Golden Guide
Data Center Migration

Customer: Greek Yellow Pages S.A.
Country: Greece
Industry: Directory
Organization Size: Medium (200+ employees)
Products & Services: Microsoft Azure, SQL Server
Date: September 2020 – November 2020

Customer Profile

Greek Yellow Pages S.A is the oldest Greek professional directory provider, which has been operating in the market since 1971, when the first printed professional catalogue was published.
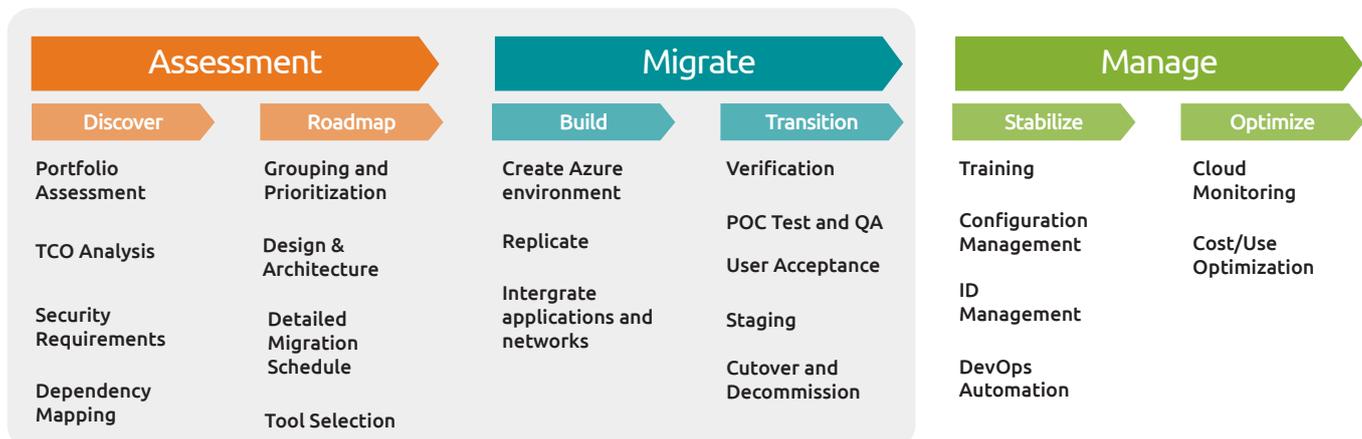
Project Aims

According to the Development Strategy of Greek Yellow Pages, a new IT infrastructure had to be put in place with the aim to comply with the principles of scalability, rapid changes, transparency and manageability, adequate cost of ownership, business continuity, and cybersecurity.

- Gradual migration of the existing on-premises infrastructure (servers, virtual machines, services) to Microsoft Azure cloud utilizing the 'Lift & Shift' and Refactor approach.
- Increase of the utilization of Microsoft Azure cloud services across Greek Yellow Pages.
- Reduction of the IT infrastructure's TCO by lowering CAPEX and OPEX expenditures on IT infrastructure support in a long-term perspective.
- Ensure smooth migration of all servers and services of the company without halting production or business processes.

Solution

Uni Systems followed its proved Azure Migration methodology built on the basis of Microsoft Cloud Adoption Framework and well-architected framework for Azure:

Migration Framework

Assessment		Migrate		Manage	
Discover	**Roadmap**	**Build**	**Transition**	**Stabilize**	**Optimize**
Portfolio Assessment	Grouping and Prioritization	Create Azure environment	Verification	Training	Cloud Monitoring
TCO Analysis	Design & Architecture	Replicate	POC Test and QA	Configuration Management	Cost/Use Optimization
Security Requirements	Detailed Migration Schedule	Intergrate applications and networks	User Acceptance	ID Management	
Dependency Mapping	Tool Selection		Staging	DevOps Automation	
			Cutover and Decommission		

The cloud migration project comprised of several stages that were carried out according to a detailed plan:

IaaS & PaaS architecture design & development

Uni Systems and Greek Yellow Pages team conducted a series of architectural sessions, resulting in a detailed strategy of data center migration. The teams designed and agreed upon Cloud Architecture (IaaS and PaaS), technical solution stack and specifications, they scheduled the migration plan, and designed a testing approach.

Stabilization of the solutions within the IaaS infrastructure

During this stage, the project team configured Microsoft Azure infrastructure, including Identity Management, Availability, and Disaster Recovery, Backup and Monitoring Systems, Migration mechanisms, while created custom scripts to automate the Migration. After configuring all required settings, the project team conducted a test migration of selected servers and tested them according to the previously designed quality assurance approach.

Migration execution

Due to the complexity of the project, the Project Team decided to split the entire migration process into stages. Each stage included the Migration of a group of servers, post-migration testing, setup, backup, and monitoring.
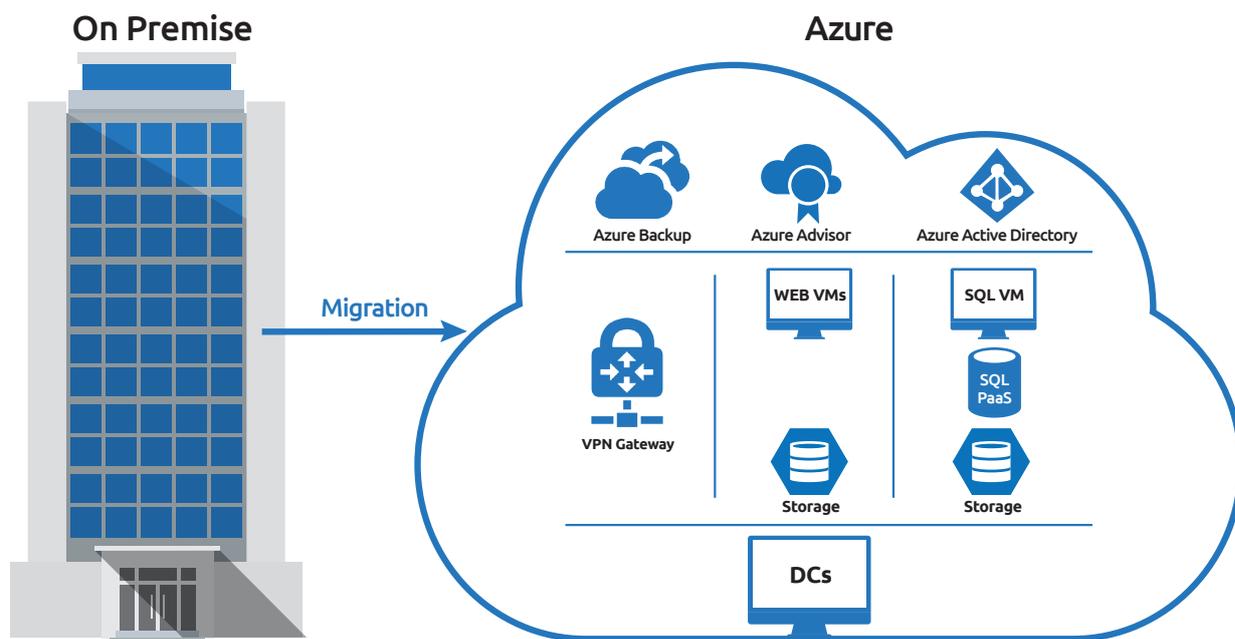
Post Migration Testing of migrated services

The Project Team conducted post-migration testing of services, both functional and performance testing, to confirm that the solutions deployed in Microsoft Azure operated correctly and met the functional requirements according to designed architecture.

Project outcome:

Azure landing zone created and a Secure Gateway solution implemented between Azure and on-premises data center.

- AD Domain controllers created in Azure.
- Windows Server VMs rehosted to Azure availability zones.
- SQL Server VMs rehosted to Azure
- SQL Server refactored to PaaS Azure SQL

On Premise

Azure

Migration

Azure Backup · **Azure Advisor** · **Azure Active Directory**

VPN Gateway

WEB VMs

SQL VM

SQL PaaS

Storage

Storage

DCs

Benefits

Migration to Microsoft Azure significantly improved reliability, security, and productivity of Greek Yellow Pages systems, as well as reduced TCO of the IT infrastructure.

- Azure will serve as a digital cloud platform for the development and implementation of innovative IT services as per Greek Yellow Pages' digital transformation strategy.

- Reduced operational support costs. Greek Yellow Pages is now more flexible in terms of building virtual servers, being able to scale, and add capacity to the running instances.

- Azure also helped to cut down the costs of upgrading obsolete equipment.

- Azure ensures Greek Yellow Pages' Data Security and Privacy in terms of risks related to data losses or corruption thanks to integrated replication/ backup/ clustering solutions and 99.95% availability of IT services with minimized unplanned downtimes.

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