MIGRATING DATA CENTER TO AZURE —— Case Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ISSA HOLDING is ranked #81 by **Forbes Middle East** amongst the 100 Most Influential Privately Held Companies in the Arab World 2015.

It is a **Beirut-based firm** that partially owns and manages more than 25 subsidiaries offering all types of IC, Data Center, Control Room, and electromechanical solutions.

After assessing Issa Holding's challenges, we suggested a whole new plan starting with migrating the environment from their datacenter to Azure through a solution that consisted of a shift and lift process.

CHALLENGES

- Hardware is old and needs refreshing
- Electricity is preventing the servers from running
- Accessibility from different locations
- Storage is running out of space
- Local backup is performed on disks and for a retention of one week with no offsite
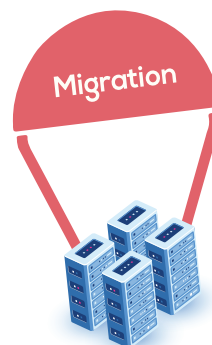
SOLUTION

We worked with the client to migrate the environment from their data center to **Azure.**

The solution consisted of doing a shift and lift migration for the web application servers. As for the SQL we opted to use managed SQL instead of SQL. Once the servers were migrated, we optimized the compute resources to ensure the investment is maximized.

Lastly, we protected the application with an **Azure Web Application Firewall** and deployed a security center to protect the workloads and identify threats.

▶ **Options to migrate your apps to the cloud:**

1. The Lift-and-Shift Approach
2. Lift, Shift, and Optimize
3. Refactoring your app
4. Containers
5. Full rebuild of your app

Migration

Microsoft Azure

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RESULTS & RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Reduced Cost by 60% :

- Reduced the maintenance contract size related to the hardware
- Eliminated backup software renewal and support
- Reduced electricity bill (related to servers, AC,.)
- Reduced the manpower needed for support
- Eliminated the need for a Disaster Recovery site to provide business continuity
- Provided the agility to expand and open new offices. (What was required is an internet connection to connect to their applications on the cloud)

ADVANTAGES OF AZURE OVER THE ON-PREMISE

- Azure reduces Capex
- Azure cloud provides high availability at the level of servers and datacenters where the risk of business interruption in case of power failure and hardware failure is eliminated.
- Azure gives an SLA of 99.95% uptime
- Azure contributes secure backup (which cannot be corrupted due to physical damage or software issue) with a retention of 6 months compared to a 1-week retention on premise
- Azure provides high security by subscribing to its Azure security center
- Azure offers elasticity where resources can be added with just one click instead of following the long purchase cycle

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