

Case Study

Understanding, Reducing and Controlling Unpredictable Azure Spend

“Even with the help of our experienced corporate Cloud Center of Excellence, we continued to have growing, unpredictable Azure spend beyond budget. VIAcode found 32% savings and showed us how to achieve and maintain an optimized Azure operation.”

- CTO, Global SaaS Company

Background

With the support and help of their corporate Cloud Center of Excellence (CoE), a global SaaS provider provisions Azure resources for the development of their software solutions. The Cloud CoE provides the framework for governance needed to manage costs and security of the Azure operation; however, the company continued to experience unexpected costs, cost spikes, and budget overrun.

Given the company is primarily a software engineering organization, they had limited time for and experience with infrastructure operations and management. Coupled with the aggressive development schedules, that made it challenging for their technology teams to prioritize cost management, optimization and system security over product delivery.

Solution

VIAcode was already engaged in a long-term partnership with the company, helping the company to maintain its competitive advantage and rapidly deliver new, advanced product capabilities through the implementation of DevOps strategies and modernization of applications for the cloud. As a result, the company CTO knew VIAcode had deep expertise in Azure cloud operations and management, and he approached VIAcode for additional help.

To kick-off the engagement, VIAcode wanted to run its Azure Optimization Assessment (AOA) on all of the company's Azure subscriptions. The assessment would provide VIAcode with a detailed report of prioritized, actionable and detailed recommendations for cost reduction, vulnerability mitigation and improved system monitoring.

However, the corporate Cloud CoE first needed to be convinced that VIAcode had the capabilities and competencies that would warrant the investment of time and access to their Azure operations. In addition, the CoE felt that the governance, process and tools that were already in place should be sufficient to optimize their Azure subscriptions.

VIAcode collaborated with the Cloud CoE team, exposing them to the AOA approach, process and deliverable. The CoE saw the AOA as an opportunity to validate their existing efforts, and because the cost of the AOA was funded by the Microsoft Digital Partner of Record (DPOR) program, there was no cost risk to the company.

Using proprietary technology and tools, the VIAcode AOA process included:

- Collection of Azure operations data for 30 days to improve certainty of results
- Review and evaluation of the AOA report by VIAcode cloud experts
- Presentation of findings to all stakeholders, including the corporate CoE
- Collaboration with the company's IT teams to develop a strategy for implementation of the recommendations
- Implementation of recommendations and realization of optimization benefits

Case Study At-a-Glance

Industry: Enterprise Software

Products/Services: SaaS solutions for legal management

Company Size: 600 employees worldwide

Needs: Azure cost management, governance and automation

Results: Dramatic reduction of cost, improved governance and cost management via automation

Benefits

The results of the AOA were staggering – VIAcode helped the company uncover potential savings of 32% of their current Azure spend, or \$310K annually. Furthermore, the AOA report provided detailed, prioritized and actionable recommendations needed to reduce Azure spend, improve security and improve governance. The report included:

- 12 strategies for reducing Azure cost – such as VM disk type optimization and cross-region optimization
- 5 strategies for improving security
- 11 governance suggestions to help maintain Azure in a near-optimized state

VIAcode was also engaged to implement the prioritized recommendations so the company would realize these savings and other optimization benefits. With VIAcode, the company was able to:

- Significantly reduce Azure spend
- Recognize and plug process and governance gaps that allowed for unexpected cost and security exposure
- Mitigate potential security vulnerabilities
- Improve Azure visibility to ensure issues are recognized and triaged before impacting cost, security and operations

While many of the benefits of Azure optimization were recognized quickly, the company asked VIAcode to develop and implement a process, automations and governance that would help ensure a continuously optimized Azure state, while also providing the SaaS solution development teams with the flexibility they needed to deliver on schedule.



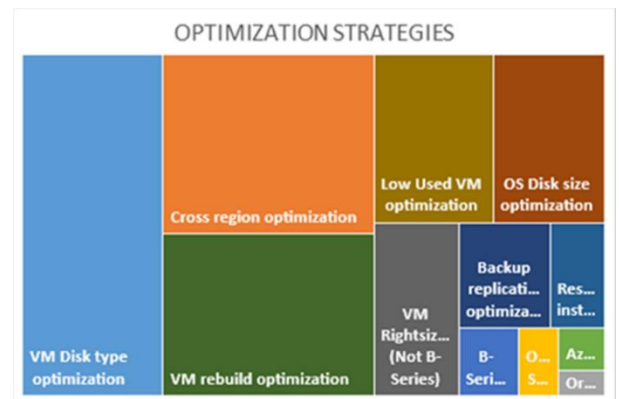
Demonstrated ROI

With no out-of-pocket costs, the return on investment (ROI) was dramatic. The VIAcode AOA provided a path to reducing nearly one-third of the company's annual Azure spend and identified optimizations to security and governance that ensure continued savings.

To maintain a continually optimized Azure operation, VIAcode was contracted to provide an Azure optimization managed service. This included the further implementation of recommendations to optimize Azure, along with the development and maintenance of governance and automations needed to ensure Azure stays optimized.

About VIAcode

VIAcode provides products and services for Azure migrations, optimization, management and modernization. VIAcode has achieved multiple Microsoft Gold Azure Certifications and has over fifteen years of experience delivering solutions for Azure, SQL, Windows OS, O365, Azure SQL DB, DNS, DHCP, and NET/Java SCOM Management Packs. In addition, VIAcode develops/maintains the Microsoft Azure Demo platform used by thousands of Microsoft cloud solution architects worldwide and works directly with Microsoft IT and Microsoft product teams on the Azure portal, Service Fabric, Azure Stack, SQL Server, and SCOM.



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