ZONES

CASE STUDY

Data Center Infrastructure Rack and Roll

Zones Empowers Tech Firm With More Control In Its New In-House Data Center

Our client produces a SaaS application that is used to assign tasks, track project progress, manage calendars, share documents, and manage other work with its spreadsheet-like user interface. In the last few years, the company has experienced rapid expansion, outgrowing its existing IaaS hosted infrastructure. To fix that, we designed a solution to bring the tech firm's new data center in-house. This gives the company direct control over every aspect of its data center.

Challenge was to keep the health system on top of data growth and backing up the patient's dental history.

Used Blob Storage for storing a large amount of unstructured data and used Azure Backup to solve the capacity problem.

Automatic backup and more scalable, secure and cost-effective data protection.

CHALLENGE

- Outgrown IaaS Infrastructure.
- Battling long wait times and increased costs.
- Lack of direct control of data center.

SOLUTION

- Zones Integration Services.
- Zones Leasing.
- HP Enterprise DL 380 servers.
- Cisco Networking.
- F5 Networking.
- Tripp Lite racks, PDUs, and configurations.

RESULTS

- New partnership provides direct control, management, oversight, and ease of use with all new systems.
- Greater control significantly reduces downtime and outages.
- Increased level of customer service interactions.
- More responsive to the company's own needs, customer needs, and their industry's needs.

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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
- 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.