

# Citrix on Azure: A German state church's way to the cloud

The Evangelical Church of Westphalia (EKvW) in Germany comprises numerous locations of varying sizes. Every church circle runs its own schools, hospitals, kindergardens, nurseries, diaconias, and daycare centers, among other facilities. Over the years, regional IT support has resulted in a decentralised IT infrastructure, and solutions are often isolated. Lack of

centralisation and overall cloud strategy made transparent, secure, and productive collaboration difficult. In 2020, EKvW decided to drive digitalisation inside and outside the organisation by partnering with AppSphere to create central IT environment and infrastructure based on Azure and Citrix.



Evangelische Kirche  
von Westfalen

## AT A GLANCE

**Customer:** Evangelical Church of Westphalia

**Website:** <https://www.evangelisch-in-westfalen.de>

**Customer Size:** Corporate (10,000+ employees)

**Country:** Bielefeld, Germany

**Industry:** Nonprofits

**Products and Services:** Microsoft 365, Azure, and Modern Workplace

# AppSphere AG, Evangelical Church of Westphalia, & Microsoft 365 and Azure

## Customer Challenges

The Evangelical Church of Westphalia is geographically distributed across numerous locations. It employs almost 23,000, and its IT was very heterogeneous. This meant that aligning the church's decentralised, disparate IT structure into one that could address the organization's demands was a top priority.

EKvW partnered with AppSphere to make the requirements of its user groups demand-oriented, economical, and scalable as a standard for all locations. The main challenge was to find a common understanding and bring the staff along on the journey, as well as inspire them to adopt new ways of working.

## Partner Solution

Within the framework of the Cumulus project, Citrix environments were still being operated at various EKvW locations, and they needed to remain operational until the complete transfer to Microsoft Azure. To ensure the centralized management of the church's legacy Citrix farms, AppSphere moved them to the Citrix Cloud.

Locations that previously had no Citrix farms have been supplied with Windows 10 multiuser systems via Citrix Management Desktop, which is used to manage applications that were previously run—decentralized—on Windows 10 PCs.

## Customer Benefits

Thanks to AppSphere, Azure, and Citrix, EKvW now benefits from the structured provision of cloud products—including central administration. This includes a central workspace and profile management solution. The organisation has also developed a common knowledge framework and consistent level of training for its Modern Workplace locations, and users receive a Windows 10 desktop or work on a Windows 10 multiuser system. For central applications, rapid deployment is guaranteed, and, by leveraging Azure and Citrix MCS, fast rollouts are also guaranteed.

EKvW can now roll out new versions of Microsoft 365 and other applications overnight within the centralized Citrix environment.

- Microsoft 365 environments can be centrally deployed on Citrix to guarantee consistent versions for the various user profiles.

- Increased user productivity is driven by the cloud.

- EKvW benefits from modern and quickly expandable infrastructure.

- Updating has been simplified.

- Pay-as-used model replaces hardware purchasing cycles.