

Dairy Australia ditch the Data Centre

for Azure in major migration with Logicalis

Dairy Australia are a not-for-profit (NFP), industry body that aim to assist Australian farmers in building a sustainable and profitable Dairy industry. The organisation is based out of Melbourne in Australia and counts 180 strong staff in its capacity.

Challenge

Dairy Australia wanted to ensure they were set up for a sustainable future and to continue to serve the dairy farmers of Australia. To achieve this, they decided to modernise the datacentre and take the organisation into the future with a secure, scalable and resilient IT environment. The incumbent solution was not performing and evolving in line with Dairy Australia's needs so Dairy went to market to look at options.

A number of technology providers across the region put forward a tender response to serve Dairy Australia's evolving needs, but Logicalis were the only Systems Integrator (SI) who were visionary enough to propose a migration from the traditional data centre to public Cloud (Azure).

Prior to the datacentre migration, Logicalis had formed a strong partnership with Dairy Australia, and had previously deployed a number of successful projects to modernise and transform the organisation. These solutions included: Office 365, Exchange Online, Configuration Manager, Intune and Windows 10 to name a few.

All tender responses were carefully considered, but it was Logicalis' unique Azure proposition and robust relationship with Dairy, that meant Logicalis were awarded as partner of choice to deliver the Cloud platform.

Solution

The Azure data centre migration project kicked off in September 2019 and concluded in January 2020. Logicalis deployed a fully-fledged, Managed Service environment for Dairy, built on Azure. Technologies deployed included:

- Azure Active Directory
- Virtual Machine – IaaS
- SQL Databases
- Azure Backup and Recovery services
- Azure Firewall
- Express Route circuits
- Application Gateways
- Insight and Analytics
- Content Delivery Network
- Redis Cache
- Security Centre
- Azure Monitor
- Service Bus
- Storage
- Virtual Network
- Key Vault
- Load Balancers
- Network Watcher

In order to deploy the Azure datacentre migration project, Logicalis referenced their tried and trusted Production Ready Cloud Platform (PRCP). The PRCP framework is a repeatable methodology and process and allows Logicalis to deliver Azure services into any industry vertical. The PRCP helps to understand customer needs (networking, security, design architecture and ongoing management). From here, Logicalis work closely with the customer through design workshops, detailed design framework and finally into implementation and handover.

Dairy Australia no longer have any on-premise workloads. The majority of virtual machines are in Azure, with a small portion hosted by Logicalis in their private cloud. All email has now been moved to the Office 365 Cloud.

The result so far

Dairy Australia's Azure migration project has allowed the organisation to be agile, fast and shift their IT environment to a futuristic way of operating. While it is still too early to calculate specific return on investment (ROI), cost savings and productivity, the organisation can safely say that it reaped the benefits of the deployment in other means:

- A reduction in on-premise technology footprint – removal of virtualisation infrastructure (storage and server) at headquarters in Melbourne, meaning a reduced technology and environmental footprint and therefore electricity consumption

- Whilst the IT environment was virtual before the project – Dairy Australia have adopted PaaS and Cloud services resulting in a reduction in virtual machine workloads by 25%
- A small reduction in costs, due to less on-premise technology
- Service Level Agreements (SLA) are now in line with organisations expectations
- The express routes in Azure now mean the organisation has gone from 100MG to 1G and are reaping throughput improvements
- The Office 365 enablement has been bolstered through the migration

Over time and as the dust settles on the deployment, Dairy Australia expect to see:

- Increased availability, resiliency and redundancy
- Increased security
- Scalable and always up to date services utilising the latest Azure services
- Speed of change and speed of implementing new requests
- Reduced management overhead on IT staff
- Cost savings and ROI

“Logicalis has allowed Dairy Australia to migrate our IT environment from an underperforming incumbent to a new, cutting edge, robust and futuristic public Cloud platform. Our Azure platform is secure, highly available and resilient and will allow our organisation to grow and expand as we work towards building a sustainable and profitable industry for our Australian farmers.”

Damian Harrison, IT Manager, Dairy Australia.