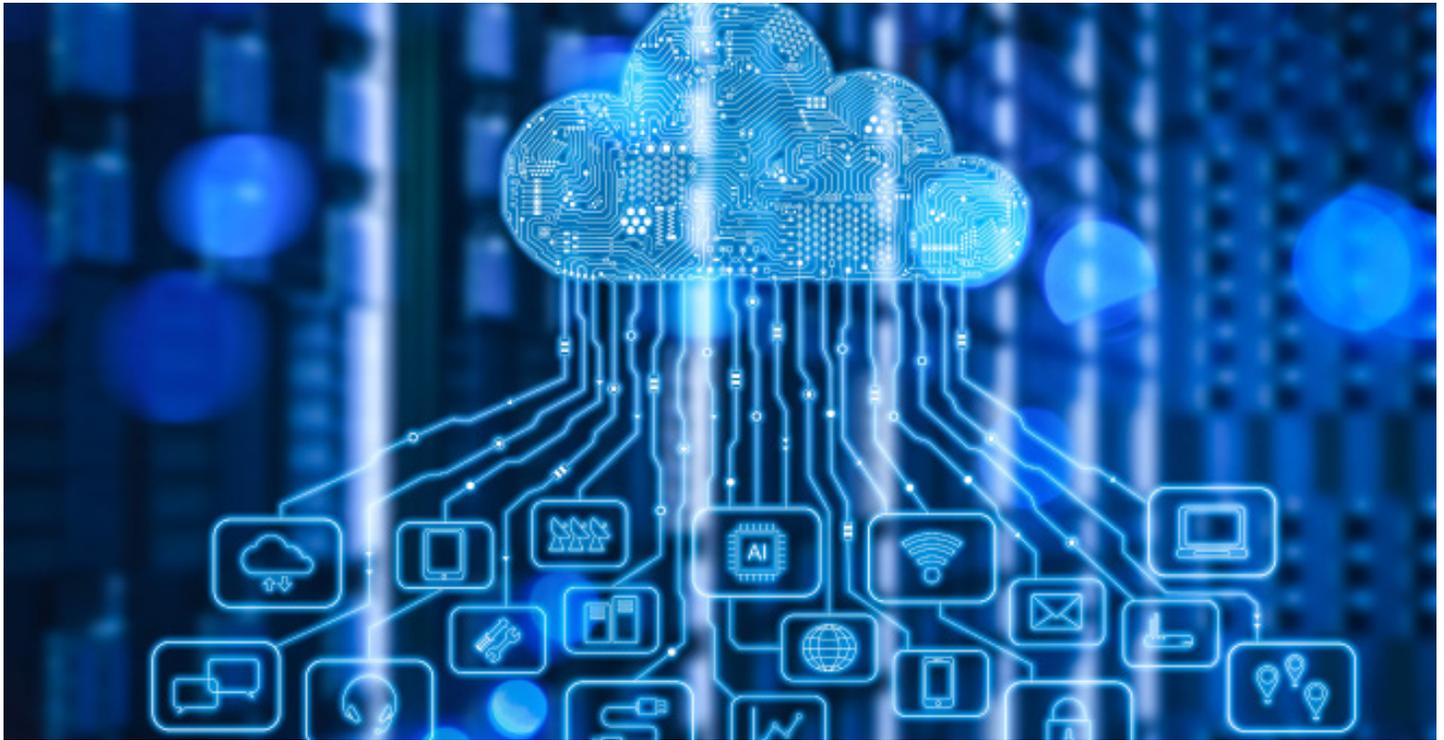


Cloud Migration for Those that Help Others

Non-profit Human Services Provider Increased Reach Through Microsoft Azure



The Challenge

The customer is a non-profit human services provider based in Denver, CO. Their goal is to improve the health, self-sufficiency, and overall quality of life for those in need of long-term care, case management, housing stability, and much more.

The customer was looking to extend their on-premises infrastructure to the cloud in a bid to gradually reduce their expansive data center footprint. However, they had the impression that the existing environment—made up of a three-node Hyper-V cluster—could not be migrated. They had also always used Palo Alto for all of their routing and network security, so their on-site administrators were less proficient with Azure native services. As a result, infrastructure complexity and a learning curve for IT acted as a bottleneck for digital transformation.

The Solution

As a leading Microsoft Cloud Solutions Provider (CSP), Connection Azure experts educated the customer on what was possible within the Azure ecosystem. This opened the door to develop an approach that precisely fit the customer's needs.

Azure Makes IT Possible

When Connection's Azure architects stepped onto the scene, they discovered a mix of current and end-of-life operating systems. However, the customer was ready to upgrade to the most recent Windows Server OS. As a result, a CSP subscription was provisioned along with an Azure landing zone to reference the cloud adoption framework. This enabled the customer to take advantage of Azure Marketplace SQL virtual machines to host their database workloads. It also reduced the complexity of installing and patching the SQL server database infrastructure.



Security without Compromise

In order to complement the customer's current networking and security appliances, Connection's Azure architects worked with Palo Alto Sales Managers to create and configure a virtual network appliance in Azure to enable secure routing and communication between the cloud and the customer's on-premises resources.

It's All About the Data

Taking care of those in need is the customer's mission. Making sure they have the data access to do it is ours. For the databases, new SQL server virtual machines were created on Azure. On-premises databases were backed up and restored to Azure SQL VM's using SQL Management Studio. Other servers—like Remote Desktop Services—were re-built and user applications were reinstalled. Azure backup and site recovery were configured on the Azure virtual machines to protect the customer from data loss in case of an outage. Our Azure solution also provided automated updating and patching, reduced cost on Azure SQL using Azure Hybrid Benefits, and an increase in SQL performance.

The Results

From start to finish, Connection was at the customer's side, guiding them down the path to digital transformation with Azure. We took the time to listen to their needs and expectations before educating them on the real-world possibilities Azure offers. We then created a seamless migration strategy for the customer to move their workloads to Azure. All of this and more will allow the customer to more effectively help those in need while vastly decreasing on-premises storage, and increase reliability, availability, and responsiveness.

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