



Case Study: Azure I-a-a-S Migration

The Client

Our client operates a business to consumer model, selling products directly to customers. The business operates out of 8 major sites, 1 independent data centre and 2 Microsoft Azure data centres.

Our client utilises VMware virtual data centres replicating servers between a data centre and a primary office. Data is hosted on expensive storage arrays across both locations. Most core services are facilitated by the VMware environment, with an Active Directory (AD) server and application server hosted in Azure.

The Challenge

Our client is rapidly growing and expanding their IT requirements; automating workflows and digitising processes. As the business is growing, the IT infrastructure needs to expand.

After recent investment in expanding their IT estate, the COVID-19 pandemic affected our client's projected growth. This has decreased their appetite for risk but they do not want that to impact further growth. Continuing with a self-hosted solution would require a significant CAPEX investment and not provide the flexibility to scale down should their needs change.

Our clients in house development team need more streamlined deployment models and the ability to bring development environments online flexibly for testing.

The Solution

Our Professional Service team designed an Azure solution, combining Infrastructure as a Service (I-a-a-S), Platform as a Service (P-a-a-S) and Software as a Service (S-a-a-S) offerings. Migrating bespoke applications to serverless products reduced overhead and streamlined the development pipeline. Leveraging Azure SQL instances and other P-a-a-S products has allowed for scalable and resilient systems, improving uptime from 80% to over 99%. Instance scaling has enabled the benefit from elasticity profiles to increase resources temporarily during busy periods or to perform demanding tasks. This has ensured applications remain available and responsive; reducing reporting tasks and processing times from hours to minutes.

Our client also benefited from integrated Disaster Recovery tools to keep their business online. This considerably reduces their Recovery Time Objective (RTO) and Recovery Point Objective (RPO), helping to bring their services back online quickly, minimizing impact.

Infrastructure as Code (IaC) was implemented using Terraform to streamline expanding the existing environment allowing for new services to be brought online efficiently and swiftly. Using pre-made templates ensures consistency when moving an application from development into production.

Overall Benefits to the Client

- Improved scalability to meet business needs
- Improved performance of business applications
- Implementation of continuous integration and continuous deployment for applications
- Better Disaster Recovery
- Removed CAPEX hardware cycle



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