Business Situation

CollectivWorks provide new online media platforms. These platforms return ownership of data and content back to the communities who use them. CollectivWorks needed a cloud solution that would help transform how they worked – Microsoft Azure, delivered by Servent, ticked every box.

Solution

CollectivWorks approached Servent to provide and deliver an Azure platform for them to be able to develop and host their new media platforms.

The engagement delivered a number of new benefits for CollectivWorks which ranged from migration from their previous host to Azure, as well as leveraging many of the core Azure capabilities to allow them to build and test the new and existing platforms which are the core of their business.

Benefits

- Faster route to market for CollectivWorks products and platforms.
- Time to build, test and deploy shortened.
- Ability to automatically scale resources to cater for periods of peak demand.
- Improved security posture using third party appliances to protect the Azure services.
- Deployment of additional resources much easier using the automation and microservice capabilities.
- Using Azure provides CollectivWorks with the security and service availability which is key to the platforms which their business depends upon.

"Being a technology company often you wonder if the Microsoft Partner you have chosen are just one page ahead in the manual. Happy to say that Servent quickly showed that they are a full book ahead. Their deep expertise in Azure gained over 5 years was evident."

Stewart Fraser, CTO, CollectivWorks

Background

CollectivWorks is a Glasgow based company that specialises in building digital communities and community engagement platforms. They build and deliver digital platforms across a number of areas:

- Social media via their KILTR platform.
- Smart use of Wi-Fi. Participating venues become a source of new users and channels for targeted local content to unlock local engagement and to present relevant content.
- CityVerve is a Smart City Demonstrator project. CollectivWorks technology for CityVerve provides community members with a social platform they can trust, which gives control back to the people that make up its membership.

CollectivWorks provides the social technology for communities to make their impact and disrupt accepted norms. By using platforms such as KILTR, CollectivWorks look for individuals, groups and organisations who want to affect change, take back ownership of their data, and get closer to their community both on and offline. Microsoft Azure is the cloud platform that helped CollectivWorks make this a reality.

CollectivWorks engaged with Servent to help realise the benefits of Microsoft Azure. Servent provided expertise to build the core Azure Cloud platform infrastructure, as well as assistance with the technical aspects of what the Azure cloud could do to host their new and existing media platforms.

Azure Foundation Infrastructure

Core Azure platform. Azure presented CollectivWorks with a number of key benefits. It allows them to build new digital platforms quickly and easily.

A key aim for CollectivWorks was to develop and iterate faster and easier using the integrated tools, APIs and analytics natively available in the Azure cloud platform.

Manage and monitor deployed platforms proactively. By using Application Insights and the Operations Management Suite this allows CollectivWorks to gain insights that helps allow them to quickly monitor, iterate, and manage the platforms deployed.

Deliver and deploy platforms seamlessly. Build platforms faster using continuous development and DevOps, leveraging Azure Service Fabric for microservices.

Hybrid Cloud Storage. StorSimple allowed CollectivWorks to consolidate storage infrastructure, automate data management across the enterprise, accelerate disaster recovery, and improve compliance.

Using StorSimple provided CollectivWorks with an enterprise hybrid cloud storage solution which offers primary storage, backup, archive, data protection and location-independent disaster recovery.

Detect and mitigate threats. Using Azure enabled CollectivWorks to be presented with a central view of all deployed Azure resources. Azure Security Center helps CollectivWorks prevent, detect and respond to threats with increased visibility and control over the security of deployed Azure resources.

Web Application Firewall. Whilst Azure has a native WAF offering it is widely accepted that in the enterprise landscape more advanced and mature solutions are typically necessary. The WAFs chosen for CollectivWorks provide superior protection against data loss, application-layer DDoS, and known and previously unknown zero-day application-layer attacks. As new threats emerge, the WAF dynamically acquires new capabilities to block them. These definitions are automatically updated and will '*virtually patch*' applications.

The Servent solution utilised:

- Azure Cloud Platform
- Application Insights
- Key Vault
- Log Analytics
- Azure Monitor
- Operations Management Suite
- Service Fabric
- Azure SQL
- Azure Storage
- StorSimple
- 3rd Party WAF (Barracuda) via Azure Marketplace

Third Party Offerings:

- Web Application Firewall

Barracuda

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