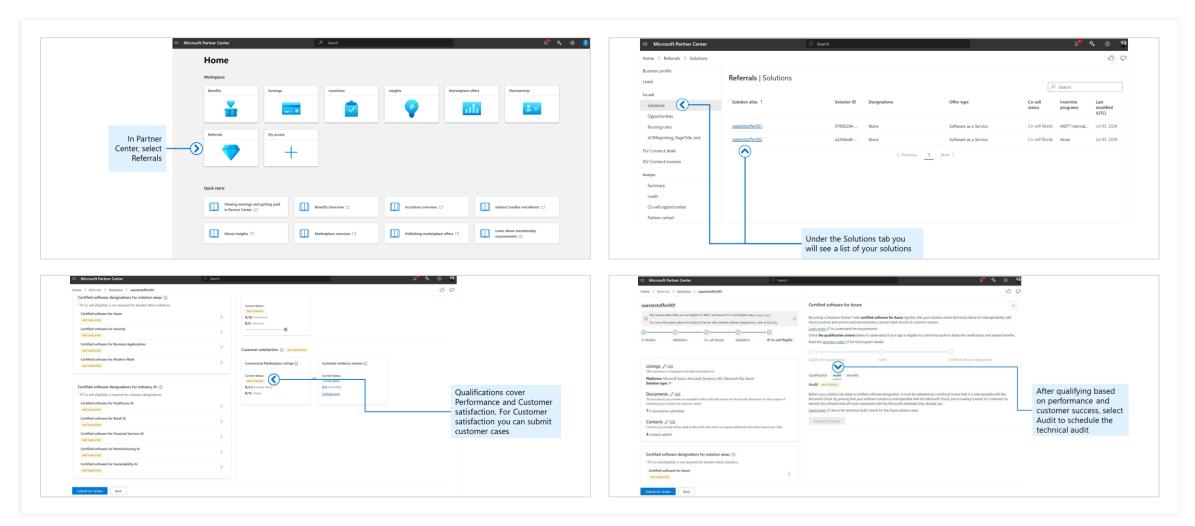
- Partner will prepare architecture diagrams, customer success stories, documentation and that demonstrate customer evidence and alignment to the technical requirements.
- Persistent will coordinate with the partner's Partner Center admin or contact with questions.
- Your PDM/PTS team are here to support the partner through the process.

^{*}Technical Audit for Azure and Industry AI is validated by Persistent

^{*}Technical Audit for Modern Work, Business Applications and Security is validated by Microsoft.

Partner Center Journey to certified software designations





Certified software designations FAQ



Frequently Asked Question	Answer
Is eligibility to PRACR available for all certified software designations?	Eligibility to Partner Reported Azure Consumed Revenue (PRACR) is accomplished by attaining certified software designation for Azure, or one of the eleven certified software designations for Industry AI designations if they are built on Azure.
For the certified software designation process, is the designation offered at the partner or solution level?	The solution is validated through a manual review and the solution is differentiated with the designation at the solution level. Some of the benefits are unlocked at the partner level.
How long does the certified software designation process take?	The certified software designations process typically takes 17 business days to complete, contingent on timely submission of evidence, volume of audits in the process, and dependent on the designation being sought.
How long does certified software designations last and is there a cost for renewing certified software designations?	Once certified, the designation is valid for 12 months with automatic renewal based on continued achievement of the performance criteria. Recertification is necessary if there are significant changes to the underlying architecture or solution, or if performance criteria are not maintained.

Take Action



Connect with your partner development manager or partner technology strategist to walk you through the process, timing and specific next steps that are unique to your solution.

Learn how to successfully apply for the CSD program, please visit our resource gallery.

Review the <u>certified software designations playbook</u> and <u>Partner Center</u> <u>documentation</u> for details, requirements and the enrollment process.

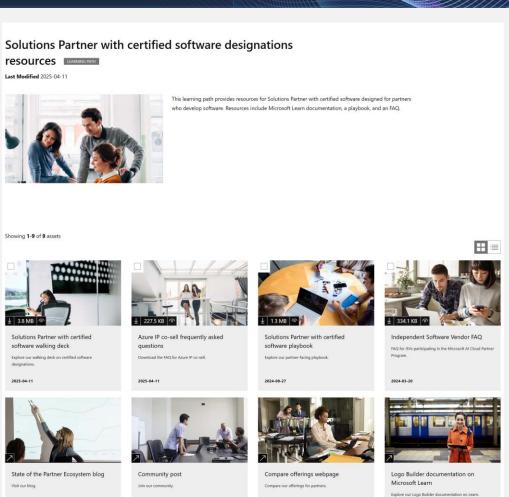
For more information about how to apply, review this Partner <u>Center</u> <u>documentation</u>.

Please see this documentation on IP Co-sell eligibility.

Other key resources:

- Azure technical playbook: <u>https://aka.ms/Certifiedsoftware_audit_Azure</u>
- Industry Al Playbook: https://aka.ms/AIPatternsforIndustryAI

Still have questions? Reach out to your PDM or contact Partner Support



Thank You



Appendix



Meet the market demand and stand out to customers



The global cloud computing market size¹

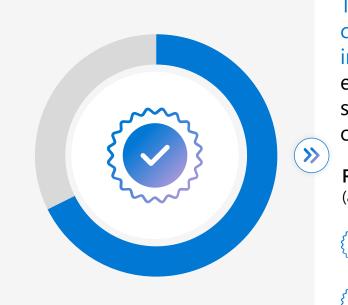


USD1,554.94 billion by 2030



Compound annual growth rate of 14.1 percent from 2023 to 2030

As customers search for high-performing, cloud-based applications to address evolving business needs, badging helps them determine which solutions are right for their organization



Two-thirds of respondents indicate certification with badging is a highly important factor when searching for, evaluating, or purchasing software, services, or solutions for their organization

REASONS WHY BADGING IS IMPORTANT (among the 68% who say it's highly important)



Badges increase confidence and trust in the quality of the vendor's solution



Badges make it easier to authenticate the credibility of unknown vendors

Market Demand for Designations



Technology landscape & differentiation

64%

millennial + Gen Z buyers¹ prefer digital buying

USD15.7T

potential contribution to economy by 2030² from Al

99%

customers unsure how to scale it³

Need for high quality solutions

USD4.88M global average cost of data security breach⁴

- 1. Forrester, Younger Business Buyers Are Having Their Say
- 2. Economist Intelligence Unit,
- 3. The state of Al in early 2024: Gen Al adoption spikes and starts to generate value, May 2024
- 4. IBM Cost of a Data Breach, 2024

Certified software designations – Solutions Area and Industry Al Criteria



Azure | Criteria



Certified software designation for Azure*

1 Proven Performance

Measured by one of the following criteria over a trailing twelve-month period:

- USD4 million marketplace billed sales (MBS) or
- 30 marketplace transactions with 8 unique customers or
- 12 net new customers or
- USD30 million cloud consumption commitments with at least 5 marketplace transactions or
- USD200 million cloud consumption commitments with at least 1 transactable listing

2 Technical Excellence

Azure IP Co-sell eligible solution must pass technical review that assess the interoperability with Microsoft Cloud

3 Customer Success

- At least 4.5 average marketplace rating with 15 or more ratings or
- Two artifacts of referenceable customer evidence (including, but not limited to, case studies), relevant to the product and solution area

Modern Work | Criteria



Certified software designation for Modern Work*

1 Proven Performance

Measured by one of the following criteria over a trailing twelve-month period:

- Partners meeting USD100,000 marketplace billed sales (MBS) transactions or
- Solutions averaging 50,000 Teams Apps monthly active users (MAU)

2 Technical Excellence

- Solutions must complete the Microsoft 365 App Compliance Program Certification
- Get Started: Microsoft 365 App Compliance Program overview

3 Customer Success

- At least 4.5 average commercial marketplace rating and 15 or more ratings or
- Two artifacts of referenceable customer evidence (including, but not limited to, case studies), relevant to the product and solution area

Business Applications | Criteria



Certified software designation for Business Applications*

1 Proven Performance

Measured by one of the following criteria over a trailing twelve-month period:

- USD1 million marketplace billed sales (MBS) or
- USD4 million Partner Influenced Revenue (PIR)

2 Technical Excellence

Business Applications IP Co-sell eligible solution must pass technical review that assess the interoperability with Business Applications products, platforms, and services, with specific criteria to assess feature overlaps, operational excellence, data handling and more

3 Customer Success

- At least 4.5 average marketplace rating with 15 or more ratings or
- Two artifacts of referenceable customer evidence (including, but not limited to, case studies), relevant to the product and solution area

Security | Criteria



Certified software designation for Security*

1 Proven Performance

2 Technical Excellence

3 Customer Success

Measured by one of the following criteria over a trailing twelve-month period:

- USD4 million marketplace billed sales (MBS) or
- 12 net new customer adds to the marketplace of greater than USD10,000 each or
- 30 MP transactions with 8 unique customers (Minimum of USD100) or

Azure IP Co-sell eligible solution must pass a technical review according to the Security platform or product that they integrate with:

- Sentinel: The solution must have passed the publishing criteria and be active in the <u>Microsoft Sentinel Content hub gallery</u>
- At least 4.5 average commercial marketplace rating with 15 or more ratings or
- Two artifacts of referenceable customer evidence (including, but not limited to, case studies), relevant to the product and solution area

Industry AI | Criteria



Certified software designation for Industry AI*

1 Marketplace Readiness Published and transactable solution in Microsoft commercial marketplace and Co-sell eligible

2 Technical Excellence

- Solution must align to Microsoft Industry Clouds and map to one of the defined customer scenarios for Industry AI
- Solution must pass technical review that assess the interoperability with Microsoft Cloud
- Solution must meet criteria of at least one of our Al-patterns

3 Customer Success

Customer Evidence audit for at least two cases aligned with prioritized scenarios

Industry Al capability patterns – Requirements



There are key pattern requirements across the development platform and experience canvas – Alongside needed submission artifacts, summarized as follows:

Al Pattern	Development Platform Criteria	Experience Criteria	Required Evidence
Copilot Agent Built using at least once of the following: Microsoft Copilot Studio, Azure Al Foundry, Azure OpenAl Service Built substantially on Microsoft Fabric, including OneLake and core Fabric workloads, Fabric REST APIs Al Model or Service must be Hosted and managed on Azure: Build Al model in		Agents can be deployed as standalone embedded copilots within websites, partner applications, or as Teams agents (M365 Agents), as well as within other applications	Industry specific prompts and responses; Use of Al Agent Platforms, Data Storage Services; Demonstration of Experience Patterns utilized
		If used as a foundation for AI capabilities, must include a demonstration of the Fabric solution / data being leveraged for Industry AI use cases	Use of Fabric workloads and/or Fabric APIs; Uses of OneLake substantially for storage
		Must include a demonstration of the Al Model / Service being leveraged for Industry Al use cases	Building/fine-tuning model; Azure hosting; Model existence / how to consume and/or use it; Screenshots of industry – Specific prompt and responses using model

Microsoft Industry Cloud customer scenarios



Solutions Partner with certified software for Industry AI

	Industry AI for Healthcare	Industry AI for Sustainability	Ir	Industry AI for Retail	Industry AI for Manufacturing		
	Personalized Care	Reduce environmental impact of technology	Banking	Insurance	Capital Markets	Unified Customer Profile	Connected & Enabled workers Production Monitoring & Optimization
		solutions	Customer Engagement	ngagement Customer Engagement Client Engagement	Client Engagement	Shopper and Operational Analytics	
	Patient Insights	Optimize workloads in	Customer Insights	Customer Insights	Client Insights	Retail Media	
		the cloud	Customer Intelligence	Customer Intelligence	Client Intelligence		
P	Virtual Health	Identify high impact assets to transition	Augmented Intelligence	Augmented Intelligence	Augmented Intelligence	Intelligent Store	Material Handling
<u>0</u>		Calculate ESG footprint	Contact Center Modernization	Contact Center Modernization	Cross-group Collaboration	Unified Commerce	& Quality
Scenario by Industry Cloud	Care Coordination	<u> </u>	Banker Productivity	Cross-group Collaboration	Employee Productivity	Real-time Personalization Digital Advertising Solutions	Visibility & Risk Management Forecasting & Planning
	Care Team	Analyze ESG performance	Cross-group Collaboration		Real-time Communications		
lnd	Collaboration	against goals	Real-time Communications	Real-time Communications	Workplace Reimagined		
þ	Remote Patient Monitoring	Provide Data Governance	Employee Wellbeing	Employee Experience	Manage Risk Compute	Seamless Customer Service	Warehouse Fulfilment
<u>9</u> .			Contact Center Modernization	Actuarial Risk	Trading and Risk Analytics		
nal	Ambient Clinical	Report Impact and Progress	Risk Compute	Catastrophe Risk	Financial Crime Protection	Real-time Store Communication & Collaboration	B: :: 1.T : 0
	Intelligence	Minimize environmental impact of facilities	Risk Analysis	Financial Risk	Regulatory Compliance and Reporting		Digital Twins & Simulations
Customer	Clinical Documentation	Modernize fleet	Regulatory Compliance and Reporting	Fraud Protection	Trading Platforms	Retail Workforce Management	Product Lifecycle & Design
Cus	Diagnostic Intelligence	management	Financial Crime Protection	Core Systems Migration	Data Management	Process Automation and	Software-Defined Products Connected Field Service
		Increase value chain transparency	Payments Transformation	Underwriting Modernization	Post Trade Operations	Career development	
	Clinical Analytics		Card Issuing and Merchant Acquiring	Claims Modernization	·	Demand Planning & Optimization	
		sustainability risk	Data and Cash-flow forecasting			Supply Chain Visibility	Omnichannel Customer Engagement
	Operational Analytics	Invest in ESG innovation	Core Banking Modernization			Flexible Fulfillment	

Microsoft Industry customer scenarios



Solutions Partner with certified software for Industry Al

	Industry AI for Energy	Industry	Al for Telecommunications	Industry AI for Government	Industry AI for Education	
	Digital field worker		Addressing evolving cyber threats with Al-driven.		Modernize government contact centers and resident engagement	Personalized Learning
	Talent management and skills enhancement	Modernize your customer engagement platform	automated defenses to protect critical networks and customer data	Ideation and Development		
	Knowledge management and collaboration				Enable government case	Student Information & Insights Secure & Simplify Institutional Technology Learning Management
ъ	Productivity and process improvement	Deliver seamless, automated care	Create new revenue streams by writing and deploying network-	Pre-production and Planning	management optimization	
Cloud	'		aware apps		Retail Media	
ō	Health and safety	Reinvent customer engagement	Supercharge employee	Creation and Production	Enable Government case	
ıstry	Intelligent supply chain	with Al-powered care	productivity and creativity using M365	Creation and Production	management optimization	
Indu	Connected assets and operations	Empower agents to deliver superior customer service	Upsell network transport to security and cloud capacity	Data Management	Enhance employee productivity	J. J
o by	Physics-based models	Simplifying AI adoption in network operations to automate complex tasks and accelerate outcomes	Addressing evolving cyber threats with Al-driven, automated defenses to protect critical networks and customer data	Al Enabled Customer Insights	Proactive data-driven decision making	Skilling
Customer Scenario by Industry	Management emissions and environmental performance				Strengthen environmental	Student Success
Sc	Manage and reduce carbon				resilience Optimize investment for clean and	
mer	Enhance renewables and decarbonize the grid	Minimizing the high costs and complexity associated with	Ensuring regulatory compliance across global data security and	Content Performance	circular economies	Institutional Efficiency
stc	Power the intelligent grid	frequent network updates	privacy standards		Enhance cybersecurity resilience &	
3	Accelerate energy efficiency	Scaling Al with a unified telco data estate and discover network	Protect customer data with advanced Al-driven threat detection and automated	Al Driven Marketing	threat detection and response	Al-Driven Learning Experiences
	Scale electric vehicles (Evs)	and subscriber insights	responses		Protect hybrid, multi-cloud, and	Securing & Advancing Research
	Business innovation			Localization & distribution	edge environments (interoperability)	
	Enhance sustainable industries	Content creation workflows	Video analysis & enhancement	LOCALIZATION & DISTRIBUTION	Enable compliance and data privacy	Teaching & Learning

Microsoft Industry customer scenarios



Solutions Partner with certified software for Industry AI

	Industry AI for Nonprofit					
Fundraiser workflow optimization	Program design	Donor cultivation	Employee relations and development	Connect the tactical edge		
Program management collaboration	Resource management	Donor communication	Benefits and compliance	Defend against cyber threats		
Finance and HR task automation	Portfolio/program strategy	Donor stewardship	Office management	Improve personnel management		
Talent recruitment and onboarding	Portfolio/program innovation	Donor data management	Hardware and software management	Invest in personnel development		
Staff productivity and skilling	Program hiring and training	Fundraising strategy development	Financial processing	Modernize facilities		
Intra-org communication and planning	Program people management	Fundraising campaign planning, design & implementation	Financial investments and planning	Optimize health management		
Copilot-generated donor emails	Program improvement	Fundraising event planning, design & implementation	Risk management	Optimize nearth management		
Talent recruitment and onboarding Staff productivity and skilling Intra-org communication and planning Copilot-generated donor emails Automated performance review summaries Al-powered financial reporting Time tracking and payroll automation Scheduling and collaboration assistants Onboarding and training content	Program evaluation	Grant solicitation	Data-informed relationship management	Transform capability development & lifecycle management		
Al-powered financial reporting	Community engagement	Grant management	Data segmentation	Enable predictive analytics.		
Time tracking and payroll automation	Program storytelling and reporting	Grant data management	Database management	Optimize supply chain.		
Scheduling and collaboration assistants	Program project management		Data security and privacy	Enhance command and control		
Onboarding and training content generation	Prospect research	Communications strategy	Document management	Optimize mission planning and execution		
Relationship management	Grant application drafting	Communications design, production, implementation, and analysis	Event and meeting planning	Modernize the intelligence cycle		
Data reporting	Financial analysis	User support and helpdesk	Financial reporting	Enable Secure Collaboration		
Data analysis	Information gathering	Recruitment and Staffing	, 3	Facilitate DIB integration		

Solutions Partner with certified software designation





For achieving the Solutions Partner with certified software designation for your Microsoft marketplace solution, your organization is eligible for complimentary GTM benefits. These marketing benefits and resources are designed to enhance your marketing capabilities, raise awareness of your solution, and strengthen your partnership with Microsoft



Create a partner logo, certified letter, or award in Logo Builder

Solution Brief or

Solution Brief: 2 pages focused on a high-level summary of the certified solution and its features and benefits for customers

FY26 Go-to-Market Benefits

*Choose between the Solution Brief or Solution Battle Card

Audience: Customers

Use:

- Hero Asset in demand generation campaign
- Post to company website and/or Azure Marketplace listing
- Use as printed event handout
- Sales enablement



or Solution Battle Card

Solution Battle Card: 2 pages that provides sellers with a focused sales guide on how to talk about the certified solution with customers

*Choose between the Solution Brief or Solution Battle Card

Audience: Sellers

Use:

- Prep sellers with essential information and talking points for customer meetings
- Train new team members with standardized information
- Equip customer success teams with insights to reinforce the value of your solution



Solution Playcards

Solution Playcards: 1-page quick quide to the certified solution in a Microsoft provided template familiar to sellers

Audience: Microsoft sellers Use:

- Uploaded to Microsoft seismic where sellers search for partner information for seller awareness.
- Share with your sellers to explain how Microsoft sellers view the solution

Solution Video

Solution Video: Animated 30-sec video used to generate interest and educate audience on the value prop of the offering

Audience: Customers Use:

- Post to company website and/or Azure Marketplace listing
- Customer meetings/ Seller enablement meetings
- Social posts, awareness campaign
- Run on a loop in booth at conferences

Solutions Partner with certified software designation



FY26 Go-to-Market Benefits Resources









FY26 Go-to-Market Benefits Asset Examples









Market Demand for Designations



Technology landscape & differentiation

64%

millennial + Gen Z buyers¹ prefer digital buying

USD15.7T

potential contribution to economy by 2030² from AI 99%

customers unsure how to scale it³

Need for high *quality* solutions

USD4.88M global average cost of data security breach⁴

- 1. Forrester, Younger Business Buyers Are Having Their Say
- 2. Economist Intelligence Unit,
- 3. The state of AI in early 2024: Gen AI adoption spikes and starts to generate value, May 2024
- 4. IBM Cost of a Data Breach, 2024

Solutions Partner with certified software designations – Azure Technical Audit Criteria Walkthrough



Azure technical requirements & validation process



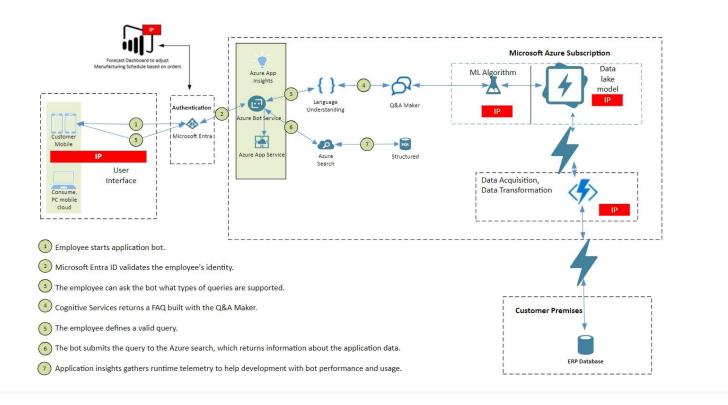
Streamlined Azure technical validation process to help you attain a certified software designation faster

	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	Section 2		
Solution Representation	Azure Well- Architected Review	Azure Advisor	Security Posture	Solution Requirements
Build architecture diagram and solution demo	Conduct well-architected framework (WAF) assessment	Provide Azure Advisor score	Provide current security posture score	Gather details on solution to ensure workload requirements
Reference architecture diagram + Solution Demo	<u>WAF Assessment</u>	<u>Azure Advisor Score</u>	Secure score in Microsoft Defender for Cloud	Review solution specific requirements for your solution

Solution Representation – Architecture Design Section 1



A diagram must be provided that shows the solution details, as well as how the solution integrates with end customer services, resources, or data. The diagram should follow the Partner Center reference architecture diagram requirements



Solution Representation – Demonstration Section 1



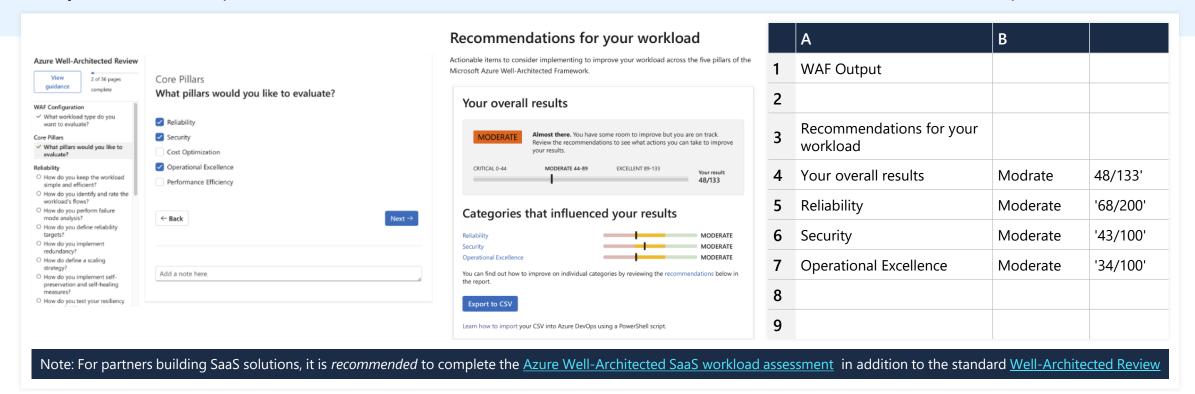
Audit Process Requirement

- A pre-recorded demonstration or a live session of the deployed solution components within the Azure portal as presented in the architecture diagram of the production or production-like environment
- The demonstration needs to cover major deployed components of the solution within the Azure Portal. It is acceptable to blur or remove sensitive information during the demonstration
- Provide a screen recording for technical demonstration highlighting the workflow of the solution
 - The demonstration needs to include the primary solution Azure service components. It must also have a spoken overview, captions, and/or annotations. An ideal demonstration artifact is in MP4 format, at least 720p resolution, less than 10 minutes long, and has a file size under 500 MB
- Alternative evidence: A live recorded session with the technical auditor can be done instead of a pre-recorded video. The same content is required during the demonstration as mentioned for the pre-recorded video

Azure Well-Architected Review Section 1



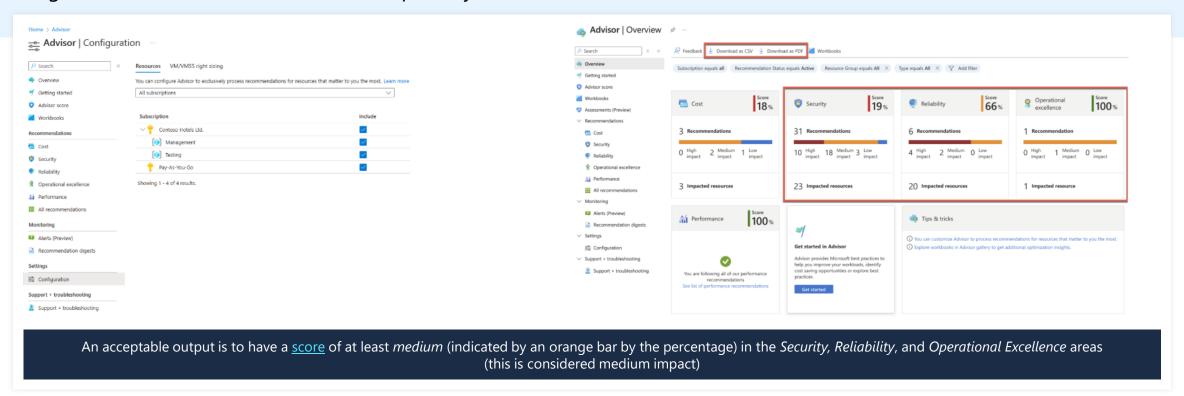
The partner must complete a self assessment. Only the following categories are required: **Reliability, Security** and **Operational Excellence**. A minimum score of Moderate is required for each of the required categories and an overall score of Moderate. This self-attestation attributes to the quality and reliability of the partner's solution and its ability to continue to provide services to end customers of the solution and the Azure Commercial Marketplace



Azure Advisor Score Section 1



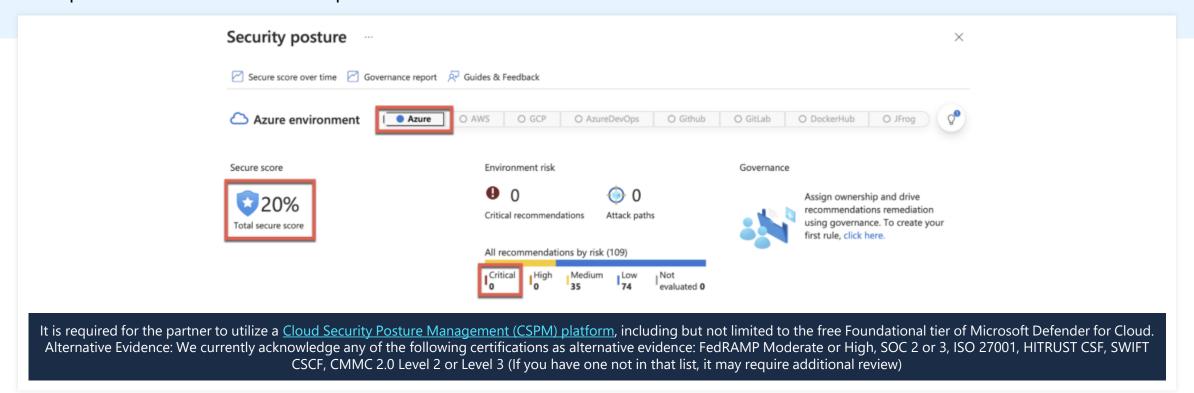
An Azure Advisor score of at least Moderate for Reliability, Security, and Operational Excellence for the production solution or production-like subscriptions. Azure Advisor aligns closely with the Well-Architected Framework, providing an automated assistant that can be used to evaluate your solutions infrastructure and practices against the WAF standards. Provide an image, screenshot, CSV, or PDF of the output of your <u>Azure Advisor</u> score



Cloud Security Posture Management Section 1



Utilize a Cloud Security Posture Management (CSPM) platform and provide a score output or screenshot from the last 30 days or provide evidence of certification that reviews security posture (i.e., FedRamp, SOC 2, etc). It is recommended to include your score in the output, as well. If you have critical impact recommendations, they must be remediated or exempted before the audit is complete



Category Requirements Section 2



The requirements in this section are meant to validate that the partner solution is creating a robust experience for the end customer, while keeping the end customer security and privacy intact. Identify the primary category that would apply for the solution and attest and provide the requested information for the requirements. Review the Technology-Specific Requirements section at: https://aka.ms/Certifiedsoftware audit Azure

Select a category:

- ☐ 2.1. Data Operations and Management
 - Related Azure Marketplace categories: Analytics, Blockchain, Databases, Storage
- ☐ 2.2. Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Integration
 - (Note: This category requires fulfilment of **Data Operations and Management requirements** as a prerequisite.)
 - Related Azure Marketplace categories: AI + Machine Learning
- ☐ 2.3 Customer Deployed Services

Related Azure Marketplace categories: Compute, Containers, Mixed Reality, Web

☐ 2.4 Control Plane, Orchestration, and DevOps

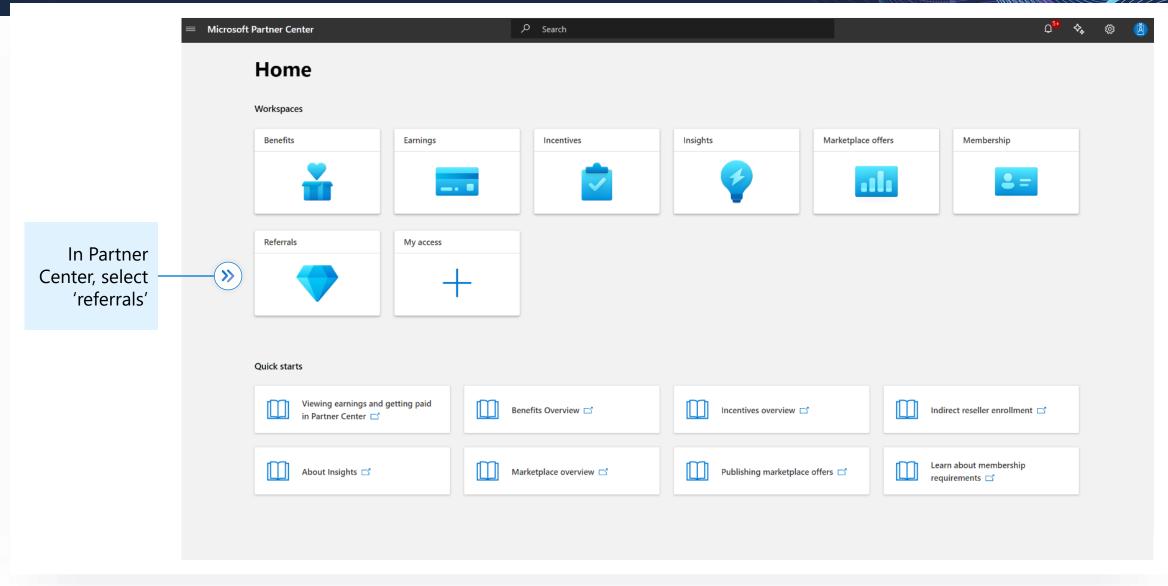
Related Azure Marketplace categories: Integration, Internet of Things, IT & Management Tools, Migration, Monitoring & Diagnostics, Developer Tools, DevOps, Identity, Microsoft Entra ID, Networking, Security, Media

The auditor will have the opportunity to ask for clarification or to reclassify the categories of the solution based on evidence provided. Each of the technology-specific requirements will have individual standalone requirements, and the solution must satisfy all applicable requirements set in an individual category

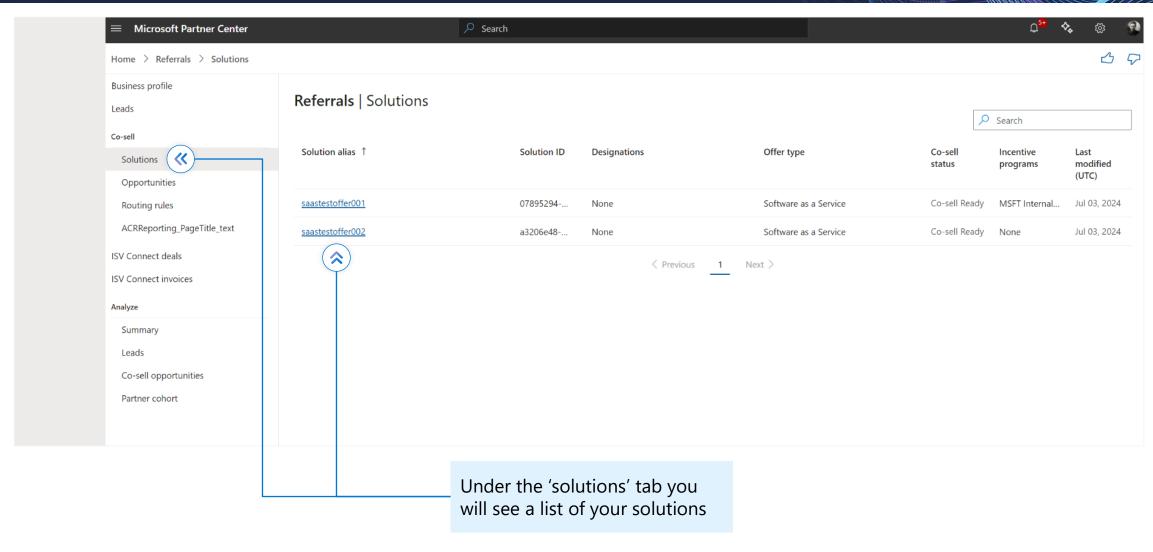
Azure Solution Area Partner Center Experience



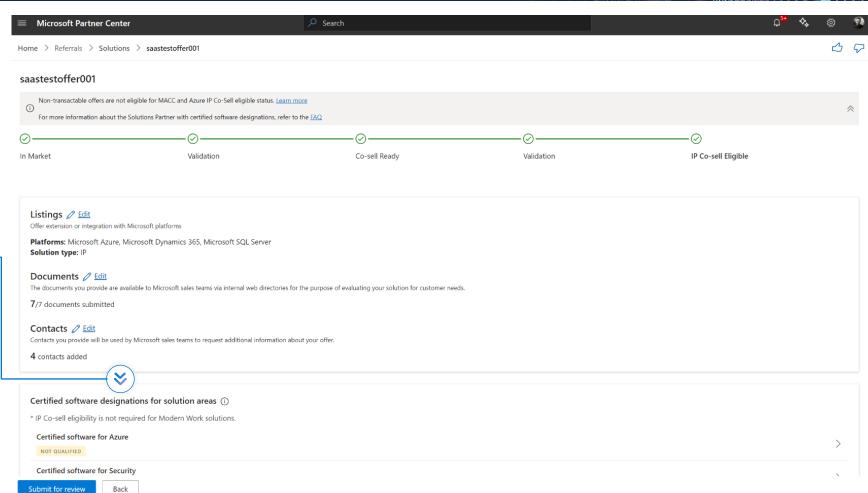






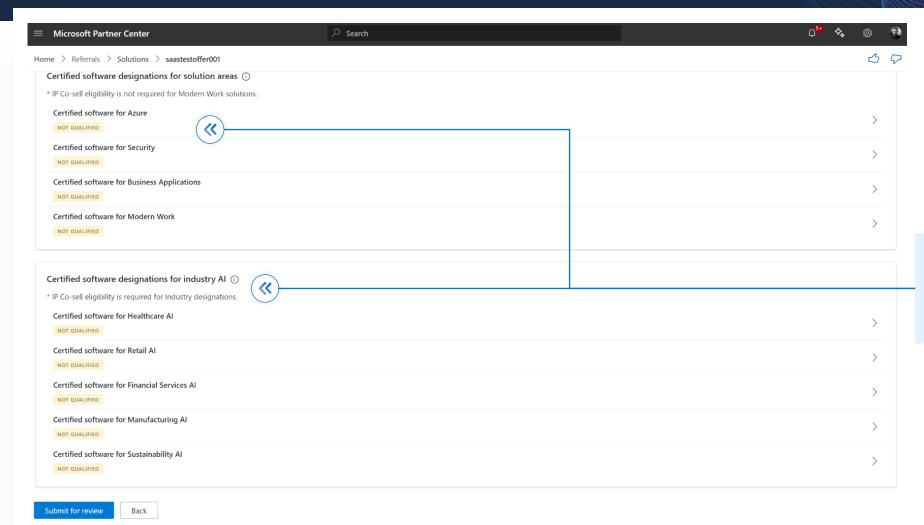






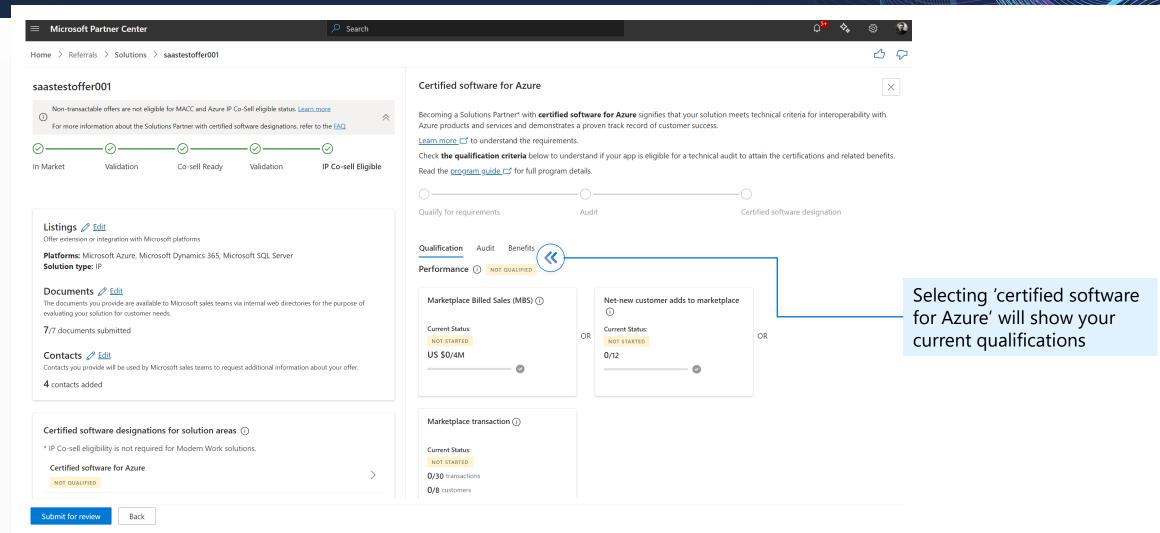
Selecting a solution takes you to a page where you can initiate 'certified software designation'



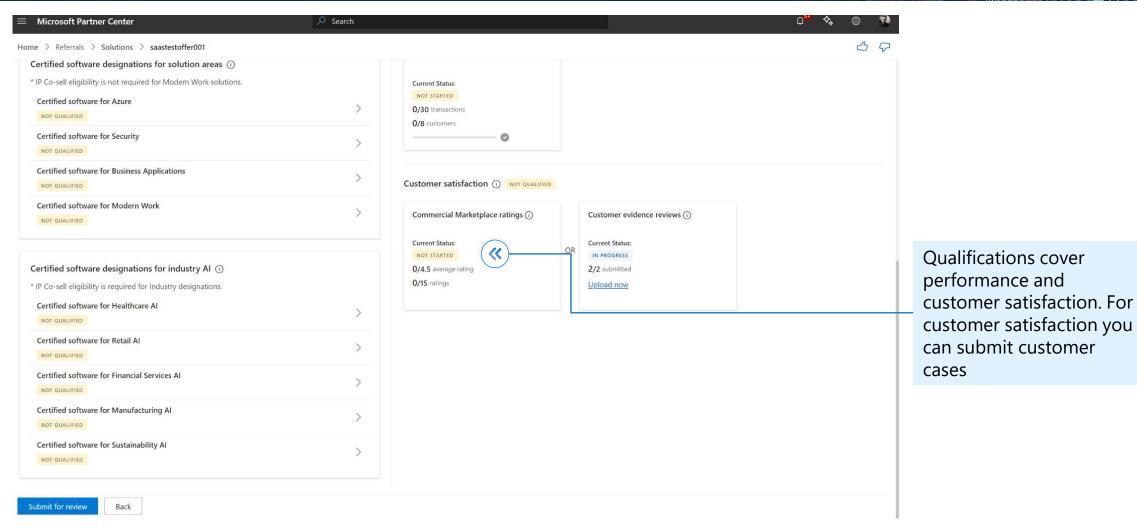


Choose 'certified software designation for Solution Area or Industry Al' based on your product

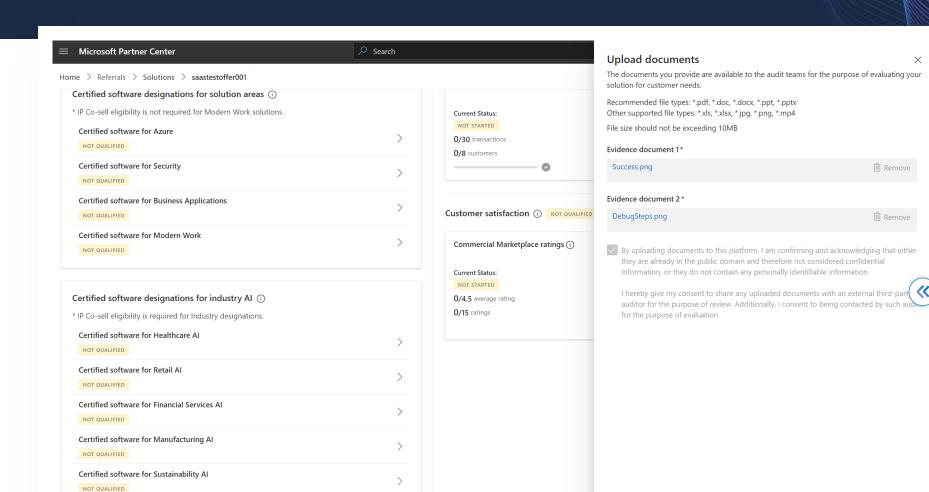












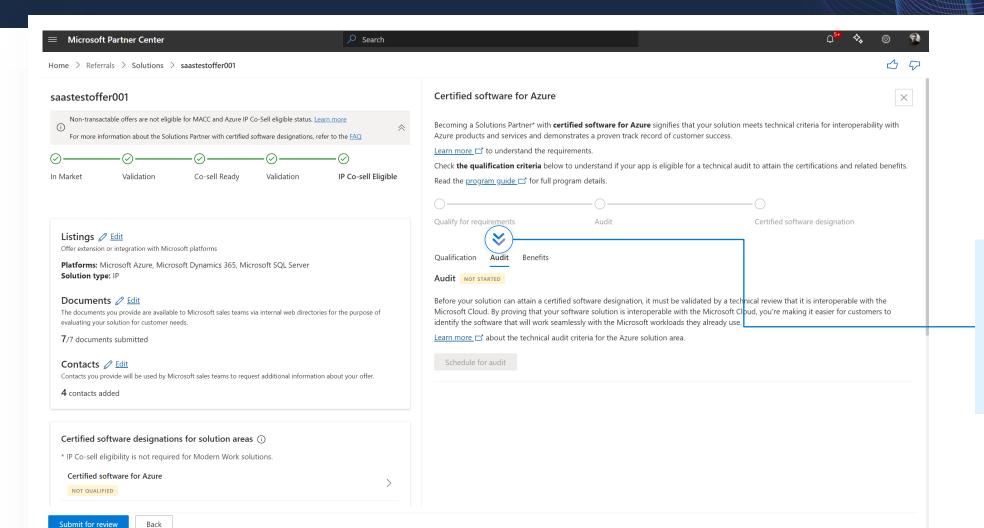
Upload

Uploading a customer case will ask for evidence documents for review

Back

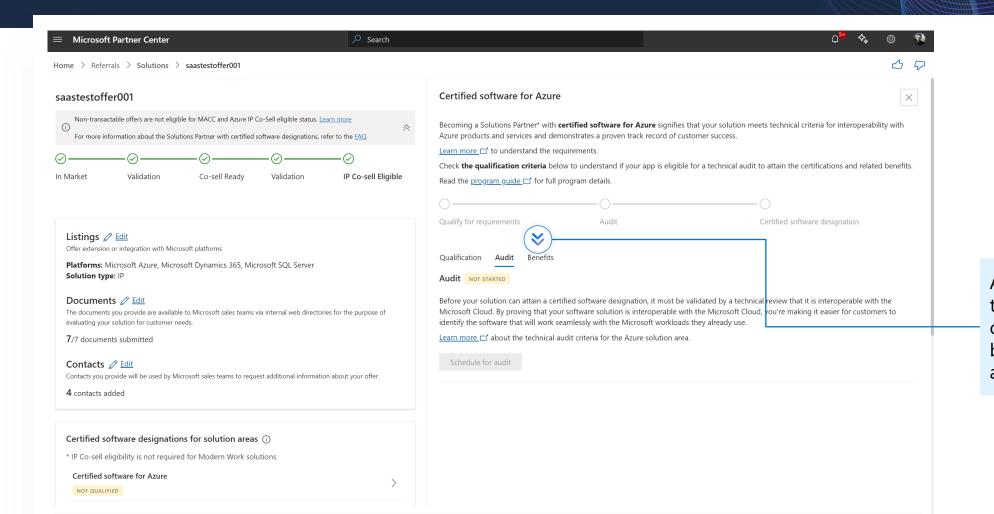
Submit for review





After qualifying based on performance and customer success, select 'audit' to schedule the technical audit





After completing the technical audit with our audit vendor, benefit need to be activated

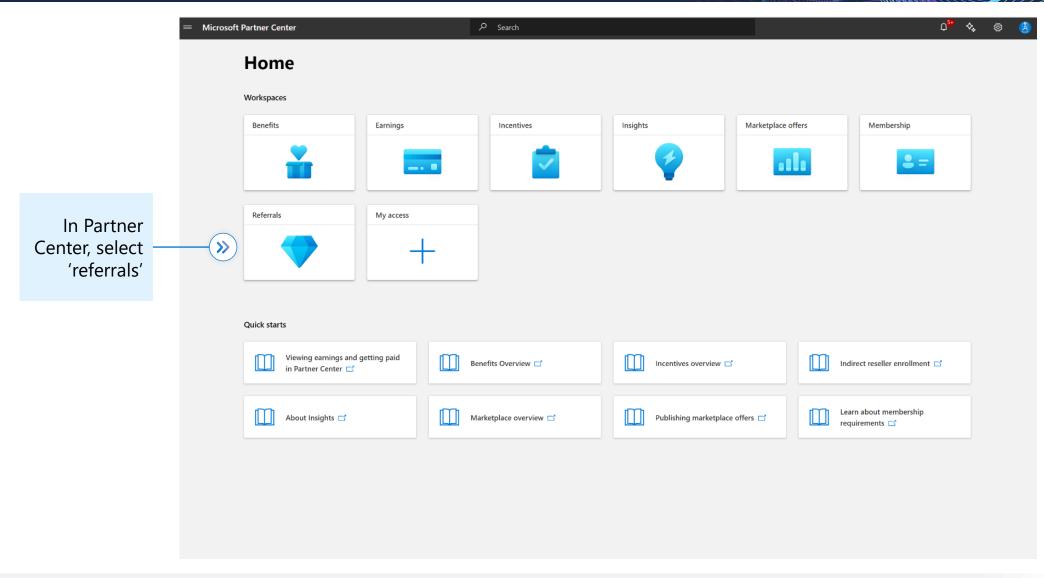
Back

Submit for review

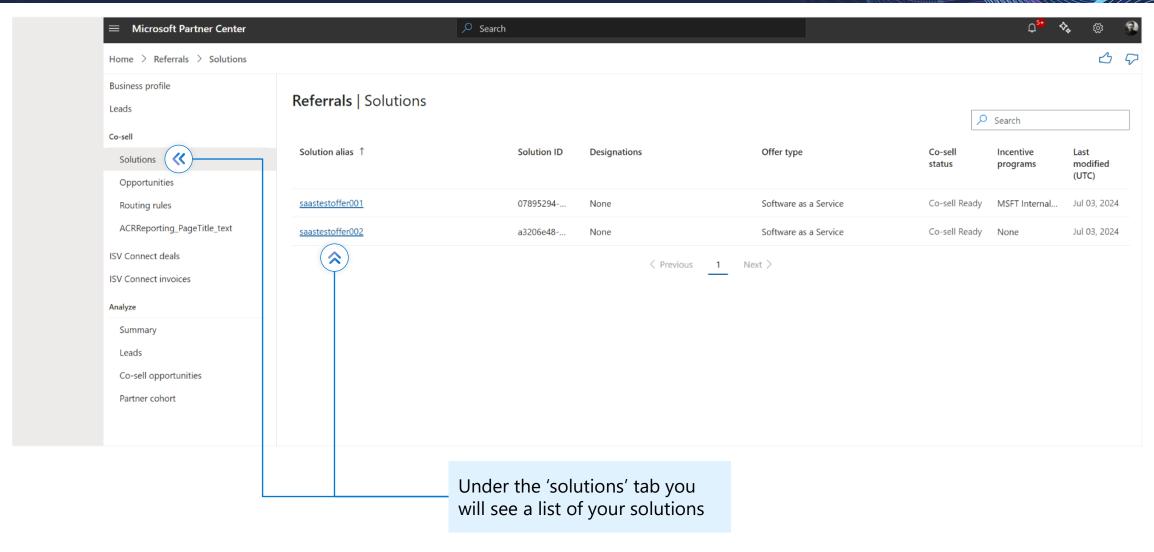
Industry Al Solution Partner Center Experience



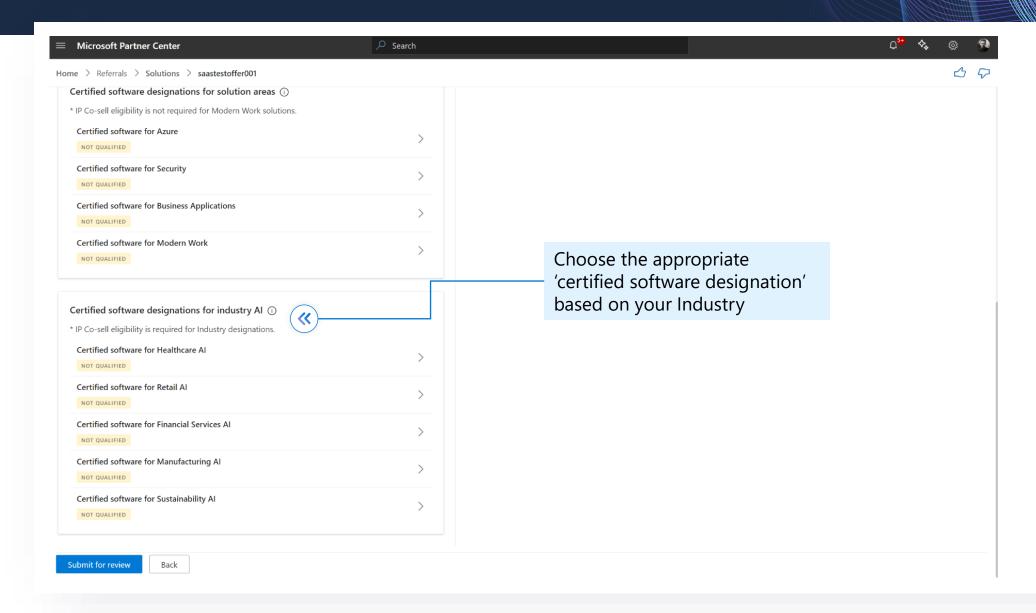




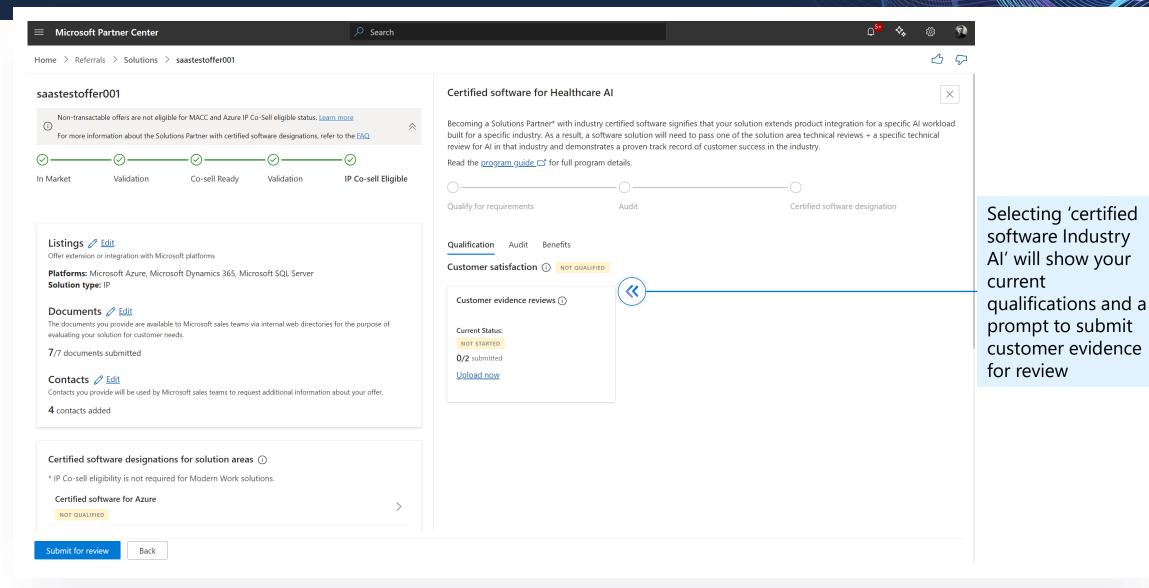






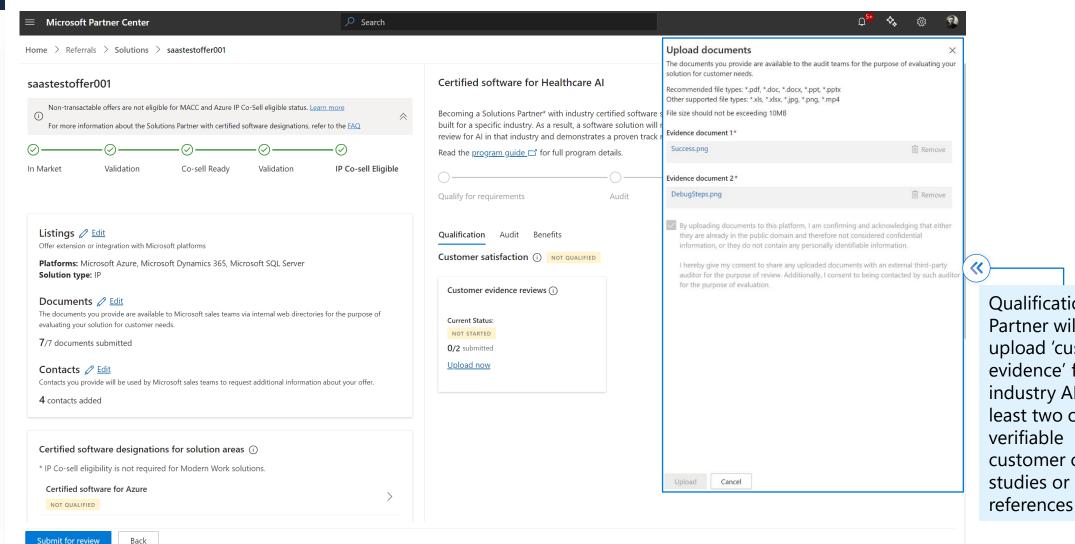






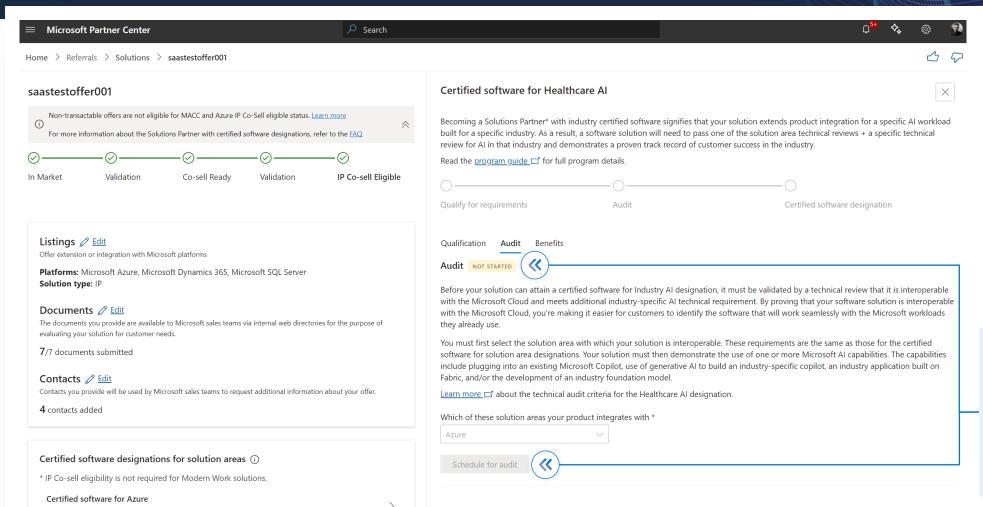
Microsoft Confidential—Internal only





Qualification: Partner will upload 'customer evidence' for industry AI for at least two or more verifiable customer case





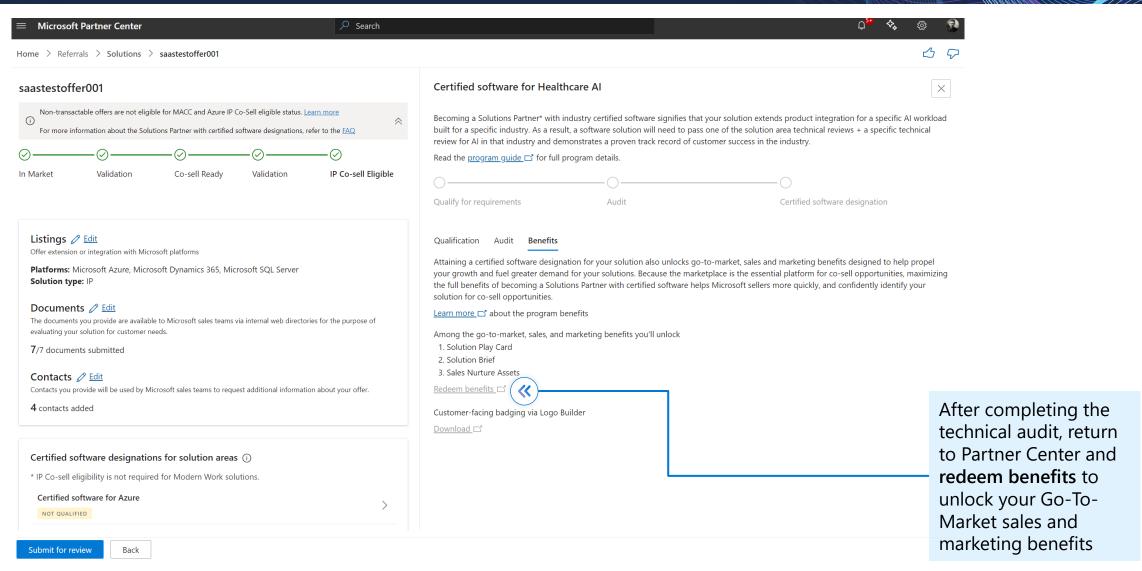
After completing the customer evidence then schedule the technical audit with our audit vendor

Back

NOT QUALIFIED

Submit for review





Certified Software Designation Details on Benefits and Incentives



FY26 Updates in Partner Incentives



Marketplace Rewards: Customer Migrate & Modernize (ISV led)



Enables ISVs to securely and efficiently move end-customers to modern applications running on Azure



Supported scenarios



Customer Migrate and Modernize

ISV Partner Criteria: Certified Software Designation (Azure, Security, Industry AI) and extended to IPCS Top Tier partners until 12/31/2025

Customer Criteria: Strategics, Majors, SMC-Corporate and SMB customers with a valid TPID detected by Microsoft internal systems



Incentive payouts



Maximum earning opportunity (L+)

Offer	Customer Project Size per Year (Planned ACR and ACV in year 1)	Partner payment* Market A B		Duration	Phase
Migration Assessment (Assessment + POV) NEW!	Standard: >\$15K ACR (\$75K – \$1.25M ACV)	\$15,000 \$12,000		120 days	Pre-sales
	Large: >\$250K ACR (>\$1.25M+ ACV)	\$25,000 \$20,000			Pre-sales
Extra-Extra Small (XXS)	\$5K–\$15K ACR (\$25K – \$75K ACV)	\$5,000			Post-sales
Extra Small (XS)	>\$15K-\$50K ACR (>\$75K - \$250K ACV)	\$15,000	\$12,000	120 Days	Post-sales
Small (S)	>\$50K-\$100K ACR (>\$250K - \$500K ACV)	\$40,000	\$32,000		Post-sales
Medium (M)	>\$100K-\$250K ACR (>\$500K - \$1.25M ACV)	\$80,000	\$64,000	200 Days	Post-sales
Large (L+)	>\$250K ACR (>\$1.25M+ ACV)	\$175,000	\$140,000	260 Days	Post-sales

ISV Customer Migrate & Modernize (SI led)



Help ISVs accelerate customer migrations by enabling Advanced specialized SI partners to securely and efficiently move end-customers to modern applications running on Azure



Supported Scenarios



Customer Migrate and Modernize

SI Partner Criteria: Azure Expert MSP, Azure Specialization of Infrastructure & Database Migration, Azure Specialization of Kubernetes on Microsoft Azure, Azure Specialization of Migrate Enterprise Applications on Azure

ISV Criteria: Certified Software Designation (Azure, Security, Industry AI) and extended to IPCS Top Tier partners until 12/31

Customer Criteria: Strategics, Majors, SMC-Corporate and SMB customers with a valid TPID detected by Microsoft internal systems



Incentive payouts



Maximum earning opportunity (L+)

Offer	Customer Project Size per Year (Planned ACR and ACV in year 1)	Partner payment* Market A B		Duration	Phase
Migration Assessment (Assessment + POV) NEW!	Standard: >\$15K ACR (\$75K – \$1.25M ACV)	\$15,000 \$12,000		120 days	Pre-sales
	Large: >\$250K ACR (>\$1.25M+ ACV)	\$25,000 \$20,000			Pre-sales
Extra-Extra Small (XXS)	\$5K–\$15K ACR (\$25K – \$75K ACV)	\$5,000			Post-sales
Extra Small (XS)	>\$15K-\$50K ACR (>\$75K - \$250K ACV)	\$15,000	\$12,000	120 Days	Post-sales
Small (S)	>\$50K-\$100K ACR (>\$250K - \$500K ACV)	\$40,000	\$32,000		Post-sales
Medium (M)	>\$100K-\$250K ACR (>\$500K - \$1.25M ACV)	\$80,000	\$64,000	200 Days	Post-sales
Large (L+)	>\$250K ACR (>\$1.25M+ ACV)	\$175,000	\$140,000	260 Days	Post-sales

ISV Customer Migrate & Modernize Scenarios



Help ISVs accelerate customer migrations by enabling ISV Professional Services and Advanced specialized SI partners to securely and efficiently move existing end-customers to modern applications running on Azure



Supported Scenarios



Customer Migrate and Modernize

ISV Criteria: Certified Software Designation (Azure, Security, Industry AI) and extended to IPCS Top Tier partners until 12/31

SI Partner Criteria: Azure Expert MSP, Azure Specialization of Infrastructure & Database Migration, Azure Specialization of Kubernetes on Microsoft Azure, Azure Specialization of Migrate Enterprise Applications on Azure

Customer Criteria: Strategics, Majors, SMC-Corporate and SMB customers with a valid TPID detected by Microsoft internal systems



Valid Scenarios

The following scenarios are valid for incentive claims under the ISV Migration and Modernization program (ISV led / SI led):

- On-Prem to Azure Cloud Migration
 Customers moving from on-premises environments to Azure-hosted ISV solutions are eligible.
 This includes both SaaS and BYOL models
- Migration from Competitive Platforms
 Migrations from competing cloud platforms to Azure-hosted ISV solutions are incentivized.
- Expanding Azure Solution Footprint Within Existing Customer Environments
 Incentives apply when an existing customer scales the deployment of an Azure-hosted ISV solution—for example, extending usage from one department or business unit to additional ones
- Net New Customer Acquisition
 New customers adopting an ISV's Azure-hosted solution for the first time are eligible, provided they meet TPID and planned consumption thresholds

ISV Success Advanced: Build & Publish



Enables our ISVs to infuse AI into solutions, advance analytics capabilities, and help to build custom cloud-native applications to accelerate business growth



Supported Scenarios



Al Apps, Agents, Developer & Data Platform

Qualifying Services: Published solution must leverage at least one Azure service from each of the App, AI, and Data lists:

- App: Azure Kubernetes Service, Azure Container Apps, Azure App Service, Azure Red Hat OpenShift, Azure Spring Apps, GitHub Enterprise, GitHub Advanced Security, GitHub Copilot, GitHub Actions, GitHub Codespaces.
- Al: Azure Al Foundry, Azure OpenAl Service, Azure Applied Al Services, Azure Machine Learning, Speech, Vision.
- Data: Cosmos DB, Azure Database for PostgreSQL, Azure
 Database for MySQL/MariaDB or Azure SQL Database, Azure
 Synapse, Azure Databricks, Azure Data Explorer (ADX), Microsoft
 Purview, Microsoft Fabric, Power BI Premium (note: deployments
 for PowerBI will be considered only if there is pull-through of
 Analytics and AI consumption).

Partner Criteria: Certified Software Designation (Azure, Industry AI) and extended to IPCS Top Tier partners until 12/31/2025



Incentive payouts



Maximum earning opportunity (L+)

Offer	Customer Project Size per Year (Planned ACR and ACV in year 1)	Partner payment* Market A B		Duration	Phase
Extra-Extra Small (XXS)	\$5K-\$15K	\$5,000		120 D	Build & Publish
					Build & Publish
Extra Small (XS)	>\$15K-\$50K	\$20,000	\$16,000	120 Days	Build & Publish
Small (S)	>\$50K-\$100K	\$30,000	\$24,000		Build & Publish
Medium (M)	>\$100K-\$250K	\$60,000	\$48,000	200 Days	Build & Publish
Large (L+)	>\$250K	\$100,000	\$80,000	260 Days	Build & Publish

ISV Led Migration/Assessment & POV – MCI Workflow



Stage



Stage Nominate 01 Customer



Stage Customer 02 Consent



Stage Execution & POE



Stage 04

Payment

Activity

 ISV nominates end customer in MCI after there is confirmed intent and alignment from the customer to carry out the engagement.

- ISV requests customer consent
- Partner Center receives end customer consent
- Without end customer consent, claim will automatically expire in 30 days

- ISV delivers the end customer engagement
- ISV submits claim with required Proof of Execution (POE)
- Incomplete claims will automatically expire
- ISV must provide ACR reporting if on ISV Tenant or provide SubIDs in POE template if on Customer Tenant [applicable for migration/deployment scenarios only]

- Microsoft reviews POE documentation
- Microsoft reaches out to ISV if additional information is needed
- Microsoft approves or declines POE
- Microsoft will pay claims within 45 days of claim approval month end.
- ISV maintains ACR reporting post-migration

Timeline

30 days max from nominating the customer

60 – 260 days* from receiving customer consent

Validation – 30 days max from claim submission

Payment – 45 days max from claim approval month

SI Led Migration/Assessment & POV – MCI Workflow



Stage



Pre-Stage nomination 01



Nominate Stage 02 Customer



03

Stage Customer Consent



Stage 04

Execution & POE



05

Stage

Payment

Activity

• SI sends an email to **Azure Offerings Partner** Support AzureOfferingsPtrSup@ microsoft.com with ISV and end customer details including: ISV name, customer TPID,

· Microsoft reviews and approves prenomination

solution name, etc.

 Microsoft enables the SI and end customer in MCI after approval. (SLA 7 days to review) email and activate).

- SI nominates ISV's end customer in MCI after there is confirmed intent and alignment from the ISV and customer to carry out the engagement.
- SI requests ISV's end customer consent
- Partner Center received ISV's end customer consent
- Without ISV's end customer consent, claim will automatically expire in 30 days
- SI delivers the ISV's end customer engagement
- SI submits claim with required Proof of Execution (POE) documentation
- Incomplete claims will automatically expire
- ISV must provide ACR reporting if on ISV Tenant or provide SubIDs in POE template if on CustomerTenant.

- Microsoft reviews POE documentation
- Microsoft reaches out to SI if additional information is needed
- Microsoft approves or declines POE
- Microsoft will pay claims within 45 days of claim approval month end.
- ISV maintains ACR reporting postmigration in case of Migration of Saas to Azure

Timeline

7 business days max from email to activating SI and end customer in MCI

30 days max from nominating the customer

60-260 days* max from receiving customer consent

Validation – 30 days max from claim submission

Payment – 45 days max from claim approval month end

*Note: MCI Engagement Name ~ "Azure: ISV Customer Migrate & Modernize", "Azure: ISV Migrate & Modernize Assessment & POV" | Learn more in MCI Claiming Guide: aka.ms/MCIPartnerActivitiesClaimsGuide

Proof of Execution (POE) Requirements – Submitted in MCI





Customer Migrate and Modernize Assessment & Proof of Value

- Customer Survey
 - Triggered by Partner
 - Completed by Customer
- Partner Survey
 - Completed by Partner)
- Upload claim invoice in USD
- Assessment Report (choice of own tool) & Solution Architecture showing qualifying services

Customer Migrate and Modernize Deployment

- Customer Survey
 - Triggered by Partner
 - Completed by Customer
- Partner Survey
 - Completed by Partner
- Upload claim invoice in USD
- Valid Azure Subscription IDs if migration on customer tenant or monthly ACR reporting until an year post migration if on ISV tenant

Build & Publish

- Partner Survey
 - Completed by Partner
- Upload claim invoice in USD
- Solution Architecture showing qualifying services
- Marketplace Published Solution URL (within partner survey)

ISV Build and Publish – MCI Workflow



Stage »

Stage 01 Nominate Customer



Stage Customer 02 Consent



Stage Execution & POE



Stage 04

Payment

Activity

 ISV nominates themselves in MCI after there is confirmed intent and alignment from the ISV to carry out the engagement • ISV consents for themselves

- ISV completes build and publish activity
- ISV submits claim with required Proof of Execution (POE)
- Incomplete claims will automatically expire
- Marketplace Published Solution URL (within partner survey)

- Microsoft reviews POE documentation
- Microsoft reaches out to ISV if additional information is needed
- Microsoft approves or declines POE
- Microsoft will pay claims within 45 days of claim approval month end

Timeline

30 days max from nominating the customer

60 – 260 days* from receiving customer consent

Validation – 30 days max from claim submission

Payment – 45 days max from claim approval month

*Note: MCI Engagement Name ~ "ISV Success Advanced: Build & Publish" | Learn more in MCI Claiming Guide: aka.ms/MCIPartnerActivitiesClaimsGuide

Proof of Execution (POE) Requirements – Submitted in MCI





Customer Migrate and Modernize Assessment & Proof of Value

- Customer Survey
 - Triggered by Partner
 - Completed by Customer
- Partner Survey
 - Completed by Partner)
- Upload claim invoice in USD
- Solution Architecture showing qualifying services

Customer Migrate and Modernize Deployment

- Customer Survey
 - Triggered by Partner
 - Completed by Customer
- Partner Survey
 - Completed by Partner
- Upload claim invoice in USD
- Valid Azure Subscription IDs if migration on customer tenant or monthly ACR reporting until an year for migration on ISV tenant

Build & Publish

- Partner Survey
 - Completed by Partner
- Upload claim invoice in USD
- Solution Architecture showing qualifying services
- Marketplace Published Solution URL (within partner survey)

Partner Performance Measurements



End Customer Migrate and Modernize

- Maintain 3:1 Presales to Post sales ratio
- Monthly ACR reporting by ISVs for up to 12 months post migration, if customer migration is on ISV SaaS/tenant.
- In case of migrations on customer tenant, partners are required to provide accurate Azure Subscription ID information. We will be monitoring the Azure Subscription IDs very closely and tracking consumption.
- Minimum ACR Requirement: The incremental ACR generated from the engagement must meet or exceed the minimum annual ACR run rate for the chosen T-shirt size.

Build & Publish

- Marketplace URL for Published solution using Build and Publish incentives.
- Minimum ACR Requirement: The incremental ACR generated from the engagement must meet or exceed the minimum annual ACR run rate for the chosen T-shirt size.

Partners who do not meet a <u>minimum success</u> <u>criteria outlined here</u> might be 'paused' from nominating future engagements.

Learn more here about Partner Performance Measurement

Still Questions? Reach out via email to azurepartneroffering@microsoft.com

FY26 Updates in Marketplace Rewards



Marketplace rewards





No changes in FY26 to eligibility for software development companies



All partners with solutions listed on the marketplace qualify for go-to-market benefits through Marketplace Rewards



Partners using Marketplace Rewards see 7x more marketplace sales compared to partners not participating

Best practice | Accelerate marketplace sales



Customer Propensity Scoring

Azure Sponsorship

1 Submit your customer lists

1 Use to fund demos, trials and POCs

Receive propensity scoring – High, medium, low

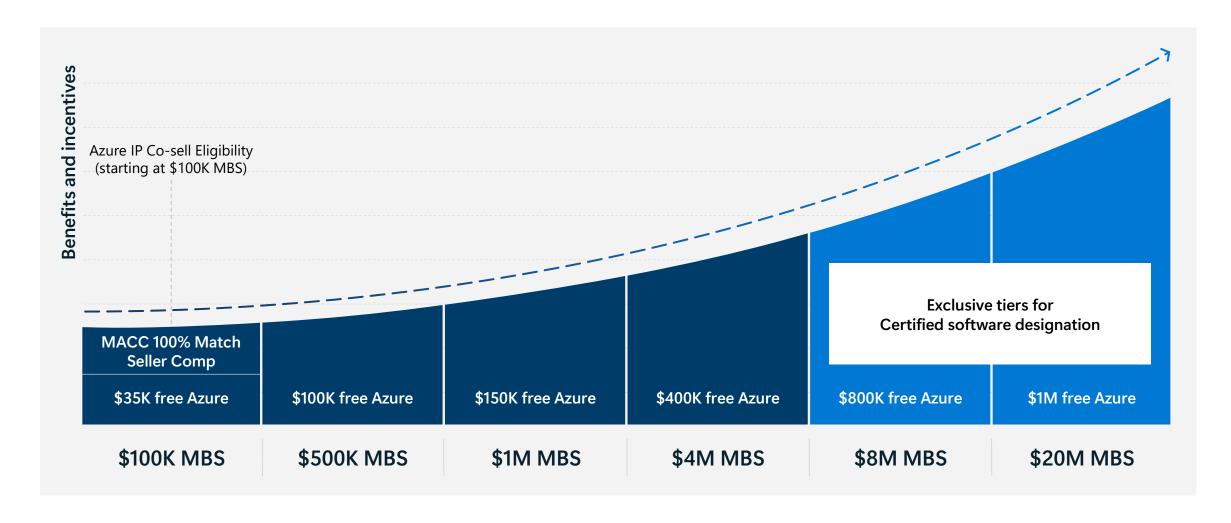
Use as deal sweeteners with customers

Arm your sellers to successfully engage pipeline

3 Drive preference for marketplace

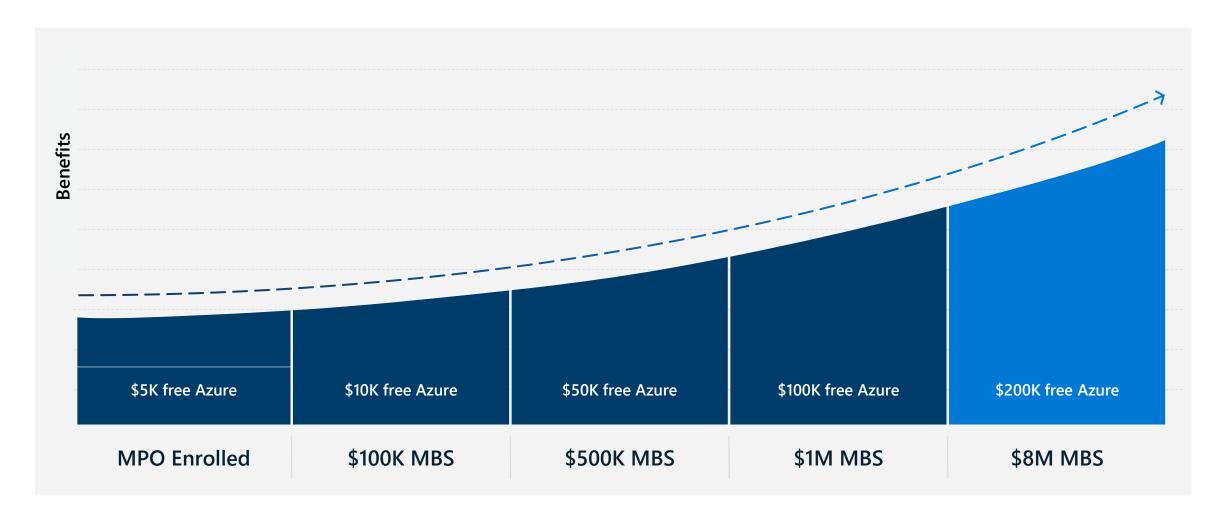
New in FY26 | New performance tiers for Certified software designations





New in FY26 | Marketplace Rewards for MPO enrolled Channel Partners





Maximize Azure Sponsorship



Partners with a certified software designation unlock up to \$1M in Azure Sponsorship

- \$8M Marketplace billed sales (MBS) tier unlocks \$800K in Azure Sponsorship – An incremental \$400K
- \$20M Marketplace billed sales tier (MBS) unlocks \$1M in Azure Sponsorship – An incremental \$200K
- Eligibility: Partners must have a certified software designation for Azure or certified software designation for Industry Al solutions built on Azure (Financial Al, Health Al, etc.)

Channel Partner transacting via Multiparty Private Offers (MPO) can unlock up to \$200K Azure Sponsorship

- Access to additional marketing and sales benefits to drive customer engagement
- Eligibility: Open to all MPO enrolled Channel Partners. MPO Marketplace billed sales required to achieve incremental benefits.

Policies

- Usage: For end-customer grants only; Not permitted for internal use or for application toward partner's tenant.
 - End-Customer Grant Policies Apply: 10% ACV (3yr+), 3% TCV (1–2yr), AE approval ≥ \$35K, cap \$200K
- Only one grant can be applied per deal By the SDC or the MPO transacting partner. Grants cannot be stacked towards one deal
- Grant Refresh Cycle: Sponsorships refresh annually on the Partner's Anniversary Date.

FY26 Updates in Co-sell



What is Partner Reported Azure Consumed Revenue?



The Partner Reported Azure Consumed Revenue initiative is an exclusive joint-sales offering for focused partners with premier Azure software-as-a-service (SaaS) solutions.

Partner Reported Azure Consumed Revenue aligns Microsoft field incentives with actual end-customer Azure consumption to minimize channel conflict for SaaS solutions across business models, licensing, and HQ countries.

Co-sell your transactable offer and grow your business

For solutions that utilize Azure on a partner's tenant, seller compensation will be adjusted over time to match solutions deployed directly to a customer's tenant. This adjustment is based on the estimated Azure consumption of the end-customer, as reported via your inputs as a partner.



Which partners are eligible to participate in PRACR? **Updated July 2025**





Partners must be at least one of the following

- Solutions Partner with a certified software designation for Azure or one of the Industry AI designations on Azure.
- Partners with current top tier benefits who have consistently reported Partner Reported Azure Consumed Revenue prior to July 1, 2025
- Legacy partners who have consistently reported Partner Reported Azure Consumed Revenue prior to July 1, 2025



Solutions partner with certified software

Certified software designation obtained after July 1, 2024:

Deals eligible for PRACR, if the approval date is April 2024 and beyond

Certified software designation certification obtained after July 1, 2025:

Deals eligible for PRACR if the approval date falls within the quarter of certification



Partners with current top tier benefits

For existing deals:

Report existing deals up to December 31, 2025. If a certified software designation is not obtained by December 31, 2025, PRACR will be discontinued for all deals starting January 1, 2026

For new deals:

Report new deals up to December 31, 2025. If a certified software designation is not obtained by December 31, 2025, PRACR will be discontinued for all deals starting January 1, 2026



Legacy or Dual Credit partners

For existing deals:

Report existing deals up to December 31, 2025. If certified software designation is not obtained by December 31, 2025, PRACR will be discontinued for all deals starting January 1, 2026

For new deals:

Attaining a certified software designation is required to be able to report PRACR for net new deals

FY26 Updates in GTM Benefits



Solutions Partner with certified software designation FY26 Go-to-Market Benefits





Unlocked through a certified software designation, these marketing benefits and resources are designed to enhance your marketing capabilities, raise awareness of your solution, and strengthen your partnership with Microsoft



<u>Create a partner logo,</u> <u>certified letter, or</u> <u>award in Logo Builder</u>



Animated 30-sec video used to generate interest and educate audience on the value prop of the offering

Audience: Customers
Use: Post to website or social posts

Solution Battle Card

2 pages that provides sellers with a focused sales guide on how to talk about the certified solution with customers

*Choose between the Solution Brief or Solution Battle Card

Audience: Sellers
Use: Prepare sellers with key information for customer meetings

4

Solution Brief

2 pages focused on a highlevel summary of the certified solution and its features and benefits for customers

*Choose between the Solution Brief or Solution Battle Card

Audience: Customers
Use: Hero asset in demand generation campaign or on website



Solution Playcards

1 page quick guide to the certified solution in a Microsoft provided template familiar to sellers

Audience: Microsoft sellers
Use: Located where sellers
search for partner information

Solutions Partner with certified software designation



FY26 Go-to-Market Benefits Resources









Disclaimer



*"Solutions Partner" refers to a company that is a member of the Microsoft Al Cloud Partner Program and may offer software, services, and/or solutions to customers. Reference to "Solutions Partner" in any content, materials, resources, web properties, etc. and any associated designation should be not interpreted as an offer, endorsement, guarantee, proof of effectiveness or functionality, a commitment or any other type of representation or warranty on the part of Microsoft. All decisions pertaining and related to your business needs including but not limited to strategies, solutions, partner selection, implementation, etc., rests solely with your business.

**A certification is (1) specific to the solution's interoperability with Microsoft products and (2) based on self-attestation by the solution owner. Solutions are only certified as of the date the solution is reviewed. Solution functionality and capability are controlled by the solution owner and may be subject to change. The inclusion of a solution in marketplace and any such designations should not be interpreted as an offer, endorsement, guarantee, proof of effectiveness or functionality, a commitment or any other type of representation or warranty on the part of Microsoft. All decisions pertaining and related to your business needs including but not limited to strategies, solutions, partner selection, implementation, etc., rests solely with your business.