

Azure Migration Supports Family Futures

Anchor Enables Global Access for Hope's Promise

Hope's Promise, a nonprofit supporting adoption, orphan care, foster care and pregnancy services, strives to make every child's story matter. Staff effortlessly juggle paperwork, client calls and the care of children and families, yet even small tech hiccups slowed their work progress. "Our staff just want their computers to work. They don't need to know the technical details," said Kaye Ferguson, Director of Operations for Hope's Promise. Aging on-prem servers and scattered files made it hard for international staff to access information. To find a better way to ensure secure, reliable access for everyone, Hope's Promise turned to long-time partner Anchor Network Solutions.

How Pax8 Helped

Anchor Network Solutions recommended Microsoft Azure to provide secure scalable access tailored to Hope's Promise's needs and budget. The migration consolidated core apps like OneAccess, set up Azure AD and streamlined workflows while keeping staff desktops familiar.

"The migration took several months. Anchor had to prepare things in the background to make sure the move went smoothly," said Kaye Ferguson.

A significant portion of the project involved behind-the-scenes file preparation and renaming to ensure compatibility with Azure. The team used scripts to identify files exceeding 200 characters, reviewed inventories with the client and modified file names to prevent migration issues.

Andy Harper, Manager of Technology Alignment at Anchor said, "IT can make systems work but non-technical users can't be expected to do what we do. That's why we focused on migrating them to Azure AD while keeping everything familiar. Too much change at once can overwhelm users so maintaining a consistent desktop experience was key to adoption."

With all files securely in the cloud international teams could finally access shared folders without delays. "We were excited that international staff could finally access folders for sending reports which previously had to go through U.S. staff," Kaye added.

Anchor ensured OneDrive integrated seamlessly with workflows and with Pax8 support on call any issues with Azure or Office 365 were quickly resolved, helping staff continue working efficiently throughout the migration.

Outcomes and Results

Hope's Promise staff now have reliable access from anywhere eliminating VPNs and simplifying backups. Consolidating systems has reduced costs tied to servers, battery backups and static IPs while improving security.

"Being in the cloud has opened up opportunities and efficiencies for our IT budget," said Kaye Ferguson. The Hope's Promise staff feel confident that essential apps and files work as needed enabling easier collaboration across international teams.

The consolidation of systems and move to a centralized cloud environment significantly improved how the organization operates. Nonprofits like Hope's Promise benefit from these efficiencies allowing them to focus on their mission rather than troubleshooting technical issues.

Andy Harper added, "I love their mission. Their mission is amazing. Helping them streamline and gain control over their technology is something I'm proud to be part of."

With Anchor Network Solutions and Pax8's combined support Hope's Promise now has a compliant centralized environment that supports growth and lets staff focus on making a greater impact.

Migration Time

4+

Weeks to fully transition to Azure.

Files

7,000+

Cleaned up for OneDrive compatibility with no loss to productivity.

Approx. Savings

\$5k

Hardware, backups and server overhead reduced to maximize budget impact.

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