Microsoft Hybrid Cloud Journey

More than ever before, IT is under pressure to deliver resources faster, to support business initiatives and to help business to stay ahead of the competition. To handle these demands, you need a flexible infrastructure that is easy to manage and easy to scale. Cloud computing can be the answer to these requests for more agility, scalability and business alignment. When done right, cloud computing helps organizations to do more and to do it faster by letting them tap into the power of massive datacenters and IT services without having to build, manage or maintain them.

While we believe that, over time, many services will move to the public cloud, today most organizations live with the reality that they need both on-premise and cloud services. Usually, implementing a hybrid cloud introduces new levels of complexity regarding e.g. identity, security, privacy, network integration, consistency, interoperability and manageability. This is exactly what differentiates Microsoft from other cloud vendors: Microsoft’s hybrid cloud approach lets you extend your on-premise datacenter into the cloud without adding complexity.

Microsoft is unique in providing a consistent experience through common identity, virtualization, management, and development technologies that span private clouds, service provider clouds and public clouds.

This guarantees that customers’ investments today will carry them into the future, no matter what form of hybrid cloud they choose to deploy. Where to deploy depends on the workload and your specific requirements: private cloud gives you control, public cloud brings scalability and agility, while service providers provide customization and reach.

This hybrid cloud vision is called Cloud OS. Cloud OS offers you:

- Unified Management with System Center
- Common Identity with Active Directory
- Integrated Virtualization with Windows and Hyper-V
- Complete Data Platform with SQL Server
- Flexible Development with Visual Studio

Besides protecting your investment in the core Microsoft technologies, Microsoft also has a lot to offer in the public cloud:

- Microsoft Azure offers Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS), based on the well-known technology stack.
- Microsoft Azure offers Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS). These PaaS components are completely managed by Microsoft so that developers can focus on creating business value through innovative applications.
- And Microsoft is a key player in the Software-as-a-Service market as well, with products like Office 365 and CRM Online.

So, private/public/hybrid or IaaS/PaaS/SaaS, Microsoft plays on all these fields and offers all that is needed to completely integrate all those building blocks in one consistent, integrated environment.
Realdolmen can be your guide on this journey to the Microsoft Hybrid Cloud: together we will define how to transform your datacenter to a dynamic hybrid cloud based on Microsoft technology.

During a 5 to 10 days engagement, we will capture your challenges and objectives, and see how these fit in the Microsoft Hybrid Cloud vision. We will identify the opportunities for your business and define the program to realize your hybrid data center.

Amongst others, following topics will be addressed:

- **APPLICATION PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS:** the first thing to do is to thoroughly analyze the applications that the business currently uses, and imagine how you would look at this portfolio within a new world. New capabilities are provided through various options like Software-as-a-Service and Platform-as-a-Service. Assessing the strategic implications of application placement is a critical step.
- **IDENTITY FEDERATION STRATEGY:** we will discuss your options to streamline identity across private and public resources, based on your requirements and current setup.
- **NETWORKING AND SECURITY:** we will discuss your options to securely and seamlessly integrate your Azure resources with on premise or hosted resources.
- **STORAGE:** we will discuss your storage options in the Microsoft offering, and examine how you can take advantage of the virtually unlimited storage capacity of Microsoft Azure in a hybrid context.
- **MANAGEMENT:** we will see what the options are to manage all resources through the complete lifecycle and what role System Center plays in that scenario.
- **COMPUTING:** we will see how your business can take advantage of computing resources in the public cloud, and how workloads can be migrated back and forth. Migration of your virtualization platform to Hyper-V can also be part of this topic.
- **BUSINESS CONTINUITY:** we will discuss your requirements regarding backup and disaster recovery and determine the best path to meet your expectations.
- **INNOVATION:** we will talk about the value that the innovative PaaS application blocks can bring to your business.

The Microsoft Hybrid Cloud journey takes 5 to 10 days, depending on the size and complexity of your IT environment.

The conclusions of this assessment will be delivered in a ½ day presentation and in a document.

The conclusions include a summary of your challenges and objectives, the preferred implementation option, and a high-level program planning to get you there. A suggestion of some Proof-of-Concepts finalizes the document.