Grocery Retailer Accelerates Cloud Journey with Velocity Landing Zone

"Sol-Tec's Azure capabilities are first class and their commitment to the platform is without question. It's why they're trusted across Microsoft's UK business to engage with prospects and customers. With its Velocity Landing Zone IP, they have overcome a common fear that many organisations have about cloud migration being time consuming, complicated and costly."

Blair Galloway,
EMEA Azure Lead, Microsoft

A leading supermarket chain with an already large presence in AWS, was looking to build an Azure offering to provide product families with the ability to consume cloud from Microsoft Azure as well as AWS.

In a bid to ensure that cloud products were aligned with good practice, consumable and advocated across the product families, a Cloud Centre of Excellence (CCOE) team was set up to address how products should be deployed in the cloud across the organisation. With the benefit of hindsight gleaned from its AWS experiences, it understood the importance of security, compliance and governance as foundations to an effective cloud strategy but, with so many elements to consider, its challenge was executing this effectively in a suitable timeframe.

Driven by an immediate goal to connect its on-premise data centre to Azure with ExpressRoute and begin migrating workloads from its data centres into the cloud, it approached Microsoft who facilitated an introduction with its trusted cloud partner Sol-Tec.

Sol-Tec impressed the retailer with both its expertise and its Velocity Landing Zone service which proved to be the perfect tool for the job. A blend of consultancy and reuseable, predefined IaaC artefacts, Velocity Landing Zone enables Sol-Tec to deploy and configure a secure and compliant baseline Azure environment in an accelerated timeframe.

While not a government organisation, the fact that Velocity Landing Zone is aligned to NCSC14 security principles was a big draw to the retailer, providing peace of mind that the solution would deliver appropriate levels of security and compliance.

The solution is designed to scale as new services are built or moved to Azure. Sol-Tec provided the customer with 10 pre-built product family "spokes" along with the pipeline to allow them to create more spokes on demand.

To establish the food retailer's requirements, Sol-Tec's consulting and build teams began with an information gathering exercise which included a gap analysis for "standard" Azure Landing Zone components, as well as seeking to understand team usage and access alongside specific technology and vendor ties and preferences.

In the end, it took Sol-Tec just under a month, from this initial consultation phase to product handover, to design and build an appropriately secure and governed platform for this customer. Without Velocity Landing Zone, the same project would have taken more than 6 months to deliver.