ZONES™

Zones manages safe, fast, and seamless cloud-to-cloud Office 365 migration

The Challenge

When two media companies merged to become an online video, display, and mobile advertising technology and solutions provider, the newly formed company needed to also bring together their messaging platforms.

Even though both of the companies were using the same hosted email provider, they were unable to merge their accounts. The newly merged company wanted to retain hosted Exchange so it was the opportune time to adopt Microsoft Office 365, which wasn't available when the companies initially moved to hosted services.

Challenge

Microsoft Office 365 cloud-to-cloud migration after the merger of two companies

Solution

Zones migration technology, cloud solution architect services, and Microsoft licensing services

Results

- Zero downtime and zero data loss
- Much lower plan cost than previous cloud service provider
- Mix of Office 365 subscription plans to meet user needs
- More control of company's email environment
- Better user experience and management experience
- Less time and resources spent on maintenance and support

The Solution

The Zones account executive, our cloud solution engineer in the Advanced Solutions Group, and representatives from the companies discussed implementing a Microsoft Office 365 cloud-to-cloud cutover migration. This enabled the company to switch cloud providers without first transferring data to in-house servers, making for an efficient and cost-effective migration.

Zones migration technology addressed the company's concerns and considerations including:

> Move to Office 365 in a single batch over a few days to meet cutover schedule

> Conversion of mail labels to corresponding folders in Exchange categories

> Retention of contacts, distribution groups, settings, and permissions

> Maintain healthy source environment throughout the migration process

> Data synchronizations to eliminate migration risks and end-user disruptions

> Pre-migration desktop readiness tests to avoid desk-side visits and downtime

The Zones cloud solution engineer performed services including project planning, design, and implementation along with the user transition process for up to 220 mailboxes during the cutover migration for each of the companies.

In addition, the Microsoft solution specialist at Zones worked with the company on selecting Office 365 subscription plans that fit into their mixed platform (Windows and Mac) environment. She combined Enterprise E1 and E3 plans under the same account to tailor services to end-user requirements. For the company, this was also the most budget-friendly approach with the final negotiated subscription cost less than the amount paid to the previous cloud provider.

Some employees are now licensed for Exchange Online and cloud-based Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Other employees and managers have E3 licenses which include compliance tools, unlimited email storage with advanced archiving, and fully installed Office for tablet and phone.

The Results

The new capabilities in Office 365, combined with Office 2016 applications, means the company has access to a comprehensive, secure cloud productivity and communication solution.

By leveraging Zones technology and the support services of our cloud solution engineer, the company experienced zero downtime and zero data loss.

Here are some benefits the company gained from the Office 365 migration:

> Much lower plan cost than previous cloud service provider

> Guaranteed 99.9% uptime, financially backed service level agreement

> More control of their email environment

> Better user experience and management experience

> Easy credential and password management with Activity Directory

> Less time and resources spent on maintenance and support

The Office 365 migration has also laid the groundwork for company-wide communications and collaboration. They now have the tools to unify processes and increase productivity across the newly formed company.

Microsoft

Office 365

Exchange

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