Applying the Azure Well-Architected Framework for Secure Cloud Governance

Security & Governance with the Azure Well-Architected Framework

#Azure #WellArchitected #CloudGovernance
#PerparimLabs #AzureSecurity #AzureArchitect

What is the Well-Architected Framework?

Industry-wide framework, not just Microsoft.

Provides **guidelines, checklists, and best practices** for designing secure, resilient, cost-optimized cloud solutions.

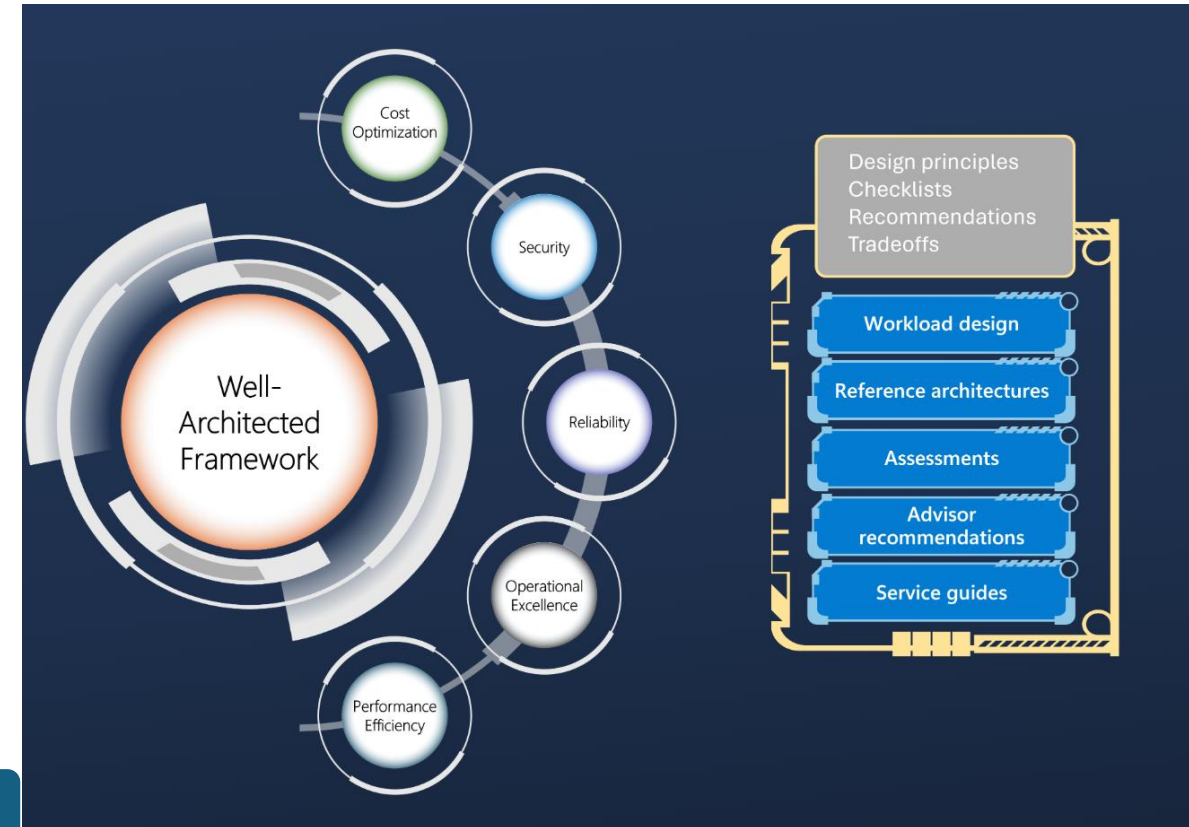Focus: Help architects and engineers make informed trade-offs and achieve long-term governance.

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The Five Pillars

Cost Optimization – Maximize ROI and efficiency.

Security – Protect identities, data, and workloads.

Reliability – Ensure availability & recoverability.

Operational Excellence – Enable smooth operations and DevOps alignment.

Performance Efficiency – Optimize for scaling and speed.

💡 *Think of these as "pillars" holding up your cloud foundation.*

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Governance in Action

Governance is not one-time → it's a **continuous lifecycle**.

Use **design principles** + **checklists**.

Review **reference architectures** to avoid reinventing the wheel.

Perform **assessments & advisor recommendations** regularly.

Update with **service guides** as Azure evolves.

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Example IAM/Governance Checklist

💡 This aligns directly with **identity governance** & **security posture management**.

- Develop & maintain **architecture design docs**.
- Build **decision records** for key changes.
- Run **Access Reviews** for least privilege.
- Provide **optimization recommendations** over time.
- Participate in **audit & compliance reviews**.
- Enable **just-in-time access** with **PIM** to enforce least privilege.

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Lab/Industry Example

- In a lab scenario, I applied the Well-Architected Framework pillars to Azure governance. By combining Conditional Access, PIM, and Access Reviews with ongoing assessments, the environment stayed secure, resilient, and continuously optimized. This shows how the framework provides a structured checklist for ongoing cloud governance.

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Key Takeaways

Not just "theory" → WAF provides **actionable tools**.

Use it as a **living checklist**, not a one-time design.

Strengthens **security posture** & **governance confidence**.

Helps teams understand **trade-offs** and continuously improve.

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