

ThinkAgile SX for Microsoft Azure Stack

Fully Integrated Hybrid Cloud Solution

With a hyperconverged hybrid cloud solution engineered and integrated by Lenovo and Microsoft, you're free to focus on cloud services—instead of your infrastructure. Lenovo ThinkAgile SX for Microsoft Azure Stack is a turnkey, rack-scale solution optimized with a resilient, high-performing, and secure software-defined infrastructure.

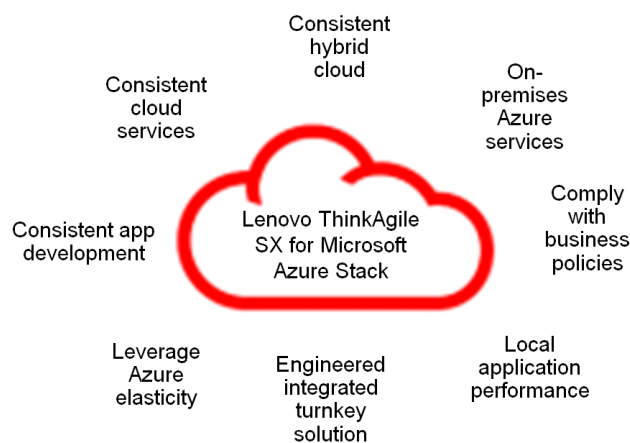
It's the perfect platform to:

- Deliver Azure cloud services from the security of your own data center
- Enable rapid development and iteration of applications with on-premises deployment tools to help transform your organization
- Unify application development across your entire hybrid cloud environment
- Easily move applications and data across private and public clouds

Simplify Your Hybrid Cloud

ThinkAgile is a preintegrated, engineered solution that comes direct from Lenovo—ready to go—with all features, support, and deployment services included. With benefits like IT agility, lower TCO, and a transformative customer experience, ThinkAgile provides the ease and speed of a public cloud with the security and control of on-premises IT.

As useful as the public cloud is for many purposes, it does create data security and privacy concerns for data centers. For example, many countries require that sensitive data be stored within the borders of that country. Similarly, many companies require that the data be stored somewhere entirely within their control.



Challenges and Solutions

Due to the nature of the public cloud, it's impossible to guarantee that these requirements will be met. And while a private cloud may meet a company's security requirements, it doesn't offer the flexibility of the public cloud.

Another concern about the public cloud is application performance. Certain application workloads have stringent performance and latency requirements that cannot be guaranteed by the public cloud (streaming video, for example). A far more dependable solution is required.

The ThinkAgile SX for Microsoft Azure Stack hybrid cloud offering provides the solutions to satisfy these requirements. Because all data is kept inside highly secure servers in your data center, it's much simpler to comply with governance laws of your country, and your own policies and practices.

Lenovo™

By reducing the distance your data has to travel to mere meters/feet, rather than cross-country or even globally, latency is reduced, workloads run more efficiently, and performance requirements can be more easily achieved.

Lenovo and Microsoft worked together to engineer the solution components—the Azure Stack software and Lenovo software-defined infrastructure—to make sure they perform seamlessly. There is no need to worry about configuring and tweaking settings for virtual or physical infrastructure. Your IT personnel can now focus more on building proficiencies in deploying and operating cloud services—such as IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS—and less on your infrastructure.

Agility of Public Cloud

Microsoft Azure Stack is an extension of Azure, with an ever-growing subset of Azure cloud services. These services enable customers to select, provision and monitor the required services for their environments. The services enable Azure Stack to offer the same ease of use as is expected of a cloud environment and thus bring the agility of the public cloud to the private data center. Because the services are the same as they are in the public cloud, Azure Stack enables consistent cloud services across the Microsoft Azure environment. Azure Stack software is deployed on powerful, ultrareliable, and innovative Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 nodes in a hyperconverged, clustered configuration engineered for high stability, resilience, and performance.

Powered by Ultrareliable Lenovo Servers

A solution that's offline is no solution at all. Therefore, the ThinkSystem SR650 2U server node is the perfect hardware platform for this solution. Equipped with two powerful Intel® Xeon® Scalable family processors, its extreme reliability, huge internal storage and memory capacity, and large number of I/O slots make it an ideal foundation for this solution.

The SR650 configurations used in this solution are storage-dense, with a high-performance four-SSD caching tier and a ten-HDD data tier, along with two mirrored boot drives. You can start with as few as four nodes, and grow to twelve.

Consistently scoring #1 for reliability* and #1 for customer satisfaction† in independent customer surveys, the SR650 provides the performance, availability, capacity, and quality your data center demands for a cloud environment.

World-Class Networking

To handle your high-speed communications demands, each node is configured with a dual-port 10/25GbE Mellanox ConnectX-4 Adapter. This adapter is designed to address your virtualized infrastructure challenges. It utilizes native hardware support for RDMA over Converged Ethernet, Ethernet stateless offload engines, overlay networks, and GPUDirect Technology to maximize performance.

The internal networking for this solution is 25GbE, provided by the cloud-optimized ThinkSystem RackSwitch NE2572. This enterprise-class Layer 2 and Layer 3 full-featured switch delivers line-rate, high-bandwidth switching, filtering, and traffic queuing without delaying data. Large data center-grade buffers help keep traffic moving, while the hot-swap redundant power supplies and fans (along with numerous other high-availability features) help provide resiliency for business-sensitive traffic. External connectivity is provided by six ports at up to 100GbE.

The Lenovo Cloud Network Operating System (CNOS) for the NE2572 RackSwitch has been updated with Radius-Accounting/MSCHAPv2 and PKI (Public Key Infrastructure) support with enhancements to user transaction logging and IP ACL over L3 VLAN interfaces for Microsoft Azure Stack integration.



Transformative Experience with ThinkAgile Advantage

All ThinkAgile solutions include a comprehensive portfolio of software and services that supports the full lifecycle of your infrastructure. At every stage—from planning to deploying, supporting, optimizing, and end-of-life—Lenovo provides the expertise and services you need to get the most from your technology investment.

Lenovo will help you perform a presale TCO study to decide which configuration is right for you and then will ship it as a single unit, factory installed in a rack and ready to deploy. Configuration Services will discover your hosts and storage resources. Lenovo also will provide knowledge-transfer training to your IT personnel. After deployment, Predictive Analytics software will identify on a continuing basis—and usually resolve—storage related (and many infrastructure-related) issues, often before administrators are even aware of them.

Lenovo provides single-point-of-contact support for all the hardware and software used in the solution, including Microsoft's Azure Stack and the Mellanox adapters. So there will never be any finger-pointing. Periodic health checks enable you to maintain an optimized solution. At end of life, Lenovo offers data recovery services. And these are just a few of the many benefits Lenovo's software, services, and support provided with your solution.

The ThinkAgile SX for Microsoft Azure Stack solution allows you to budget more accurately for IT expenses, better deliver on service-level agreement commitments, and ultimately generate greater end-user satisfaction.

Lenovo and Microsoft

With co-located engineering organizations and a history of technical collaboration, Microsoft and Lenovo consistently deliver innovative joint solutions for the data center. Lenovo's leadership in reliability, customer satisfaction, and performance—combined with Microsoft's leadership in software and cloud services—continues to deliver innovative data center solutions and lower TCO for our joint customers.



Cloud-optimized ThinkSystem SR650 servers, factory-installed in a rack with Lenovo RackSwitch networking, form the foundation of the Lenovo ThinkAgile SX for Microsoft Azure Stack solution.



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	Entry SXM4400	Enterprise Starter SXM4400	Enterprise Full SXM6400
Rack	9565-RCH (25U)	9565-RCJ (42U)	9565-RCK (42U)
Compute Nodes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4-8x SR650 2x Intel® Xeon® Scalable 6140, 6148, 6150, 6152, 8160, 8170 or 8176 CPUs (18-28 cores) 384GB, 768GB or 1,536GB memory per node 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4-12x SR650 2x Intel Xeon Scalable 6140, 6148, 6150, 6152, 8160, 8170 or 8176 CPUs (18-28 cores) 384GB, 768GB or 1,536GB memory per node 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12x SR650 2x Intel Xeon Scalable 6140, 6148, 6150, 6152, 8160, 8170 or 8176 CPUs (18-28 cores) 384GB, 768GB or 1,536GB memory per node
Management Node	1x SR630; 2x Intel Xeon Scalable 3106 CPUs (8 cores); 64GB memory		
Hyperconverged Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10x 4TB Capacity Tier (40TB raw) + 4x 800GB SSD Cache Tier Or, 10x 6TB Capacity Tier (60TB raw) + 4x 1.6GB SSD Cache Tier 		
Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1x 1Gbps Lenovo RackSwitch G8052 (management) 2x 25Gbps ThinkSystem NE2572 RackSwitch (compute/storage traffic) Mellanox ConnectX-4 Dual Port 10/25GbE Network Controller 		
Integrated Solution Software	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft Azure Stack; Lenovo XClarity 		

* 2016-2017 Global Hardware, Server OS Reliability Report, ITIC, October 2016; and ITIC Reliability Study 2016 – 2017 Mid-year Update, May 2017.

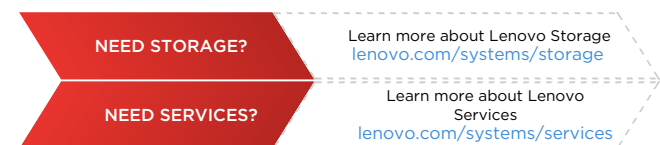
† 2H16 Corporate IT Buying Behavior and Customer Satisfaction Study, TBR; July 2017.

Why Lenovo

Lenovo is the leading provider of x86 systems for the data center. The portfolio includes rack, tower, blade, dense and converged systems, and supports enterprise class performance, reliability and security. Lenovo also offers a full range of networking, storage, software and solutions, and comprehensive services supporting business needs throughout the IT lifecycle.

For More Information

To learn more about the Lenovo ThinkAgile SX for Microsoft Azure Stack solution, contact your Lenovo representative or Business Partner or visit lenovo.com/thinkagile



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