ZONES™

Case Study

Microsoft Azure Backup Implementation

Data Center TRANSFORMATION | Storage & Data Protection

Dental organization upgrades to cloud storage, sees significant results.

Zones Identified a clear opportunity to improve data access, security, storage and compliance by moving their dental records to the cloud. The resulting move to a cloud solution solved other issues the dental office was experiencing including reducing costs associated with impending need for expanding on-prem storage and an IT capital expenditure. The data is now stored securely and access to records has been improved.

Challenge

- The client's current onsite SAN was full and they were losing data.

Solution

- Microsoft Azure Backup as a service that enables back up and restore of data.

Results

- Automated backup of data.
- Low-cost, resilient data storage.
- Nonintrusive, auto scaling of the service.
- High availability guarantees.
- Secure long-term data retention.

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The Challenge

New healthcare applications and regulatory/compliance are driving exponential data growth. And it's a challenge for a health system to stay on top of that data growth.

Inside one of the largest dental support organizations, a critical IT service is backing up patients' x-rays, dental history, and other business information. But, the onsite storage area network (SAN) was full and data was being lost.

The Solution

The Zones solution architect learned that the organization was using Blob Storage, a Microsoft Azure cloud service for storing large amounts of unstructured data. He then pointed out to the IT director that Azure Backup could solve the storage capacity problem by moving data from Windows Servers to Azure.

As a Microsoft Licensing Solutions Partner (LSP), Zones was well positioned to help the IT director with everything from project planning to data backup and testing.

The Zones team – solution architect, Microsoft cloud solution specialist, and software licensing executive – began the migration by establishing the project deliverables and timeline. The team also set up the Azure backup implementation, and they had oversight of the infrastructure and planning services completed during the project.

> Review of current applications backup in Azure
> Identification of remote sites to be backed up
> Review of current backup topology for sample remote sites
> Identification of data change rate between backups
> Installation of Azure backup agents on 5 servers
> Configuration of Azure Backup vaults
> Configuration of backup job alerts via Powershell Scripts
> Implementation of backup job
> Monitoring of backup and testing

The Results

To improve critical backup services, the organization moved to Microsoft Azure Backup, which provides more scalable, secure, and cost-effective data protection.

While the original objective was to increase storage capacity, the organization also likes Azure Backup's other advantages which are:

> Automatic backup of fully encrypted data
> Data stored in geo-replicated storage which maintains 6 copies of data
> Efficient cloud storage architecture that provides low-cost, resilient data storage
> Nonintrusive, auto scaling of the service with high availability guarantees
> Long-term data retention and easy data restoration

Looking forward, the organization is eager to take advantage of any upcoming enhancements to Azure Backup.

Microsoft Azure Backup

Azure Backup is a multi-tenanted Azure service that enables you to back up and restore your data on-premises or in Azure. It replaces your existing on-premises or offsite backup solution with a reliable, secure and cost competitive cloud backup solution. It also provides the flexibility of protecting your assets running in the cloud. Azure Backup is built on top of a world class infrastructure that is scalable, durable and highly available. Using this solution, you can back up data and applications from their System Center Data Protection Manager (SCDPM) servers, Windows servers, Windows client machines, or Azure IaaS virtual machines.

Azure

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