'Move to Cloud' simplifies management and development of modern applications at Fost Plus

Fost Plus depends on a reliable IT infrastructure for the efficient collection and recycling of domestic packaging materials. The company needs to be able to respond to changes in the market quickly, and a flexible IT environment is crucially important for this. That's why Fost Plus decided to move its entire infrastructure to the Azure cloud, resulting in improved cost-efficiency, stability and flexibility. Realdolmen, strategic IT partner to Fost Plus for over 25 years already, supervised the project from start to finish.

Various IT systems at Fost Plus monitor each type of new packaging that's brought onto the market, and ensure they can be recycled. 'Migrating our infrastructure to Azure means we can develop new applications much faster, and we're fully prepared for the future,' says Jeroen Van de Sande, IT Manager at Fost Plus.

MORE FLEXIBILITY, STABILITY AND ECONOMIES OF SCALE-
Fost Plus wanted to get rid of its physical servers, which was one of the reasons for starting this Move to Cloud project. The lease period for the existing server park had also just ended, which gave an added financial incentive. It is much more cost-efficient and has greatly simplified the management because the company no longer needs to maintain its own infrastructure.

Furthermore, Fost Plus is constantly evolving, and a migration such as this provides a lot more options moving forward. Van de Sande: 'We're working in a uniform cloud environment now, equipped with modern cloud services that encourage rapid development of new applications. This means the IT department can respond to new requests much faster.

FAST DEVELOPMENT OF NEW APPLICATIONS FOR THE IT DEPARTMENT
Van de Sande: 'The cloud environment means our IT personnel can work much more efficiently, and start new projects and testing much faster. We're now using Kubernetes to manage our applications, for example. This open source technology automatically regulates the capacity that a particular app needs, so we never need to build in our own server capacity anymore.'

All business-critical applications are now running in Azure, and new applications can be added seamlessly. Using the Azure Platform-as-a-Service means the IT department doesn't need to worry about the underlying infrastructure for these applications, and it has access to an extensive framework for developing them. 'In the near future we want to evolve to a full SaaS environment, so users can connect to our applications via the internet,' explains Van de Sande.

CHALLENGE

Fost Plus is constantly developing new applications to facilitate the recycling of domestic packaging materials. The company wanted to get rid of its cumbersome server park and build a future-oriented IT infrastructure that dramatically simplifies the development of these apps.

SOLUTION

The move to the Azure cloud means Fost Plus no longer needs to maintain its own infrastructure. It dramatically simplifies the management environment and the IT department can respond to new requests much faster.

BENEFITS

- More efficient collaboration with Microsoft Teams

- Simple IT management in the cloud environment

- Great stability with continuous availability of all applications

- Unburdening thanks to Microsoft Managed Services

- Faster response to requests from customers

- Better insight into costs

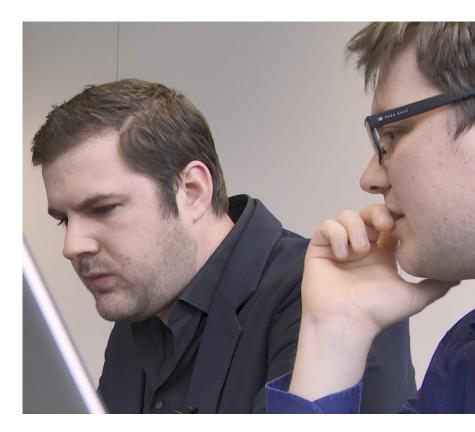- Access to an extensive framework of applications thanks to Azure Platform-as-a-Service

MORE INFORMATION?

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STABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR EMPLOYEES AND PARTNERS

The cloud environment represents a gain in stability for Fost Plus employees – all applications and systems are constantly available, even during updates or in the event of any hardware faults. The company has also switched to Microsoft Teams, which runs in the cloud as well. Van de Sande: 'Even though the Microsoft technology resulted in a few obstacles, Realdolmen implemented the collaborative software faultlessly. It has greatly improved the quality of our conference calls, and working remotely is much easier now too.'
'We also notice that our partners, especially the software suppliers, can provide much more targeted access to develop their software. Collaboration is much smoother and results in optimal development.'

STRATEGIC PARTNER WITH RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE

The Move to Cloud project is not the first big project where Fost Plus has relied on Realdolmen's expertise. They've been collaborating strategically for over 25 years already. 'Their experts know our infrastructure through and through, and have lots of experience with the Azure cloud environment and with IT infrastructure in general,' says Van de Sande. 'They manage the technical possibilities of Azure perfectly, and can resolve issues which I've seen have made other suppliers pull their hair out.'
Realdolmen helped us build the business case and carried out the analysis. The whole project was completed in the space of six months, partly thanks to the use of Azure Services. 'We were also able to implement minor changes during the project so we could adapt it according to our needs. We're looking forward to continuing to build on the Azure platform with our partner in the future, and making much more use of the benefits the platform has to offer. We're still very busy with the foundations at the moment, and are looking forward to building more on it together in the future,' concludes Van de Sande.

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