Zones services shed light on company's Azure platform

The Challenge

A global leader in social recognition delivers intuitive and multi-faceted recognition, incentive, and service anniversary programs powered by their uniquely configurable cloud-based software-as-a-service (SaaS) technology.

As a forward-looking company, the business is run 100 percent on Microsoft® Azure™. One of the value added benefits for the company was that they qualified for Microsoft deployment funds for activities such as a current state assessment.

The company asked Zones to administer an Azure assessment to ensure that they were leveraging the platform for maximum benefit. The company was also looking for a way to control usage costs by automating virtual machine (VM) management.

Challenge:

Ensure optimal value of Azure platform and control virtual machine usage costs

Solution:

Zones assessment services and Azure management script

Results:

- Knowledge of IT environment and Azure current state
- Future state scheduling of development infrastructure
- Documented implementation roadmap
- 43% savings in IT spend from Azure script implementation

The Solution

Zones offers strategy and planning services to evaluate and prioritize IT optimization options and define a roadmap of activities that can reduce costs and improve utilization using time-tested methods and best-practice analysis.

To help the company align its Azure platform deployment with its business goals, Zones provided an Azure assessment which included:

> Review of current IT environment

> Workshop on current state of Azure design/pain points

> Future objectives/capacity planning

> Hands-on information gathering

> Gap analysis

> Development of future state scheduling of development infrastructure

> Development of an implementation roadmap

> Presentation of report (findings)

Azure VMs let the company deploy a wide range of computing solutions in an agile way. But managing VMs can be timely and costly. To help organizations, Microsoft designed Azure to enable scripting and automation of many common aspects of using the platform.

The Zones team leveraged Azure's flexibility to create, test, and deploy a Powershell script that enables the IT organization to schedule shutdowns and restarts of Azure VMs.

The Result

The Azure assessment is helping the company evaluate and prioritize optimization options and future projects. The IT organization has the information to make informed decisions about how to bridge the gap between strategic intent and the deployed Azure platform.

The company is also pleased with the results of the Azure script deployment. The team achieved an estimated savings of 43 percent on IT spend by adding the functionality of Azure power scripting tools. This enables the company to redirect IT budget to expand their Azure platform.

Microsoft Azure

Microsoft Azure is a growing collection of integrated cloud services – analytics, computing, database, mobile, networking, storage, and web—for moving faster, achieving more, and saving money. The integrated tools, pre-built templates and managed services make it easier to build and manage enterprise, mobile, Web and Internet of Things (IoT) apps faster, using skills you already have and technologies you already know.

Microsoft Azure