S/4HANA on Azure: Learn how Guyana Goldfields saves 40% in ERP maintenance costs

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Guyana Goldfields

- Guyana Goldfields Inc. is a Canadian based mid-tier gold producer primarily focused on the exploration, development and operation of gold deposits in Guyana, South America.
Business Case

• SAP ERP Implementation
  • Greenfields Implementation
  • SAP FICO and MM
  • Users in North America and Guyana
  • Migration from Legacy ERP
  • Majority of clients are over a satellite link in remote locations

• Existing infrastructure
  • Local ISP public Cloud
  • On premise Hyperconverged Infrastructure
Selection Process

- **Infrastructure Models explored**
  - On premise with Colocation
  - Hybrid Cloud
  - Public Cloud
  - Bare metal servers

- **RFP Process bids**
  - 1x hybrid Cloud
  - 3 x Private Cloud
  - 2 x Public Cloud
  - 2 x On-premise
Selection Process

• Selection Criteria
  • Orchestration and visibility of infrastructure
  • Scalability and commercial viability for existing data center workloads
  • Data traversal costs
  • Disaster recovery
  • Multi-Cloud strategy options
  • Vendor relations
  • Costs
  • Selected Microsoft Azure
Design

- Partner selection
- Infrastructure design phase
- SAP partner design validation
- Public cloud design adoption
- Best practice education
- Microsoft and SAP partner joint architecture design session
- Skillset re-tooling
Build

• Very Short timeline of 4 weeks
• Steep learning curve for MS partner and the GGI Team
• Microsoft delivered infrastructure ahead of schedule
• Guyana Goldfields team self performed majority of the build
  • Microsoft Premier support was essential to our success at this juncture
• Instantaneous data protection
• We had a major data load error which required a restore of our QE system which was available immediately and ensure we could be the project on time
• Phased build and costs for project due to IAAS model
• Considered Express route but performance testing and cost analysis concluded VPN was sufficient
• Cost saving assisted with scope creep on the SAP application project
Go-live

- Go-live on January 2\(^{nd}\) 2018
  - Cut-over was successful
  - Remote clients over satellite link had a major performance improvement over legacy ERP
  - No first week password resets
    - Active directory SSO of SAP clients
    - Azure AD SSO for Fiori
Post Go-live

- We continued hyper care for six weeks
- Successfully closed our first quarter
- Procure to pay approval cycles reduced dramatically
  - Fiori
  - Email notifications
  - Release strategy design
- Required additional resources for production instance due to scaling up users and transaction volumes
  - Scale up was done with a 30 minute outage
- **40 % savings of infrastructure opex cost achieved over other models realized**
- Re-trained existing staff to manage Azure and kept infrastructure head count flat
Lessons Learned

• Pick the right implementation partner
• Give yourself more time for the infrastructure design phase
• Invest in training for your team
• Be conservative in your resource specifications