

Case Study: Stout

Data Center Migration to Microsoft Azure

CLIENT

Stout

INDUSTRY

Financial Services

IT HEADQUARTERS

Royal Oak, Michigan

EMPLOYEES

500-750

GLOBAL OFFICES

20

COUNTRIES SERVED

80+

YEARS OF DELIVERING CLIENT SUCCESS

25+



Stout is a leading independent advisory firm specializing in Investment Banking, Valuation Advisory, Dispute Consulting, Management Consulting, and Transaction Opinions.

Stout serves a range of clients, from Fortune 100 corporations to privately held companies in numerous industries around the world. Stout's clients and their advisors rely on Stout's premier expertise, deep industry knowledge, and unparalleled responsiveness on complex financial matters.

Phase 1: Stout CIO, Stacy Carron, and her team engaged Coretek Services to migrate a portion of their data center to Microsoft Azure for certain scenarios. They identified specific use cases perfect for Azure agility such as:

- *Infrastructure-heavy client project abruptly closes*
- *New projects that require dedicated SQL DB and fast turn-around*
- *Firewall to support VPN*
- *Centralized file storage solution*
- *Web Application firewall*
- *New website platform*
- *Share data and access applications from their many remote offices*

Coretek Services implemented an in-depth assessment, proof of concept, and migration of specific workloads to Azure within four months.

Phase 1 Benefits:

Great response
time running
massive
applications in
Azure

Ability to scale up
or scale down
comfortably

Focus on critical
issues, not
resource planning
to support growth

Phase 2: Focus on consolidating and optimizing remaining infrastructure. Three scenarios were evaluated:

1. **Moving entirely to a Hosted Data Center**
2. **Moving entirely to Azure**
3. **A blend of the two**

Stout completed an analysis of projected costs, and determined the cost was about the same, but Azure had the potential for future savings with the elasticity of the platform, and built-in automation opportunities.

Several business drivers supported the move to Azure:

- Relocating from the building that housed their data center
- Failover and disaster recovery options were costly and dependent on one region
- Number of remote offices continues to grow
- Strategically desired to not be tied to one physical office as the IT hub

Decision: Azure was the best solution.

Strategic planning and preparation was needed to get ready for the migration. Coretek Services diligently worked as a trusted partner to Stout throughout the process and published and executed a migration plan over 4 months.

Phase 2 Benefits:

Agility to accelerate Stout's office move plan and move within 6 weeks of request with little business interruption

Monetize support by passing IT cost on to business units and clients by utilizing the Coretek Azure Management Suite (AMS)

Deploy workloads in record timeframes

Monitor and optimize Azure costs resulting in half the spend of expected budgetary estimates

Elasticity of the Cloud:

The **Azure** Platform enables IT to expand and contract resources on-demand. This elasticity simplifies management and reduces costs as customers only pay for what they use.

Coretek Services Cloud Solutions Provider (CSP) includes an **Azure Management Suite (AMS)**, which allows IT to allocate and manage users' and groups' consumption 24X7. Coretek Services provides the consulting expertise to get you to Azure quickly, securely, and cost effectively, and the **Managed Services** to ensure you continue to utilize Azure securely and optimally.