Ente Nazionale di Assistenza pensionistica

Datacenter Migration Assistant

> Ente Nazionale di Assistenza pensionistica
> Social institution

Italy

Optimization (save money)	Increase in the reliability and availability of company data, reduction in management costs.
Partner	Proge-Software S.r.l.
Scenario	L'Ente Nazionale di Assistenza pensionistica is a private law entity that pursues purposes of public interest by managing forms of mandatory supplementary pensions. The Foundation also deals with assistance, training and professional qualification of members.
Business need	Given the quantity and particular sensitivity of the data processed, as well as the heterogeneity of the information systems managed, the management considered it appropriate to invest in cloud technologies, to ensure maximum efficiency and availability, while transforming capitalization costs (CapEX) into costs operational (OpEX).
Product	Azure IaaS, Azure Virtual Networks, ExpressRoute, Azure File Sync, Azure Site Recovery, SQL Server AlwaysOn, Oracle DataGuard, Azure Backup.

SUMMARY

Creation of an environment on the Azure cloud, connected via ExpressRoute, including Active Directory services, replicas of primary databases (SQL, Oracle), documents and applications. Synchronization, with different techniques, of the various systems hosted on-premise. The main phases of the project: Assessment, solution design, implementation of the cloud environment, activation of data replication and synchronization services, initial and periodic checks, training for system administrators, technical advisory and ongoing support.

BACKGROUND

The virtualization infrastructure is hosted on a Hyper-V 2012 R2 cluster capable of supporting the vast majority of workloads of interest, with the exception of the Oracle cluster, hosted on dedicated appliances. Among the workloads, in addition to a vast park of internal applications, there are also SAP and SharePoint systems.

THE CHALLENGE

The customer had to ensure a Disaster Recovery system for the entire infrastructure capable of allowing the continuity of business systems and, at the same time, lay the foundations for a subsequent migration to the cloud. The project has also provided tools capable of countering the rapid obsolescence of available hardware, in the face of increasingly challenging application requirements.

APPROACH

To achieve the agreed objectives we have applied our consolidated methodology, the main steps are:
• Identify objectives, requirements and constraints (Vision)
• Analyze the starting point, configurations and correlations of existing systems (Assessment)
• Build the solution that best suits the Customer's needs, implement it and test it together with the technology and business representatives to collect feedback and adopt the necessary additions and corrections (Build)
• Put the solution into operation and provide the necessary post-start support.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The customer turned to Proge-Software to implement the new solution quickly and efficiently, accompanying the company in this transition phase towards a new way of working, providing both technological and training support for administrators.

OBSTACLES AND PROBLEMS

Correctly analyze and determine the correlations of a constantly evolving application park.
Guarantee the full functionality of primary systems at all times, avoiding downtime as much as possible.
Carry out probative tests of the solution, avoiding any interference with normal operation.

ACTUAL RESULTS

L'Ente Nazionale di Assistenza pensionistica turned to Proge-Software to ensure that the requirements expressed could be met without interfering with the normal operation of critical systems, guaranteed 24x7, especially in times of periodic deadlines. The solution presented by Proge-Software made it possible to achieve the desired results, also providing additional advisory and training services.

BENEFITS AND ADVANTAGES

L'Ente Nazionale di Assistenza pensionistica has obtained several benefits and advantages from the project:
• Implementation of a DR system in the cloud, ready for a subsequent migration phase.
• Use of Azure services to maximize response times to application requests.
• Reduction of infrastructure management costs.
• Greater flexibility in systems management.
DMA starting from the implementation of disaster recovery systems allows the customer to appreciate the levels of security, robustness and scalability of the Azure platform, making them more confident in proceeding with the migration of the entire datacenter.

LEARNING AND KEY POINTS

Management of critical systems, minimizing and / or completely eliminating downtime related to implementation and testing of solutions.
Support of innovative services, often not yet released in General Availability.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Thanks to the satisfactory results obtained, possible extensions to additional workloads not foreseen in the original project are being evaluated, as well as the analysis of a Unified Communications platform capable of overcoming any failure of the primary DataCenter.