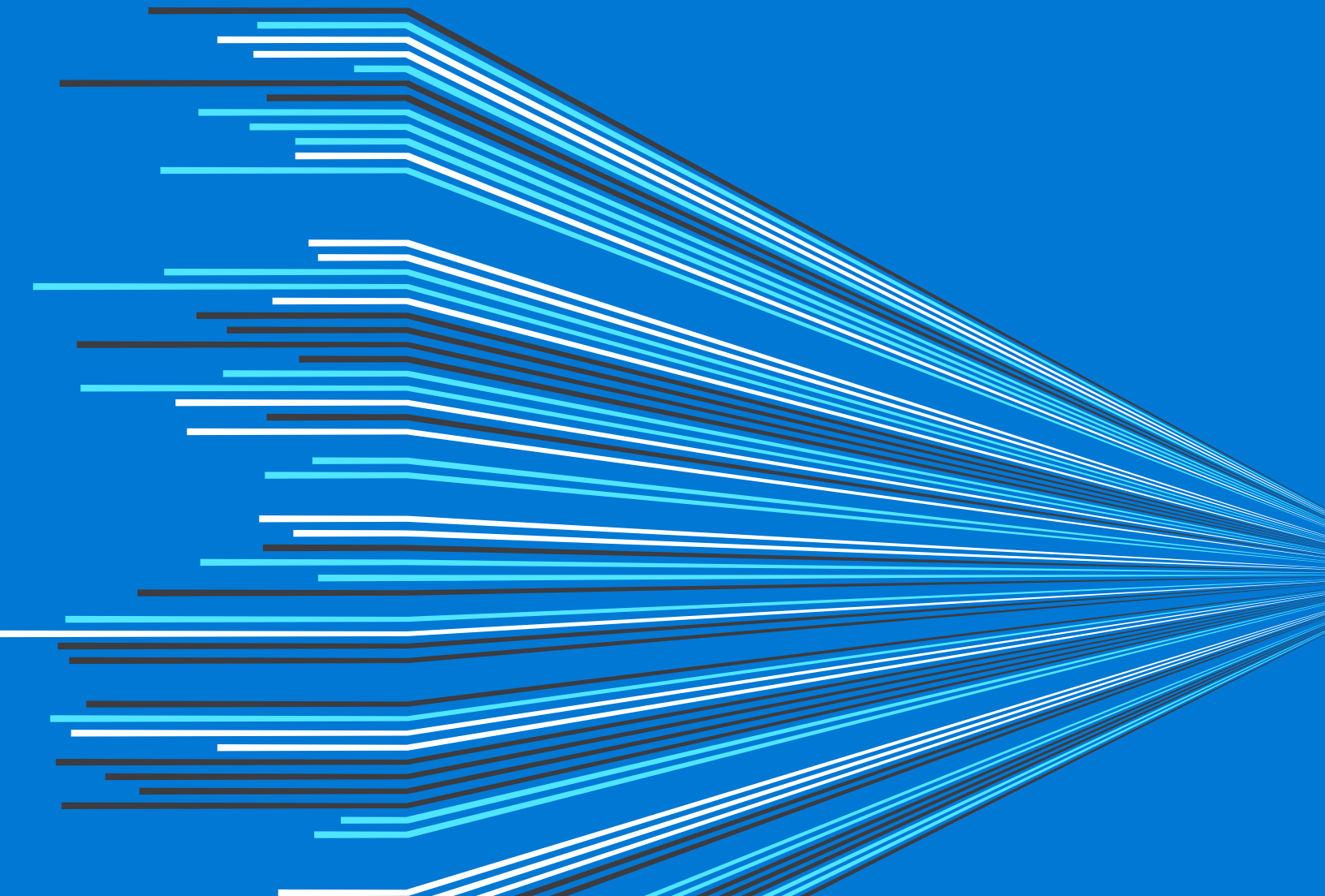


Azure e-book series



Cloud lessons learned

Four companies that migrated
Windows Server



Cloud lessons learned

Four companies that migrated Windows Server

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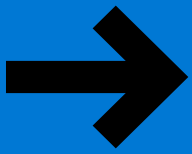
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Have you planned your journey?

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Who should read this e-book?

This e-book is for CIOs, CTOs, Senior IT Managers, and IT directors whose companies are currently using Windows Server 2008 (including Windows Server 2008 R2), for which extended support will expire on January 14, 2020. It illustrates the main benefits of moving to Azure Virtual Machines, particularly regarding security, savings, support, and the development experience. This e-book provides understanding and insight into the strategic and tactical aspects of such a move, as well as the business benefits (such as TCO/ROI), scope, and requirements to help you weigh your options.

01.

The journey continues in the cloud

As Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2 end of support approaches in January 2020, you're probably considering how the cloud fits into your plans—and how it can help you avoid potential compliance risks and security hazards. Fortunately, you're not alone.

Many others are improving security, efficiency, and performance while driving innovation and collaboration by moving on-premises workloads to the cloud.

The four companies profiled in this e-book show how cloud modernization can help you address the cost, skillset, security, and compliance issues central to your business.

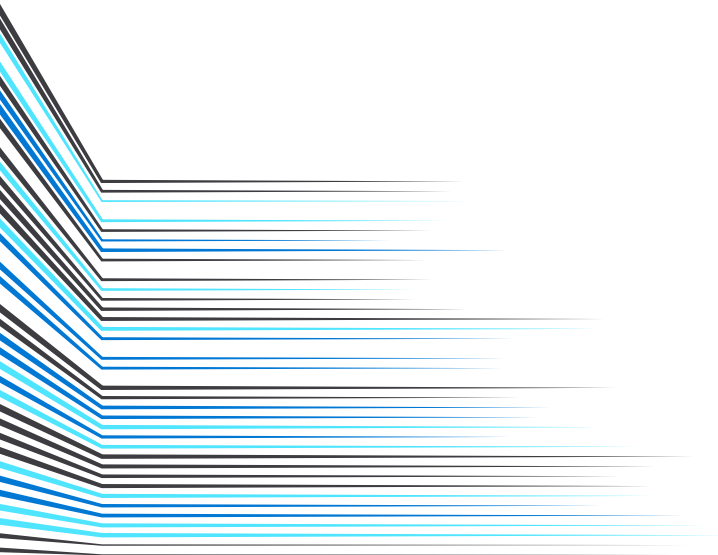


02.

Allscripts migrates easily to familiar Microsoft technologies

In 2017, Allscripts acquired two companies with dozens of business-critical assets, plus more than 1,000 virtual machines running on a mix of older versions of Windows Server, SQL Server, and Linux.

Allscripts rehosted the applications to Azure in three weeks. It chose Azure because of its positive development experiences, Azure's global datacenter footprint, and its strong security posture.



Allscripts:

- Used [Azure Site Recovery](#) to replicate on-premises virtual machines for one of the acquired companies to Azure, and then fail over the virtual machines from the primary site to the Azure datacenter.
- Moved systems that couldn't be migrated to Azure to an Allscripts datacenter instead, then established a VPN between the two.
- Consolidated the second acquisition—which had 16 Azure subscriptions—to its own, pre-existing enrollment agreement.

The second company also had 600 on-premises virtual machines, most running older versions of Windows Server and SQL Server. For those, Allscripts took advantage of the [Azure Hybrid Benefit](#) and, using [Azure SQL Database Managed Instance](#), rehosted them to the cloud with only minimal changes. Taking this approach also added built-in PaaS capabilities such as automatic patching, backup, and high availability.



About Allscripts

- Leading healthcare software manufacturer.
- Hospitals, health systems, community practices, and pharmaceutical companies use its software to improve patient care, build open, connected communities of health, and run clinical trials.



Benefits:

- **Speed:** All assets were migrated and generating value within three weeks.
- **Security:** With the move to Azure, Allscripts gained a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Business Associate Agreement.
- **Open-source compatibility:** Allscripts migrated 500 development virtual machines running critical applications in Ubuntu, CoreOS, MySQL, and Docker without glitches.
- **Savings:** With the [Azure Hybrid Benefit](#), Allscripts reused existing on-premises Windows Server and SQL Server licenses in Azure.



By moving our acquired applications to Azure, we were able to get them up, running, and adding value to the business in three weeks versus the three months needed to requisition servers and storage.

Peter Tomlinson

Director of IS, Technology Operations

Allscripts

03.

GEA centralizes control of its IT estate

GEA's IT infrastructure had nearly 300 sites worldwide, including 120 SAP instances, 3,000 servers, more than 100 enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems, and thousands of applications. To centralize control, GEA migrated almost all of its server infrastructure, including SAP, to [Microsoft Azure](#)—backed up with services managed by its global IT outsourcing provider.

GEA designed its cloud architecture within just three months, but deliberately avoided planning individual workloads in advance. This approach enabled GEA to optimize its portfolio through the migration, and now the company incorporates the latest Azure capabilities as they become available. GEA completed migration of 120 SAP systems and about 800 server workloads (including all ERP systems) to Azure within eight months, with no major negative business impact. Since early 2018, GEA has been operating its most complex systems from the central datacenters within the cloud. Now, it's tackling international segmentation.



About GEA

The GEA Group is one of the largest system providers for the food processing industry, operating in more than 60 countries.



Benefits:

- **Oversight:** Gained full control of IT infrastructure worldwide.
- **Agility:** Flexible yet standardized IT infrastructure can support rapid changes.
- **Modernization:** IT can develop application architectures for new business models as a partner to the business, and can test and implement industry 4.0 applications and artificial intelligence.
- **Savings:** Azure Hybrid Benefit enables GEA to extend Windows Server licenses to Azure, lowering costs.
- **Efficiency:** Usage-based invoicing models mean GEA pays only for the services it actually uses.



We believe Microsoft Azure is the leading cloud platform for consistent hybrid cloud environments and also supports extensive SAP HANA databases.

Stefan Heimann

Chief Information Officer

GEA Group

04.

Jellyfish gets flexible access to more compute power


As a top digital studio, Jellyfish has a voracious, but intermittent, need for compute power. As the motion picture industry shifts to compute-intensive high definition, the rendering process is slowing down, and with the shift to ultra-high definition this trend is only getting worse. For Jellyfish, slow rendering times in on-premises servers were driving costs up and productivity down.

Jellyfish needed a way to spin up temporary rendering resources, but until recently public cloud providers didn't offer high-performance computing (HPC) virtual machines. The company turned to [Azure Virtual Machines](#) for HPC workloads because of the ability to mix and match Windows and open source, savings on licensing costs (which add up with its 1,000+ virtual machines), and the superior support provided by the Azure team.



In a demo, Jellyfish provisioned 6,000 Azure cores in about 30 minutes and paired them with its 3,000 on-premises cores to create a working rendering arsenal of 9,000 cores. Now, when Jellyfish has a huge rendering job, it can grab hundreds, or even thousands, of compute cores, use them as long as needed, and then release them.

Now the company is confident it has the technical resources to go after any size job, and the ability to access virtually unlimited amounts of rendering cores has positioned them for the continued move to ultra-HD.



6,000
Azure cores in
about 30 minutes



About Jellyfish

London-based Jellyfish is one of the top visual-effects and animation studios in the world, and its 170 employees have won a string of awards for their work.



Benefits:

- **Productivity:** Cut rendering wait times by 50 percent, which means less idle time for artists.
- **Reduced spending volatility:** Eliminated capital expenditure spikes.
- **Savings:** Reduced costs for real estate, power, cooling, and IT management of last-minute server purchases.
- **Flexibility:** Can now create virtual workstations and deploy them in hours to any artist, anywhere in the world.
- **Security:** Helps protect intellectual property by storing files in the cloud with multiple layers of Azure security.



The beauty of Azure GPUs is that we get a top-end GPU at our disposal, paid for by the minute, hour, or week.

Jeremy Smith

Chief Technology Officer

Jellyfish Pictures

05.

MedPoint innovates and adapts more quickly

MedPoint Digital solutions help thousands of medical researchers to virtually share findings, regulatory requirements documents, and schedules; hold secure virtual meetings; and support virtual trials with patients participating remotely.

The company wanted to innovate more rapidly and adapt more easily to changing customer and regulatory requirements, so it moved its development and hosting environment to Microsoft Azure.



Azure security and compliance standards were critical to the company's decision to migrate its solution portfolio to Azure infrastructure as a service (IaaS)—as well as Azure's robust PaaS offerings. The smooth transition to the new environment was also a plus. With a redesigned and improved architecture, MedPoint Digital was able to migrate its entire server infrastructure and software to Azure in one weekend.

MedPoint Digital now runs all of its applications using [Azure Virtual Machines](#) with **Microsoft SQL Server 2016** database software, which it upgraded from Microsoft SQL Server 2012 as part of its IaaS migration. MedPoint Digital also uses **Azure Virtual Machines** to run **Windows Server 2012 R2**.



About MedPoint Digital

Founded in 1990, MedPoint Digital provides web-based communications and collaboration software that enables biopharmaceutical companies to conduct clinical trials virtually and affordably.



Benefits:

By moving to Azure, MedPoint Digital has been able to realize:

- **Savings:** Reduced IT management and licensing costs.
- **Innovation:** Developed a new product that helps clinical researchers go paperless.
- **Compliance:** Can more easily meet in-country data residency requirements.



Not only is Azure certified to meet global security regulations for health data, but products such as [Azure Security Center](#) help us monitor our cloud environment with a heightened awareness of threats and possible response to them.

Bill Cooiny

Founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer
MedPoint Digital

06.

Have you planned your journey?

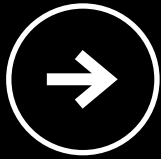
If you have critical infrastructure built on Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2 and you haven't started planning your migration to the cloud, then now's the time, as extended support will expire on January 14, 2020. These products reach end of support in January 2020, giving you limited time to decide on next steps to achieve the certainty, agility, and ability to innovate that comes with a move to the cloud.



Don't forget

You'll get three more years of free security updates at no extra cost when you migrate to Azure Virtual Machines.

Need to stay on-premises? You can purchase extended security updates.



Get started

[Start planning your cloud journey now](#)

[Learn about migrating Windows Server workloads to Azure](#)

