Scoring the Winning Goal with Storage in Azure

Massive Data Migration without Disruption

Industry
Sports

Client Profile
The Chicago Fire Football Club is a member of Major League Soccer's Eastern Conference.

Business Situation
Chicago Fire had a busy offseason prior to the 2020 season as the Club kicked off a new era under the guidance of owner and chairman Joe Mansueto. With a return to historic Soldier Field and new offices in downtown Chicago, the Club needed to make changes to their IT infrastructure.

Solution
The Club stored its data on outdated and expensive on-premises storage servers. They brought their long-time partner ITsavvy in to rapidly migrate 20 TB of data from that expensive hardware to far more athletic and far less expensive storage on Microsoft Azure.

Benefits
- Eliminated the expense of owning and continually updating storage hardware and software licenses.
- Dramatically lowered the cost of ongoing maintenance.
- Cloud storage allows them to scale their resources up and down at need.
- Liberated their workday by turning over monitoring and maintenance to ITsavvy.
- Shifted the investment model from CAPEX to OPEX.

About the Client

Chicago Fire FC was founded in 1997 and began playing in Major League Soccer (MLS) in 1998. The Fire have won six major domestic championship titles, including the 1998 MLS Cup, the 1998, 2000, 2003 and 2006 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cups, as well as the 2003 Supporters' Shield.

In a busy offseason prior to the 2020 season, the Fire returned to historic Soldier Field for all matches and the front office is now located in downtown Chicago. With new offices in the city, the Club put another technology upgrade campaign in play: this time involving **seamlessly migrating 20 TB of stored data to Azure.**

Moving the Club Into the Cloud

A small window of opportunity falls in between the end of one season to the next in the MLS. Under the new era of the Chicago Fire Football Club, the organization connected with ITsavvy for upgrades, including installing new, less expensive technologies to support the Club.

After the Club's migration from the Microsoft Exchange infrastructure to Office 365, ITsavvy's challenge was improving the Fire's storage infrastructure with the same goal: move from expensive on-premises storage servers to Azure. The challenge involved moving 20 TB of stored files from their existing, on-premises storage servers, to the cloud, in Microsoft Azure, and doing it all **without creating a moment of business disruption.**

The Smoothest Path to Cloud Storage Migration

Time and efficiency were of the essence. With such a short interval between seasons, the Fire had no time to waste getting their storage migrated to Azure. And they had no room for business disruption. Here's what ITsavvy did for the Fire:

- Created a **comprehensive migration plan** to move 20 TB of stored data from on-premise storage servers to Azure. Critical to that plan was ensuring no downtime: the Fire couldn't be on the bench for even a minute.
- Executed on that plan, **migrating the data in a single week**, without a moment of disruption.
- Installed a Cisco Adaptive Security Appliance Web Application Firewall as the system goalkeeper, **protecting the infrastructure from attack and intrusion**.
- **Provided a full team of support** service professionals during and after the migration.
- Viewed and acted on performance and workload statistics to **fully optimize the Azure environment**.

"At the end of 2019, we had numerous technology projects to complete within a small window. We felt confident because we knew ITsavvy was the right team to help build out our cloud infrastructure and assist with these changes."

Senior Manager, IT, Chicago Fire Football Club

Nothing But Added Value

Chicago Fire Football Club is in an ongoing initiative to create a stronger, more flexible, leaner technology infrastructure. Here's how the storage migration has helped the Fire:

Ability to scale
The Fire can now increase or decrease available storage resources depending on their needs.

Lowered costs
Storing data in Azure eliminates all the capital costs and ongoing maintenance burdens of owned, on-premises storage servers.

Eye on the ball
Our NOC savvyGuard® team has their eye on the ball of the Fire's storage infrastructure every minute of every day, tracking performance, reliability, security and more.

A team affair
The Fire is a long-term ITsavvy client. That means that we share and understand their goals and digital game plan, and can move their IT ball down any field.

No penalties
The entire migration took less than a week and went off without a hitch.

The Game Has Only Just Begun

This isn't the end of the work for the Fire and ITsavvy. In fact, we have migration and modernization projects already scheduled and more in the planning stages.

*"When it comes to our technology infrastructure, **thanks to ITsavvy, we're in a much smarter place technologically**."*

Senior Manager, IT, Chicago Fire Football Club

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For more information, please contact an ITsavvy Client Executive.

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