Microsoft Azure Digital Estate and Governance Design

Design and Implementation of Governance across an Azure digital estate

Protiviti is regularly helping clients establish a solid foundation of governance across an organization's Azure digital estate. Movement to Azure can happen in various ways. Ideally the organization has moved to Azure following the Azure cloud adoption framework and have diligently applied controls across security, cost optimisation, identity, change and resource management. However, there are many organizations that find themselves with increasing amounts of Azure consumption, but that haven't followed the cloud adoption framework and as a result now need to implement governance and security in a holistic, automated and cost-effective manner.

This offering is designed to understand your organization's business model and IT operating model and design a top-level digital estate that enables comprehensive governance and security controls to be applied as your digital estate grows. The results of this work will be a clear understanding of the cost, acceptable resource standards, and control required for a fast-paced technology platform. This work will greatly improve your team's ability to control Azure and can form part of your multi-cloud operating model.

2020

Microsoft Partner of the Year Finalist

⊘ Client Problems We Solve

- Inefficient operational processes, staff or technology to centralize the governance of the Azure platform

- A lack of automation of organizational policies

- A lack of understanding of the full set of Azure's governance toolset

- Maintaining adequately trained operations staff

- Lack of unified multi cloud governance approach

📈 Business Outcomes

- Clear unambiguous governance of Azure workloads

- Optimization of operations staff

- Automation of operational and security policies to enable change and compliance to keep pace with high velocity IT operations

- Optimization of operational tooling and Azure cost management

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Subscription Design Strategy

A well-designed Azure digital estate enables the native tooling within Azure to be utilized as intended. This digital estate forms the skeleton within which all other resources and controls work so it is foundational piece of design that needs to be completed and documented as Azure usage grows.

- Management Groups, Subscriptions and Resource groups
- Identity management, Azure AD Security groups

Automation of Governance

Cloud operations can struggle to keep pace with the velocity of modern development techniques. Once a well-designed digital estate is implemented, native tooling within Azure can be configured to automate policy actions and identify non-compliance across resources. This greatly reduces the management time of cloud operations staff.

- Blueprints to enable your governance to scale
- Azure Policy to automate tagging, cost controls and resource controls / deployments

Operation Optimization

As an organization's cloud operations mature, a movement from managing resources to the management of automation policies is required. This is a nuanced cultural change that is important to identify and update the skills and approach your operations staff are taking.

- Azure Policy
- Azure Monitor and LogicApps
- Cost Management
- Azure Security Centre

Architectural Standards

In order to ensure resources are deployed consistently and in line with your organization's architectural and security standards, automation is required. Change review boards and architectural oversight need to move to a position of pre-approving infrastructure as code for common infrastructure deployments.

- Azure Blueprints
- Azure Resource Manager

Client Success Story

Client Challenge: The client had moved some elements of their infrastructure and applications to Azure and was gradually increasing their usage. Protiviti was asked to help design governance that could keep pace with the rate of change.

Solution Delivered: Protiviti scoped the current digital estate structure, change processes and architectural policies. Helped design a new digital estate and then implemented Azure Policies to enable automation of security and compliance, assisted the architecture team to design and build common architectural designs for high usage Azure services. Designed and implemented a process that made use of Azure Blueprint to deploy / assign policies and required infrastructure to ensure workloads were compliant with client standards.

Value & Results: Far greater control and visibility of costs and non-compliant resources across Azure. High velocity architectural oversight that made use of pre-agreed architectural templates deployed through either Azure Blueprint or Azure Resource Manager directly.

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