



avanade



CASE STUDY

MMG modernizes business apps and boosts overall SAP performance

Avanade delivers seamless Azure cloud migration to increase efficiency,
lower costs and improve user experience

Situation

Paving the path to modern business applications

After many years of operating its enterprise applications from an outsourced, on-premises data center, MMG was finding the increasing complexity of its data center infrastructure difficult and expensive to manage. The rapidly approaching end-of-life of the current platform was also prominent on the radar. As explained by Todd Scholes, the company's SAP platform architect, MMG saw Microsoft Azure as a powerful way to modernize IT operations and reduce hardware and operational costs.

"Our business is very dynamic at the moment, and we need to be able to react to changes and requirements with the right technology platform. We saw Azure as a way to give us that flexibility, meet demand and support the business," said Scholes.

These modern IT aspirations became an urgent priority when the infrastructure supporting its SAP business applications was nearing "end of life," said Scholes. With the clock ticking, MMG had to find a new home for its critical SAP applications.

At the same time, MMG saw this as an opportunity to prove the path to Azure, laying the groundwork for bringing the company's large fleet of other business apps to the cloud, unlocking the efficiencies and flexibility that come with it.

"If we could move SAP onto Azure, it would pave the way to allow us to move our other systems after that," he said.

Solution

Leveraging expertise for a smooth cloud journey

MMG began by teaming up with Acclimation – a local SAP delivery partner. From there, it needed an experienced Azure migration expert to ensure a smooth and successful transition to the cloud.

After meeting with Avanade's CEO, the client concluded that Avanade complemented Acclimation's SAP expertise with the perfect mix of enterprise-scale Microsoft experience and personalized, customer-focused service.

"The relationship Avanade has with Microsoft was a big factor," Scholes said. "But so was your prior experience in moving SAP onto Azure and the caliber of your technical experts."

Once engaged, Avanade's Azure architects and the local SAP partner went to work. Avanade designed, delivered and managed the Azure infrastructure for the multi-staged migration of SAP, while Acclimation built the migration plan. Following a series of "dress rehearsals," we performed OS/DB migrations of the current SAP landscape while moving into Azure and also migrated the SAP ECC system onto SAP's in-memory database, HANA.

Results

A clear path to cloud-first business applications

Our measured, staged approach included sandboxing, extensive QA testing and end-user feedback at every stage of the project ensured errors were caught early and weeded out before production. And while this intensive process caused “some pain upfront,” it ultimately led to “big payoffs in the end,” according to Scholes.

“At the end of the day, to make such a massive shift without impacting the business or operations this was seen to be an overwhelming success,” said Scholes, citing the cutover weekend where the migration was performed without incident, and systems delivered back to the business ahead of schedule.

From an end-user perspective, the new environment is also paying off. Scholes said the combination of the Azure and HANA migration has business users reporting that SAP runs “noticeably quicker.” With common transactions completing 25% to 30% faster and many data extracts that feed BW reports taking just minutes instead of hours, the solution is significantly speeding up the work of end users.

Today, MMG is planning to bring its other enterprise applications to the Azure cloud, something Scholes said is possible due to the confidence gained through the work done with Avanade and Acclimation.

“I was very impressed with the expertise and caliber of Avanade’s people,” he says. “They knew the product, they knew Azure, they knew the nuances and considerations required, and guided us through both design and implementation.”

About Avanade

Avanade is the leading provider of innovative digital and cloud services, business solutions and design-led experiences on the Microsoft ecosystem. Our professionals bring bold, fresh thinking combined with technology, business and industry expertise to help make a human impact on our clients, their customers and their employees. We are the power behind the Accenture Microsoft Business Group, helping companies to engage customers, empower employees, optimize operations and transform products, leveraging the Microsoft platform. Avanade has 36,000 professionals in 24 countries, bringing clients our best thinking through a collaborative culture that honors diversity and reflects the communities in which we operate. Majority owned by Accenture, Avanade was founded in 2000 by Accenture LLP and Microsoft Corporation. Learn more at www.avanade.com

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