

Migration to the Cloud Nets Significant Benefits



Azure Defeats Complexity and Increases Control for Media Service Provider



The Challenge

The customer is a media service provider based in Washington, DC, who had been hosting their own on-premises server infrastructure in a data center.

They came to Connection looking to greatly reduce their on-premises infrastructure footprint—with the goal of discontinuing about 80% of their physical hardware, improving security, and aligning their infrastructure with industry and Microsoft best practices.

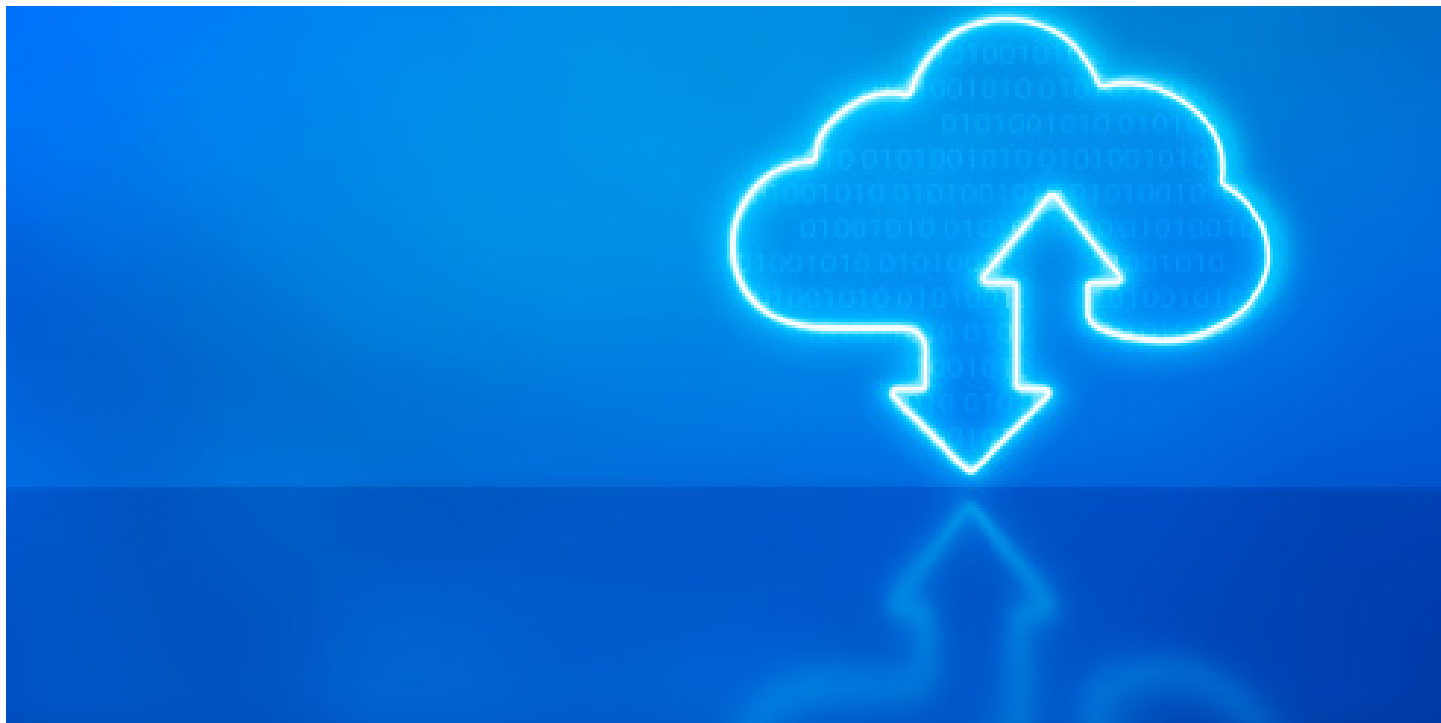
The Solution

The customer wanted to set up a hybrid environment to extend their domain to the cloud and implement Microsoft Office 365. They knew of us as a provider of cloud managed services, and we were able to offer them a free migration to Azure—and begin their successful journey to the cloud.

The initial plan for the migration was to deploy an Azure migrate appliance on the customer's hosted infrastructure and obtain a readiness report, but certain servers were overloaded and failed to respond. To make up for this snag in the plan, Connection and the customer decided to schedule downtime during a holiday and

export the VMDKs in order to successfully deploy the migrate appliance and run several test migration scenarios.

Connection provided a CSP Azure subscription, configured landing zones referencing Microsoft's Cloud Adoption Framework, and finally deployed an Azure migrate virtual appliance to analyze the on-premises servers. We compiled scripts to deploy a hub-and-spoke VNET with address spaces, subnets, peerings, and a virtual network gateway devices with an IP sec site-to-site VPN tunnel to provide connectivity to on-premises resources. The team then scripted the deployment of two domain controllers and added the domain controllers to the existing Active Directory forest.



After a series of successful tests, the migration began. The Connection team disabled the Azure VMs' public IPs and RDP connections to the servers and deployed Azure Bastion Host to allow for server administration. Once the migration was complete, Azure Defender was enabled across their new Azure instance to provide continuous security analysis of their cloud environment, and traffic was rerouted from on-premises servers to the cloud.

The Benefits of the Solution

With Microsoft Azure, the customer has access to more resources and can seamlessly scale up or back down to accommodate changes in workloads. Not only that, but they only need to pay for what they use, which can save them up to 30% on cloud costs per year. And in addition to the customer's own on-premises security, Azure provides network-level isolation. The customer can now easily follow security best practices and make efficient use of segregated resources without having to depend on a third party's limited hardware and personnel.

The Result

With the help of our experts, the customer gained resources, security, and infrastructure control, while eliminating complexity. They aligned their infrastructure with industry and Microsoft best practices, enhanced their own security, and gained peace of mind.

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