servent

Modern Enterprise Acceleration

Business Situation

LevelOne Creative wanted to explore Azure capabilities to allow them to host their web and application services on Azure.

Solution

LevelOne engaged with Servent to provide consultancy and delivery for building a multi-tenant hosting solution on the Azure Cloud platform. This resulted in Servent using the Azure App Service and Azure SQL to deploy a hosting solution which would present LevelOne with a platform which can help simplify how they work as well as providing a platform for future growth.

Benefits

- The solution deployed offered LevelOne integration of the App Service into their existing frameworks, languages and tooling to accelerate their development and deployment activities. This allowed them to rapidly build, deploy and manage their web and mobile and apps, all using a single back-end (in Azure).
- Fully managed platform and app hosting. Azure offered LevelOne a unified development and management experience which resulted in less administrative effort and lower overheads.
- Enterprise-grade apps. The enterprise-grade global data centre network, security and compliance level of the Azure platform means that LevelOne can build and host their web solution and apps with confidence. Azure also allowed LevelOne to create apps and automate business processes faster with a wealth of pre-built apps, API services and recipes in the Azure Marketplace.

Levelone Creative
innovative web development

"As our business grows, and the number of customers increases this places an overhead in the hosting requirements for our customers. We wanted to explore the Azure platform to provide less management overhead and more autonomy. Engaging Servent was the best decision, as their wealth of experience on Azure, allowed us to exploit the technologies available."

Kris Keegan, LevelOne Creative

Background

LevelOne Creative are a web design and development organisation with an expansive portfolio of customers across multiple industry sectors throughout UK.

There were four key Cloud capabilities that LevelOne wanted to explore, and for Servent to deliver, as part of this Azure App Service and Azure SQL engagement:

- **Isolation.** This was the most important LevelOne requirement in this multi-tenant hosting setup. LevelOne wanted to ensure that individual tenant could not have access to data belonging to other tenants.
- **Availability**. LevelOne demanded high-availability and it was vital that the Azure platform was capable of being able to meet these demands and expectations.
- **Scalability.** For LevelOne a fundamental requirement was that scale could be easily ramped up or down on demand. It was vital for LevelOne that autoscaling be used to reduce the administrative overheads as determined by the service usage in peak usage periods.
- **Costs.** A key consideration for any business is to have an understanding and control on cost. LevelOne wanted to be able provide predictable costs to their customers in terms of hosting costs and Azure helps them make that a reality.

Azure App Service. The App Service is a platform-as-a-service (PaaS) offering of Azure. LevelOne create web and mobile applications, and Azure provides them with the underlying infrastructure to help run their business.

Multiple languages and frameworks. The Azure App Service has support for all common languages and frameworks.

DevOps optimization. LevelOne setup continuous integration and deployment with Visual Studio Team Services and GitHub to promotes updates through test and staging environments.

Global scale with high availability. Scale up or out manually or automatically. LevelOne can now host web services and apps anywhere in Azure, with the App Service SLA promising high availability.

Security and compliance. A key requirement from LevelOne was security. The App Service is ISO, SOC, and PCI compliant.

Azure Marketplace Offerings. LevelOne have been able to use Marketplace offerings to easily install popular open-source software such as WordPress and Joomla.

Database as a service. There were a number of reasons why LevelOne chose to work with **Azure SQL**.

Ease of management and no physical administration. LevelOne became tired of dealing with Microsoft SQL Server and quite simply wanted to remove this pain point and were happy for it to be someone else's job – in this instance, Azure.

High availability. The solution implemented offered HA out of the box. LevelOne appreciated the value of having any databases built automatically inheriting high-availability from the Azure SQL platform.

Scalable service plans. LevelOne have customers with varying database requirements. With Azure SQL LevelOne are now able to deliver cloud-hosted database solutions for all of their customers, big or small.

Database Elasticity. LevelOne now have the ability to scale out databases as and when necessary, and on demand. Applications written for multiple databases can be scaled out with Azure by adding instances as needed.

"As part of the engagement, Servent provided much focused knowledge transfer at every stage of the project. This was particularly useful, as we had not looked at Azure before. This was also supplemented by Azure roadmap information which is key to make certain business decisions based on the Azure platform."

Ian Jones,

LevelOne Creative

The Servent solution utilised:

- Azure App Service
- Web Apps
- Mobile Apps
- Logic Apps
- App Service Plans
- Application Insights
- Azure SQL
- Elastic Pools
- Multi-tenant architecture
- Visual Studio Team Services
- Azure Marketplace

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