Schools’ Cloud Transformation Project

Project Objectives and Proof of Concept Findings

Schools’ Cloud Transformation Project Team
Project Objectives

• Enable schools to become consumers of cloud services, which allow:
  • The sector to shift to 21st century pedagogy and digital collaboration
  • Provide access to ‘anywhere, anytime’ learning
  • Better stewardship of IT infrastructural funding
• Support Communities of Learning | Kāhui Ako and their shift to 21st century pedagogy and digital collaboration
• Provide advice to enable schools to meet national privacy and security guidelines
• Facilitate easier implementation of system wide identity and access management allowing schools’ users to logon from anywhere
Timeline

2016
• Determine Project Approach (PoC->Pilot->Implementation)
• Proof of Concept
• Change Management

2017
• Lessons Learned from the PoC
• Work with Schools and System Integrators
• Pilot to 50-100 schools
  • Get further information on the use of cloud services in a wider variety of schools and system integrators

2018
• Rollout commences with lessons learned from the pilot
Proof of Concept
Summary of the Proof of Concept

- Seven schools were part of the Proof of Concept
- Six were fully migrated from on-site servers to public cloud services
- The seventh school migrated their on-site hosted SMS to Azure IaaS
Purpose of the Proof of Concept

• Prove the feasibility and get early learnings of the benefits of delivering:
  • School software and infrastructure via a cloud service
  • Integration software to support Communities of Learning
  • A standard approach to system integrators assessing, moving and supporting a school’s transition to the cloud
Scope of the Proof of Concept

- Upgraded all devices to the latest OS
- Set up Office 365 and G Suite for Education
- All individual files to One Drive, Shared files to SharePoint
- Intune for device management
- Support for printing
- Azure AD for identity management
- On premise library systems moved to SaaS versions
- Training of all staff on the new technologies
Lessons Learned
Key Learnings

- Pre-Migration
- Benefits
- Training and Support
- Costs
- Legacy Systems
Key Learnings – Pre Migration

- Time required to plan the migration
- A school’s network must be fit for purpose before the school migrates to the cloud
- Schools need to be prepared (time & cost) for remedial work before a migration
- Some legacy systems do not run efficiently on IaaS
Key Learnings - Benefits

- Anywhere and Anytime access to their school resources for both staff and students
- Better security and privacy that comes directly from cloud services
  - Better identity and access management
  - Security maintained by hosting provider
- Better organisation of school data
  - Schools took the time to re-organise their data
Key Learnings - Support

• School staff need training and support before, during and after the migration
• Post migration support is key to helping schools as they navigate their way around the new environment and discover things that have ‘been left behind’
• Schools need to have ongoing support for the new environment (working with the local IT provider must be a step on the migration plan)
• Changing technology does not simply lead to a change in behaviour. It needs leadership, support, professional development and change management
Key Learnings - Costs

- Schools should realise a medium term, if not immediate cost saving by moving to the cloud instead of replacing on-site servers.

- Schools budgeting becomes easier as the costs of cloud services is stable year on year.

- High level recommendation is for schools to consider moving to the cloud if they have to replace their servers within 2 years.
Key Learnings – Legacy Systems

• Migrating on premise software to Infrastructure as a Service did not operate as expected
  • There were some performance issues
  • Had to work with the software vendors on preferred approach
  • Costs were prohibitive in some circumstances
• Recommend that schools move to a Software as a Service solution where available
Pilot – Next Steps

- We are now kicking off the pilot stage
- Learn further lessons by working with a wider variety of schools and system integrators
- Looking to get up to 50 schools interested in moving to the cloud
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