Accounting Consulting

CASE STUDY

SAICA
THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

On-Premise to Azure Migration

HensonGroup
Azure Expert MSP Gold Partner

On-Premise (Windows Server) to Azure Migration
Case Study

About The Customer

SAICA Enterprise Development is a SMB organization with head count of 51-200 employees. The company works towards promoting Charted Accountancy profession in South Africa.

Business Requirement

As a small company, the customer had one server running on Windows Server with IIS and SQL Express. To further minimise their hassle in maintaining hardware, they approached the Henson Group (THG). The customer asked for a migration to Azure in South Africa as there's no significant traffic. Therefore, the Email and DNS were also needed to move to O 365 / Azure DNS.

Approach

After learning the old infrastructure, we found that SAICA had a single server hosting the .NET Application and the Database. The application was published through Visual Studio and the Database was stored on the Microsoft SQL Server Web Edition.

The server had gone EOL and all the data including the Website Code, Visual Studio file Project File, Database backup file, etc. was stored on a File Server which was accessible remotely.

Our understandings about customer expectations –

- No expansion targeted. Just a secure migration expected.
- The SAICA team wanted to interact with the app in the cloud in the same way as they did previously on premise.
- SAICA wanted a scalable environment on Azure cloud so that they upgrade/downgrade the compute as per the requirement and save cost.

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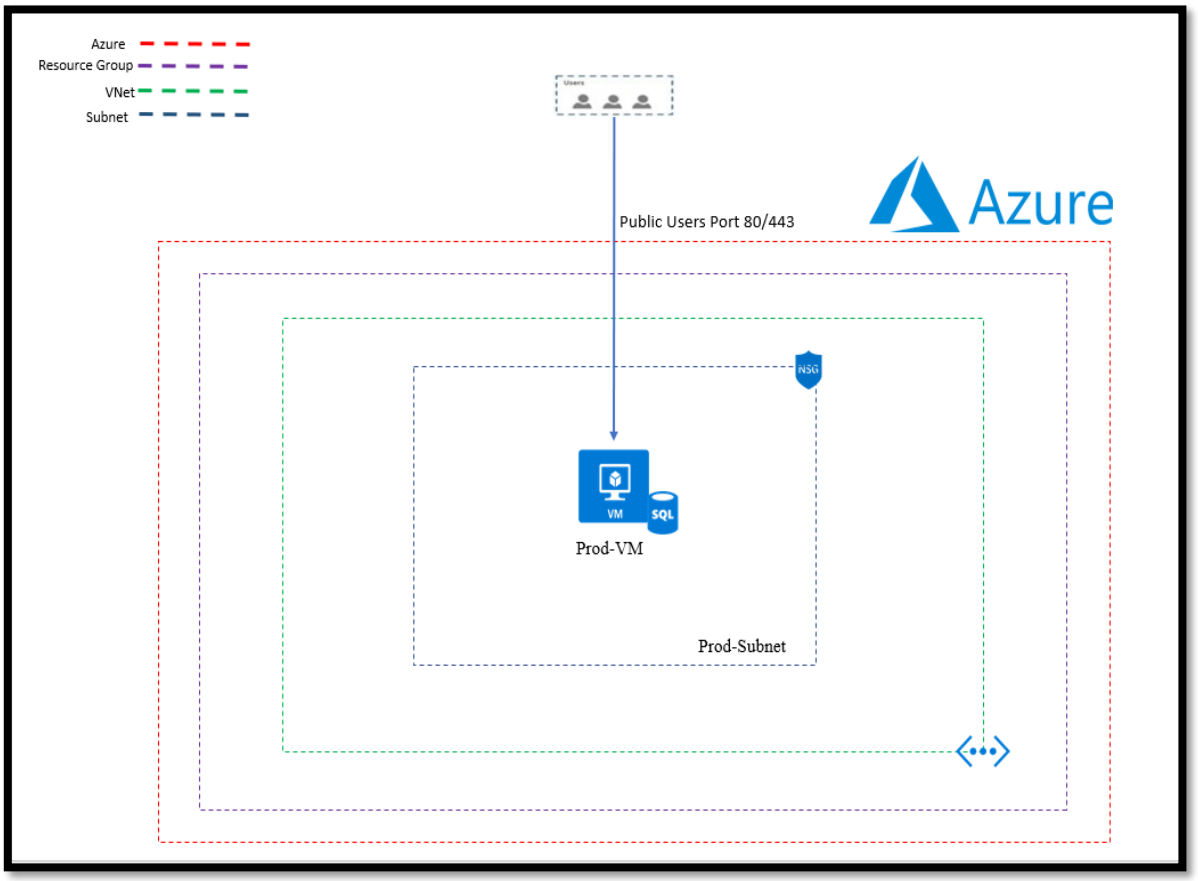
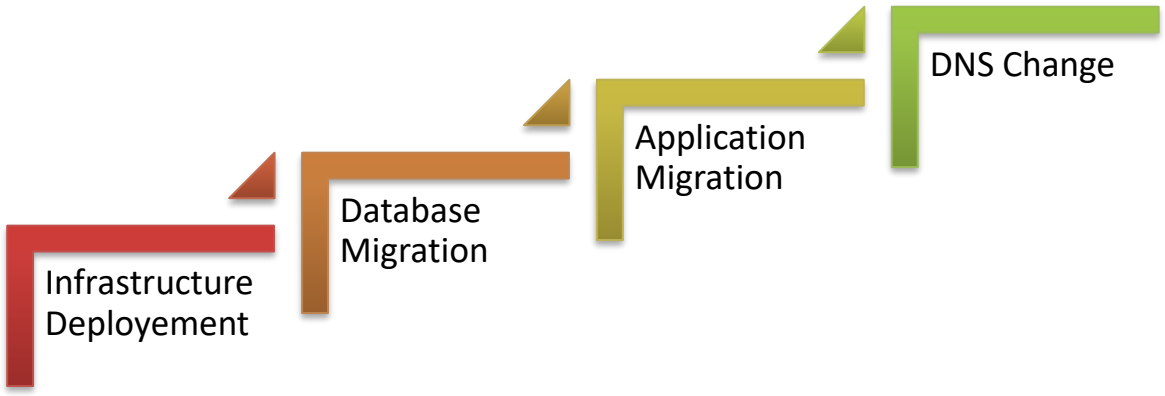
Subsequently, we proposed the following solution architecture –



Implementation

Following the Azure Cloud Adoption Framework, the migration activity was broadly categorised as shown -



Infrastructure Deployment

THG deployed a new Server with Windows Server and SQL Server Web Edition Image on Microsoft Azure including Virtual Network, Storage Account, Public IP Address, NSG, etc.

Once the basic infrastructure is deployed on Azure, THG team connected the Azure VM with the File server. The data is copied from File server to the Azure VM.

Database Migration

Further, THG team connected to the SSMS from the Azure VM and restored the database with the same name as On-Premise using the Backup file copied from the File server.

Application Migration

As the SAICA team approved database restoration, THG Team further installs and configures the Visual Studio with all the dependencies required to get the Application running.

Lastly, the SAICA team tests the application. After approval, the THG team would update the database string to connect to Azure Database.

DNS Change

As the complete environment is tested and verified by both the teams wrt to the Application, Database, Infrastructure, connectivity, etc., the SAICA team updated the DNS to point the all the records to Azure VM.

Post Implementation Benefits

- Reduced maintenance overhead of the infrastructure
- Better compliance with mobility
- Uninterrupted processing with no down times

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