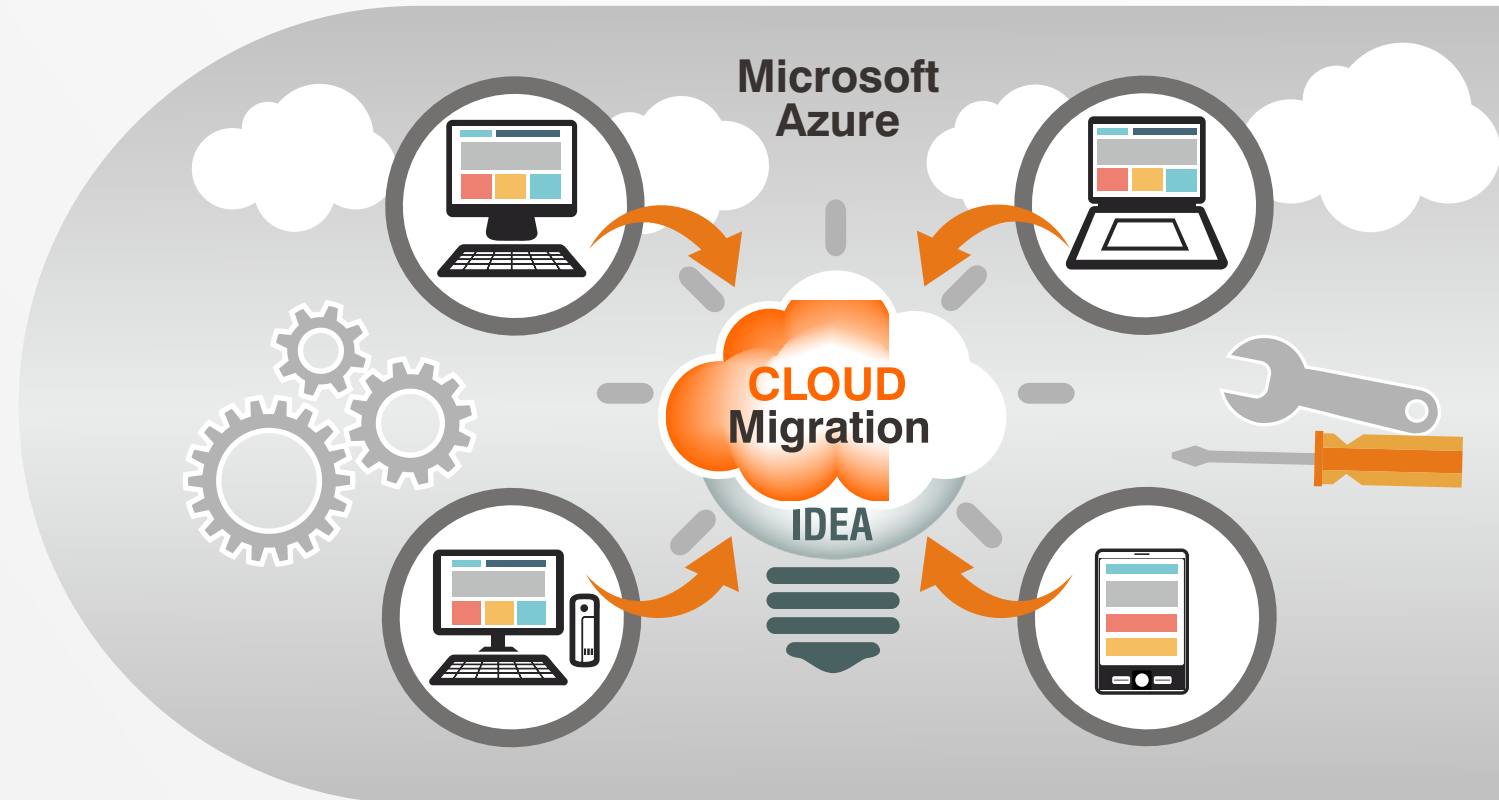




Case Study

Microsoft Azure Cloud Migration For Idea Management Tool



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The Client

The client is a consulting and software company based out of Edinburgh, UK, and has provided consulting and software tools for reputed organizations, such as the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly, Harvard University Law School's Global eParliament Project, the UK Department of Trade and Industry, and more than forty local authorities.

The Objective

The client had created a tool that promotes innovation with an idea management platform. It involves users in the innovation process by giving them easy-to-use tools for sharing new ideas, rating, brainstorming and debating ideas, and facilitating good internal communications.

The idea management application was served as Software as a Service (SaaS) and hosted on a traditional data center.

The client was facing several challenges:

- High cost of hosting dedicated servers regardless of usage of the systems and resources

- Time required to have application provision for each new instance for end user clients
- Time and resources required to manage servers, back up, and IT infrastructure in data center
- End user clients requiring storage of data in their own countries
- End user clients asking for on-demand scalability of resources on servers
- End user clients asking for secured certified data center with required compliances as per their IT security policy

To overcome these challenges, the Elegant MicroWeb team worked with the client and evaluated cloud platforms to enable this application.

The Microsoft Azure platform was chosen after evaluating technical feasibility and commercial benefits.



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The Solution

The project included in-depth redesign and reengineering as well as cloud migration to Microsoft Azure. Many end user clients were using the application, and it was important to ensure a seamless transition of data and application.

The key tasks involved:

Application Migration:

Migration of an application from single tenant to multitenant along with infrastructure migration from the Windows server to the Azure cloud platform.

Multitenant and multilayered application architecture with logical boundaries between presentation layer, business layer, and data layer.

Adding administrator interface to add new clients and manage Azure storage and database on the fly.

Migration script was written for Azure storage and Azure database migration for each client to allow easy transition from the traditional Windows server to the Azure cloud platform.

Two separate environments were created within Azure cloud service for staging and production. Frequent updates and enhancements are applied within staging Azure cloud service and made available for review and quality

testing. After approval, those enhancements are moved to production Azure cloud service.

Multilingual Support:

Developed multilingual support in application where the client can manage labels and messages through a resource file. An easy interface is available for the administrator to manage text and messages for each client.

Single Sign-On (SSO):

Single sign-on with Active Directory Federation Services (ADFS) and SAML is implemented in the application to ensure seamless authentication and navigation across applications, where the idea management tool acts as the service provider, and the client ADFS acts as the identity provider.

Application Security:

Application security standards and best practices were implemented to ensure security at the application, data, and infrastructure level, and it was tested with a combination of manual and automated testing tools, such as Burp and NetSparker.



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Aspects shown below were covered for security standards.

- SQL injection
- Cross-site request forgery (CSRF)
- Cross-site scripting (XSS)
- Session fixation
- Unrestricted file upload
- Weak password reset token
- IP restriction for admin interface
- Concurrent login restriction
- Microsoft terminal server service encryption level
- Clear text protocol
- Deprecated SSL protocol
- RC4 ciphers

A project plan was prepared, shared with the client, and then started. A test platform on Microsoft Azure was created, and the application was beta tested for multitenancy, performance, and functional testing. Script for data migration and application migration was written and tested. Once testing was signed off by both teams, migration to the Microsoft Azure production environment was commenced in close coordination with the client and end user clients' IT teams.

The migration of the product to the cloud-based Azure platform provided the following benefits:

- Provides a multitenant software architecture in a secure, scalable environment that is quick to roll out, easy to manage, and can support multiple apps and data for many clients
- End user clients and apps can be added very quickly
- Complete control on application versioning and releases
- Compliance with all data security and data center security standards
- Choice of location options for applications and data hosting
- Pay-as-you-go costs for any resources used on the cloud platform



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What would you like to change?

Lorem Ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and typesetting industry. Lorem Ipsum has been the industry's standard dummy text ever since the 1500s, when an unknown printer took a galley of type of the printing and typesetting industry. Lorem Ipsum has been the industry's standard dummy text ever since the 1500s. Lorem Ipsum has been the industry's standard dummy text ever since.

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Login: Username: **abcd123**

Password: **stuvwxyz888**

Username or Email

Password

Remember me

[forgot your password?](#)

Conclusion

The migration of the idea management product to the Microsoft Azure platform has provided a secure, scalable, multitenant platform to the client, who is now able to meet stringent IT security and data storage compliance requirements of its end user clients. Time to add new clients and applications is minimal, with no intervention required from the technical team, and the client has been able to significantly reduce costs for hosting and technical management.



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