

# Windows Server 2008 to Azure

Migration was a priority in order to meet security and compliance standards

## Cloud Migration for Fortune 500 Public Utility Provider

### OVERVIEW

Oakwood's client, a large Fortune 500, public utility provider serving Missouri and Kansas sought out an experienced Gold Certified Microsoft Partner who possessed both a capable team and a proven process to migrate fifty (50) 2008 Windows Servers to Azure as end of support for this product was nearing.

Moving their on-premises infrastructure to Azure would benefit them in reducing exposure to security risks while maintaining rigorous compliance standards, reduce maintenance costs, improve the customer experience, and build a competitive advantage in the market.

### SOLUTION

The Azure Team at Oakwood leaned on previous experiences and methodologies to successfully migrate these servers to Azure.

In this case, a secure Azure environment was built so that the migrated servers would have a secure place to land. During this time an audit was done of the client's existing Azure footprint and, in conjunction with Microsoft, made suggestions to create a more secure and manageable environment.

The Team then created a secure connection back to their on-premises environment so that the migrated servers would be reachable after they were migrated.

Azure Site Recovery was then leveraged to migrate the servers from their VMWare environment to Azure. After the migration, the servers and their respective applications were tested for availability and stability.

### PROFILE

Oakwood's client is a Fortune 500 regional public utility provider serving communities across Missouri and Kansas.

### SUMMARY

#### Business Challenge:

End-of-Support for Windows Server 2008 R2 has created an increased urgency in moving to Azure to remain up to date on security patches, maintain system reliability, maintenance cost reductions and avoiding risk of losing their competitive advantage.

#### Solution:

- Create Migration Plan
- Build out secure Azure landing zone
- Establish secure connection back to on-premises environment
- Leverage ASR to migrate servers from VMware environment to Azure
- Implement Azure Stack Hub

#### Benefits:

- Cost Savings
- Security & Compliance
- Speed of Innovation

#### Technologies:

- Azure VPN Gateway
- Azure Site Recovery (ASR)
- Azure Stack Hub

Later in this project, Oakwood implemented Azure Stack Hub for 2008 Servers that were at end of support but needed to remain on-prem for compliance. This allowed them to receive crucial updates even after end of support.

### **BUSINESS OUTCOME**

By migrating to Azure, our client is looking to realize 3 key benefits. Those being *Cost Savings*, *Security & Compliance* and *Speed of Innovation*.

Azure comes with numerous benefits. At the top of the list for most IT decision makers is how costs can be reduced while maintaining the same (or better) level of service and reliability.

By leveraging Microsoft's security, redundancy, and disaster recovery for their IT footprint – our client was able to consolidate many of their disparate services into a single environment without the need or expense of secondary infrastructure. Furthermore, moving to Azure provided extended security updates, the benefits of Azure Hybrid and an optimized cloud infrastructure.

Migrating to Azure allowed for the strengthening of their security posture throughout their critical business applications by receiving security updates while avoiding business interruptions and loss of data. Azure contains industry-leading security measures and privacy policies that safeguard data that includes the categories of personal customer data identified by GDPR.

With ever-evolving changes with their business, our client can have the confidence to innovate more quickly and efficiently by embracing fully managed services such as Azure SQL Database, Azure App Service and Azure IaaS.