Workload modernisation through the adoption of Azure IaaS

OVERVIEW

A UK-based charitable institution migrates workloads to Microsoft Azure with the help of Comms-care (Ingram Micro) Professional Services team.

Comms-care helped a UK-based charitable institution migrate their on-premises data centre that was running at their corporate headquarters in London, into Azure. They were reaching the end of life with their SQL Server 2008 and Windows 2008 R2 based servers.

SOLUTIONS FOCUS

Solution	Rating
Modern Workforce	■■■■■■■■■■
Modern Data Centre	■□■■■■■■■■
Digital Innovation	■■□■■■■■■■
Connected Networks	■□■■■■■■■■
Secure Enterprise	■■■■■■□■■■

CASE STUDY SPECIFICS

Industry: Charitable Organisation

Core Business: Public Art Gallery

Number of Employees: 400

Location: United Kingdom

Operating Systems: Microsoft Windows 2008 R2

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CHALLENGE

Some of the overarching problems they were facing with their legacy environment included increased operational costs, difficulties keeping up with their growing storage needs, the need to establish a viable disaster recovery system for their entire data centre, and the overhead costs of running servers that they couldn't scale up and down quickly.

They were also not able to upgrade their ERP and other applications because they did not support the newer version of SQL Server 2008. As a result, they faced a significant challenge in updating their environment because the cost of extending support to their current on-premises operation would have been significant.

SOLUTION

As part of our IaaS Professional services, our Azure experts did an assessment of their current environment. This service helped them better understand, classify, and size existing workloads, enabling the creation of a roadmap that would ultimately result in a faster progression to Azure.

We proposed a solution to rehost their Windows and SQL servers on Azure. By partnering with Comms-care, they were able to have flexible options while taking the common risks associated with migrations out of the equation, accelerating the entire process.

Our solution leveraged Azure Site Recovery targeting Azure Virtual Machines with site-to-site VPN. In addition, we suggested a set of Windows Virtual Desktop based services that enabled remote access hosts defined in a scale set. This allowed them to scale their machines up and down as they needed based on their capacity needs at any given time, which would ultimately be more cost-effective since their locations are not open 24/7.

OUTCOME

After we completed the migration, the organisation ended up maintaining a compliant environment and avoided paying the penalty for running legacy software on-premises. This cost would have been significant, for on-premises extended security update pricing is 75% of the EA or licensing price of the latest version of SQL or Windows server version. They were able to cut IT and operational costs by having the ability to upgrade and scale their environment to meet the needs of their business at any given time.