

Zones guides company through Office 365 transition

When a global company headquartered in the United States decided to transition its application services to a cloud-based solution, they relied on the Zones Cloud Solutions team. As the company's Microsoft LAR and certified to provide Office deployment planning services, Zones' involvement in the project ensured successful implementation.

The Zones Cloud Solutions team facilitated a pilot program that gave the client an opportunity to evaluate cloud services in their business operations. The company evaluated solutions by joining two trial programs, with the assistance of the Zones team. The company's IT staff easily moved 10 percent of employees to online services through each solution portal.

The company asked the pilot team to first test the key business processes in Office 365

that they perform daily using their current Microsoft desktop solutions. Office 365 cloud services include Exchange Online, SharePoint® Online, Lync® Online, and Microsoft Office Professional Plus. This was followed by the pilot team testing the same key business processes using an alternative solution. The pilot team was provisioned a two-week testing period on each solution. Their testing included email and calendaring capabilities, mobile productivity, and document sharing via Microsoft's SharePoint Online.



After completing the pilot program, the company's IT staff concluded that Office 365 would significantly contribute to the short- and long-term plans for their business operations and their collaborative work environment.

With the help of the Microsoft licensing team at Zones, the company transitioned its applicable Microsoft licenses from traditional volume licenses to an Office 365 subscription service plan that includes Office Professional Plus on the desktop. Zones recommended this licensing arrangement because of its flexibility. The company can now transition to cloud-based solutions on its own schedule because the licensing provides rights for on-premises solutions, which includes its Lync Server enterprise voice deployment.

Client:

Large central United States supplier of thermal interface materials

Industry:

Electrical/electronic manufacturing

IT Issues:

Desktop, device and server management

Business Needs:

- Cost containment
- Business productivity

Solutions Presented:

- Microsoft Office 365 and alternative cloud solution
- Archiving and Discovery Applications
- Application Support

Benefits:

- Avoid hardware and consulting costs
- Reduce IT administration and deployment costs
- Strengthen security and reliability
- Improve flexibility and compliance of licensing
- Avoid employee downtime

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