Case Study:
OPTiM Payroll migrate their in-house servers, and software to Microsoft Azure – saving costs, improving cyber security, reducing risk & providing flexibility to grow on demand.

Engeneum planned and managed the migration during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. The move included Sage 50 Payroll, Sage 50 Accounts, Sage Payroll Ireland (Micropay) and Bright Pay.

Challenge

With the introduction of PAYE modernisation in Ireland in 2019, OPTiM saw significant growth as many companies have identified the need to have accurate and compliant information submitted to the Revenue Commissioners on a timely basis.

OFS Support Services Ltd, which trades as OPTiM Payroll and OPTiM Financial Solutions, was formed in 2007, and processes in excess of 5,000 payslips per month. Operating from an office in Galway there were a number of areas that the management team wanted to address.

These included:
1. Accommodating the growth in business
2. The immediate need for home-working
3. The removal of security and data risk from servers being located in the office
4. Cost savings that could be achieved by exploiting 'Cloud' technology without having to invest in new Cloud software solutions

Microsoft Azure, Azure Virtual Desktop, Teams and Office 365 gives us more than just cloud infrastructure. It gives us the technology tools we need to transform the way we work and offers long-term sustainability for the future. It's scalable, secure, and accessible with the big advantage being the ease of adding resources as we grow, thanks in no small way to the expertise of the Engeneum support.

Michael O'Hare, Director at OPTiM

Solution

Engeneum planned and managed the project working closely with OPTiM to make sure that all their goals were achievable.

The planning took place over a number of documented Microsoft Teams calls. First there was a proof of concept phase where a Microsoft Azure test instance was set up, and a single application installed. Next a back-up of data was restored and after thorough testing all parties were happy to proceed with the complete migration.

The migration was progressed in phases, first Sage 50 Payroll, then Sage Payroll Ireland (Micropay), Sage 50 Accounts, and Bright Pay.

The use of Azure Virtual Desktop means that all the non-cloud software applications could be used as if they were on a local server.

The backup was set-up using Azure so their back-up service could be discontinued saving costs. The office servers were decommissioned and 1 of 2 broadband connections discontinued, again saving costs.

Next, Microsoft Teams was configured to manage all the internal and external phone calls removing the need for a phone system.

OPTiM Payroll

Name
OPTiM Payroll

Headquarters
Liosban Business Park, Tuam Road, Galway, Ireland

Industry
Payroll Services

About OPTiM
A leading provider of outsourced payroll services and solutions to a variety of businesses such as restaurants, tech companies, nursing homes, home care providers etc throughout Ireland.

Website
optimpayroll.com

Microsoft Azure

KEY BENEFITS FOR OPTIM

- Azure significantly reduced operating costs, as there's no server maintenance & upgrades for OPTiM to manage
- Easy to support growth, with Azure tools, in fact OPTiM grew by 28% during the pandemic.
- No additional backup service, it is included & managed in the Azure architecture
- No back-up broadband required saving line rentals and service costs
- Azure Application Gateway with web application firewall provides powerful cyber security
- Enabled the OPTiM team to work remotely reducing office usage with savings on lighting & heating costs
- Microsoft Teams is used for internal communications, with a future plan to utilise for external calls
- Microsoft Planner used to track tasks & processes which is essential in a remote working environment.

Microsoft Azure

What is Microsoft Azure? Microsoft Azure is a global, scalable cloud infrastructure on which today's forward thinking businesses can build and implement tools and applications, on-premises and in the cloud. For OPTiM it offers new revenue opportunities and new ways to deliver IT services from the cloud. It also offers a secure cloud platform that is scalable to provide scope for limitless development; enabling OPTiM to provide their clients and prospective clients with improved products and solutions moving forward.

- Huge scalability, Azure allows us to rent computing and storage power as we need it, scaling up and down according to demand.

- Global Coverage Spanning 54 regions, Azure beats all other cloud providers for its geographic coverage, meaning that it can support us and our customers wherever we may need it.

- Ground-breaking innovation Azure hosts next-generation technologies like AI and blockchain, giving us access to cutting edge options that we wouldn't have the resources to develop ourselves.

- Flexible offerings and pricing, Azure offers a mixture of reserved instances and other cloud computing which fits with our technology requirements and budget.

- Backup with confidence Azure provides a consistent and effective approach to data backup.

- Powerful configuration tools Azure offers a technology interface that really supports our technical delivery team in all aspects of solution deployment.

- Resilience to failure, Azure has a technology architecture that make it second to none in terms of resilience to failure, ensuring reliable solutions and data operations.

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