Migration of complete IT infrastructure into the Microsoft Azure Cloud
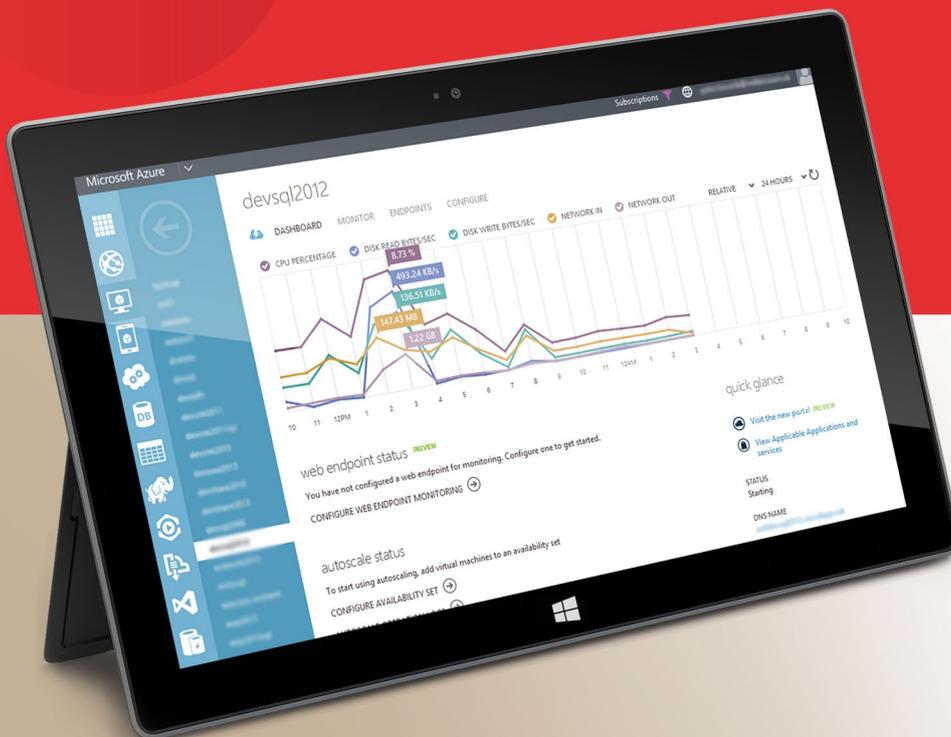
Millennium is the first company in Slovakia, which completely migrated its IT infrastructure and benefits from the flexibility and financial attractiveness of the Microsoft Azure cloud.

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Transition into Microsoft Azure cloud made work of our company more effective, increased security of stored data, and decreased costs for IT infrastructure operation. Because we experienced this process in Slovakia as the first ones, we acquired a substantial competitive advantage.

Martin Ševček

CTO, Millennium

End User

Millennium

Millennium is the first company in Slovakia, which completely migrated its IT infrastructure and benefits from the flexibility and financial attractiveness of the Microsoft Azure cloud.

Background

The company Millennium is **a Slovak IT company with global operations**. It uses widespread IT infrastructure for its work, built on Microsoft company technologies. **The company needed over 50 servers for its operation**, which were partially virtualized. The servers were located in a specially secured server room with multiple source air-conditioning and redundant electrical current source backup. In the course of years the IT needs of the company have significantly increased and n**ew requests for additional IT capacity and new storage locations for data have come**. Simultaneously technical and moral deterioration of the oldest hardware equipment have taken place. The company faced the question of how to continue with IT infrastructure investmtents, especially in relation to planned office move into new space.

Solution

The company was considering three principal options. The first option was traditional – build new server room in new space and invest into renewal and extention of hardware. The second option considered move of all hardware components into the local housing center. This option enabled saving investments for building, furnishing and operation of internal server room. However, it required keeping investments into the entire IT infrastructure in the same manner as before the move. The third possibility was the most innovative one. **Giving up all hardware and moving all our infrastructure into Microsoft Azure cloud**. Following complex consideration of technical, security and financial aspects the Microsoft Azure cloud platform solution became the most beneficial option, owing especially its great flexibility it offers. Thanks to Microsoft Azure platform most of the servers could be set to **operation mode 12/5** (12 hours/5 days in a week) and thus

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lower the need for use and subsequent IT infrastructure financing to one third compared to the original condition.

Millennium is the first company in Slovakia, which fully benefits from effective use of Microsoft Azure cloud technology. At the same time this is an extraordinarily positive news for the clients of the company Millennium, which can benefit from such verified innovative technologies as well.

Project Objectives

1. The main objective of the project was **to secure a stable and safe operation of IT infrastructure**, which would be flexible for the future and financially beneficial at the same time.

2. Millennium implements a wide portfolio of projects for its clients and cannot afford to halt work on client tasks. **Migration had to be implemented without outage of server access** and break in the work of our employees.

3. **Time schedule was critical and** we could not afford delays. The entire IT infrastructure and all data had to be moved to the date of the office move.

4. **Acquiring practical experience with the migration to the Microsoft Azure environment**. Millennium thus acquires a competitive advantage and confirms the reputation of an innovator company and professionally fit and inventive supplier.

Project Progress

The project was implemented **from July to September 2014**. Prior to the dates there was a partial onset of Office 365 technology, when 4 hardware servers, securing electronic mail through Microsoft Exchange server, were substituted by the cloud technology Exchange Online.

In the preparation phase, there was a poll of possibilities and potential solutions conducted. In the realization phase a meeting with professionals from the company Microsoft took place,

who recommended the most suitable manner of migration of servers and IT infrastructure into Microsoft Azure cloud. Initial testing migration took place and after fine tuning details an elaborated migration plan was prepared. The migration itself began in mid-August and lasted three weeks. During the migration process there was no comfort limitation in work of internal project teams, who were working on client tasks. The migration did not limit operation of the company in any way.

Technologies used

The **Microsoft Azure** platform was the base of the entire solution of the project. Because the Millennium company infrastructure was virtualized through the **Microsoft Hyper V** technology, transfer to Azure was continuous and only minimum conversions had to be realized.

What were the benefits achieved?

1. Thanks to the migration into Azure a much higher level of securing the servers and data of the company Millennium was achieved. Millennium now has its IT infrastructure accessible at 99.9 % without any investments into hardware.

2. Server administration of the company Millennium significantly simplified and became more effective. Only servers, which are necessary, are used, and that only in the time, when it is necessary. Developers can install servers according to their need and requirements of their work.

3. Effectiveness and actionability of development teams increased significantly. Preparation of development and testing environments shortened from several hours only to several minutes and that without any help of administrators.

4. Significant benefit of Microsoft Azure lies in the possibility of scaling operation. The solution enables flexible increase in IT server capacities. The original hardware limitations thus no longer exist.

5. The company Millennium achieved a strong competitive advantage in the market. It is the only Slovak company fully functioning on the cloud solution Microsoft Azure. It acquired experience its clients too can profit from in the future.

6. Prices of cloud solution services are going to fall in the future. IT infrastructure operation will be cheaper in medium-horizon, which will positively transfer into economy of the company.

Alternative scenarios	Initial investment	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Equals
Own server room with 50 servers *	15 000,00 €	69 200,00 €	79 200,00 €	84 200,00 €	247 600,00 €
IT infrastructure in Microsoft Azure**	7 500,00 €	51 600,00 €	53 880,00 €	53 592,00 €	166 572,00 €

Savings	Initial investment	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Equals
Savings in EUR	7 500,00 €	17 600,00 €	25 320,00 €	30 608,00 €	**81 028,00 €**
Savings in %	50,00 %	25,43 %	31,97 %	36,35 %	**32,73 %**

* In our calculations we considered a 15 % year-on-year increase of Azure IT capacities, or alternatively a purchase of HW for EUR 10,000 in year 2 and for EUR 15,000 in year 3.

** Exchange did not migrate to Microsoft Azure, but was moved to Exchange Online. External server housing legacy is only planned for the first 2 years.

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Our Awards

12x

Microsoft®
Industry Awards
➔ Winner

🇸🇰 Slovak Republic

3x

Microsoft®
Industry Awards
➔ Finalist

🇸🇰 Slovak Republic

4x

Deloitte.
Technology Fast 500™

Microsoft Partner
2014 Partner of the Year Winner
Slovakia

Microsoft Partner
Gold Customer Relationship Management
Gold Collaboration and Content
Silver Application Development
Silver Application Integration
Silver Devices and Deployment
Silver Cloud Platform

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