

Edmund Carr – transforming with Microsoft Azure

Following the smooth migration to Microsoft Office 365, Edmund Carr has continued to transform their business by working with Cloud Direct to migrate to Microsoft Azure. This flexible, secure environment now handles the firm's key workloads in the cloud, including backup and their 24 business critical applications.

Background

Edmund Carr is a client-driven, partner-led firm of Chartered Accountants in Chelmsford, Essex. They provide business advice and accountancy services to individuals and businesses.

Edmund Carr used to buy, manage and replace traditional servers in-house. However, when the firm took their first step towards the cloud and moved to Office 365 with Cloud Direct, the effect on staff and the rest of the business was so positive, they decided they would move all their servers to the cloud using Microsoft Azure.

Key benefits

- ▼ Less time managing IT, more time servicing clients
- ▼ Robust business continuity and security
- ▼ Scalability, flexibility, efficiency
- ▼ Employees can work remotely exactly as if they were in the office
- ▼ New business opportunities

“Cloud Direct were excellent. They always are.”

Stewart Martin, Partner, Edmund Carr

The challenge

Less time managing IT, more time managing clients

Although using Office 365 freed up a considerable amount of time for the business as they no longer had to manage the email server, they found they were still spending too much time managing IT that would be better spent servicing clients.

Business continuity and security

Like most organisations today, Edmund Carr is concerned about cyber-attacks and data breaches. In the past, they experienced a small breach when a third-party government site left them vulnerable. Edmund Carr want to make sure their business is secure and always available. Clients rely on them for extremely timely services such as payroll, so they need to be confident that they can service clients securely and without risking downtime.

Employee mobility, business security

Edmund Carr staff are often on the move, visiting clients. It is important that staff can access company data and apps while away from the office, using whichever device suits them at the time.

Servers nearing end-of-life

The company servers were nearing their end-of-life, so the time was ripe to make their next leap to a deeper cloud environment.

Edmund Carr Partner Stewart Martin, said:

“Having taken our first step towards the cloud with Microsoft Office 365, we knew the grass was greener in a cloud environment so pushed for the next level of cloud adoption. We knew Microsoft could give us the security levels we require, and that we could leave the brunt of the IT work to the professionals at Cloud Direct, letting us get on with servicing our clients.”

The solution

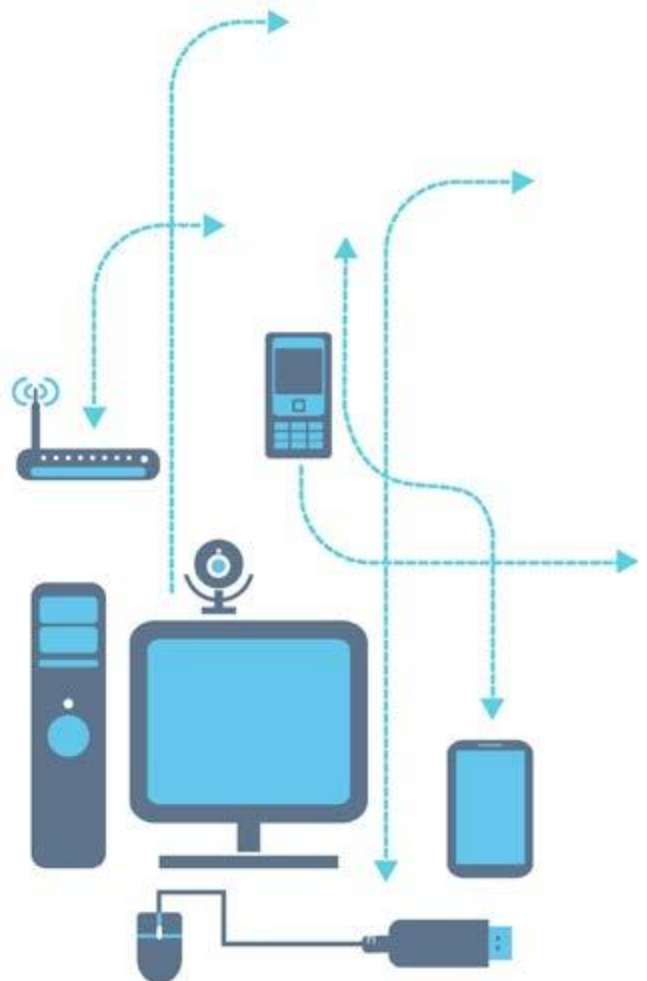
Microsoft Azure Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS)

In 2017, Cloud Direct moved Edmund Carr’s servers to the Microsoft Azure environment run through Citrix. It now handles the firm’s essential workloads such as backup, disaster recovery and all 24 applications used by Edmund Carr employees. Built-in security and integrated tools make their applications faster and available when they need them.

Stewart said:

“We now have a seriously robust, secure environment – especially with Microsoft behind us with all the whistles and bells for IT security going forward, as well as the present.

“Remote access to the office is a lot more smooth and efficient. It’s exactly like you’re working in the office – we can access, communicate and collaborate all data and systems, wherever we are, from any device.”



Results

Strong performance, high availability

Stewart said: "We're very happy with the results. Performance, functionality and support are all very good. We had a quick, smooth turnaround onto the Azure platform and have had no issues with downtime."

Efficiency and one pay-as-you-go bill

Edmund Carr benefit from the 'pay-as-you-go' nature of cloud as they don't need to pay for servers between 6pm and 7am when they aren't using them. They simply pay monthly for what they use with a single, itemised, bill. Working with Cloud Direct helps them optimise their environment for continual improvements in efficiencies and performance.

Had they replaced their servers they would have had to spend at least £20,000 up front, and they would have had to support them. This way they are spreading their costs more evenly, based on what they use.

Less powerful desktops required

Now there's no need for powerful hardware and desktops. Instead, Edmund Carr is replacing old desktops and people simply need a web browser to work. The need for in-house servers, support and backup has also been replaced by ongoing servers in the cloud.

New business opportunities

Now that Edmund Carr is operating in the flexible, fast and secure Azure environment, they can start introducing more resources from outside the UK, broadening the firm's business opportunities with improved, wider client services.

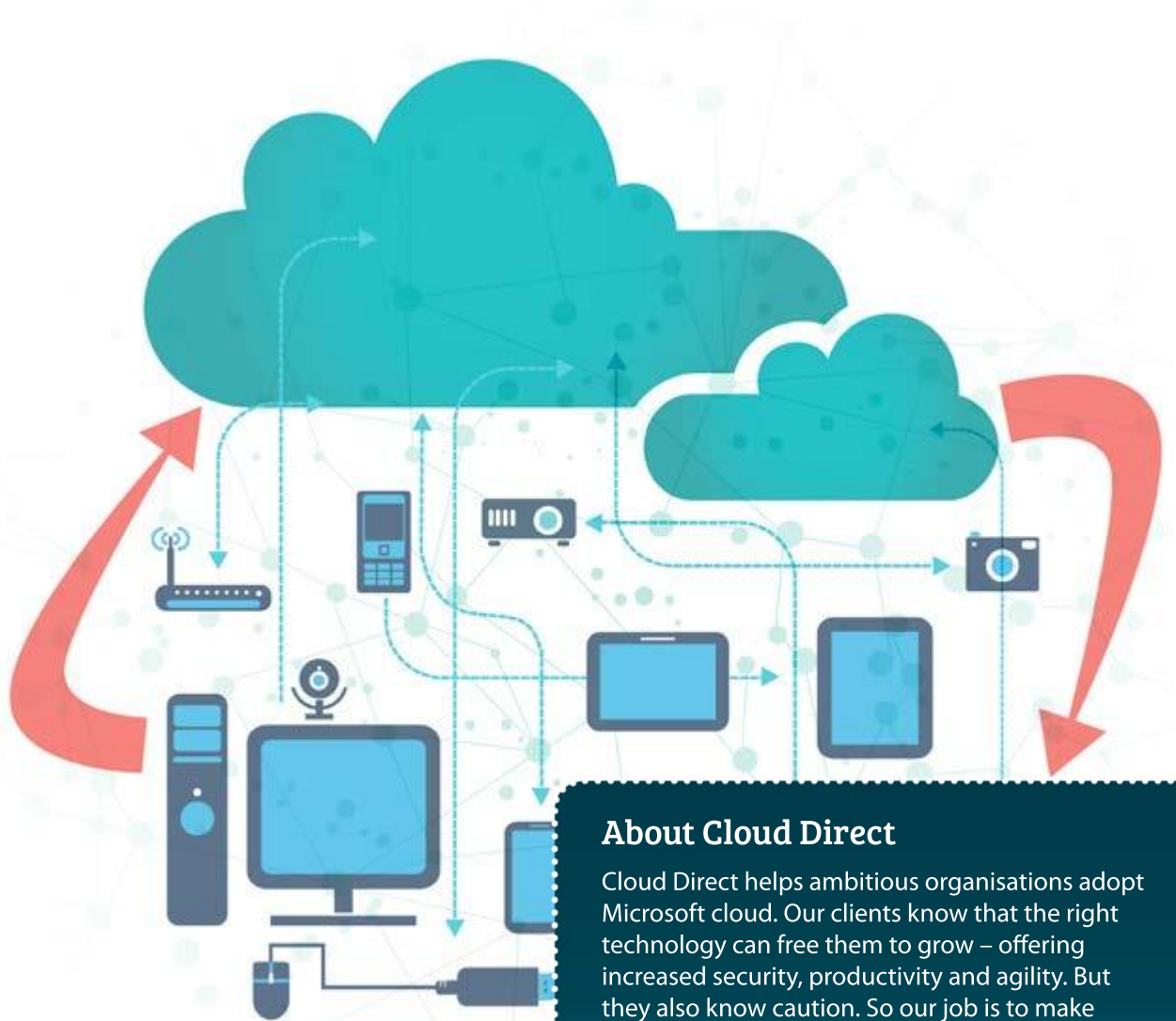
"Azure gives us much more flexibility all round, with access in a secure cloud environment."

Stewart Martin, Partner, Edmund Carr



Future plans

Edmund Carr are working with Cloud Direct on a 2020 roadmap for 99% of their servers to be in the cloud. Ultimately, the firm wants to take advantage of the cloud to increase savings and efficiencies, while making sure they have a reliable and cost-effective disaster recovery plan.



About Cloud Direct

Cloud Direct helps ambitious organisations adopt Microsoft cloud. Our clients know that the right technology can free them to grow – offering increased security, productivity and agility. But they also know caution. So our job is to make their cloud journey safe and affordable.

Since 2003, Cloud Direct has helped 4,000 organisations move their IT to the cloud. We are a direct gold Microsoft cloud services provider (CSP) partner. We hold ISO 27001:2013 (for security) and ISO 20000 (for service). At 75% our Net Promoter Score is world-class, and we provide 24/7 support to ensure continual service delivery.

Contact Cloud Direct

To find out more about how we can help your business, contact us on:

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