

Cloud Optimization Results in Increased Performance and 44% Cost Reduction.

Overview

Challenge

Novo Building Products, an industry leading manufacturer and distributor, have leaned on InsITe for cloud services in the past. InsITe noticed their Azure cloud resources were not optimally configured and there was a potential for cost savings.

Business Solution

Novo agreed to allow InsITe to evaluate the environment and provide recommendations for cost savings. A targeted assessment was performed and determined that there was indeed significant savings that could be realized.

Key Benefits

Through this project the InsITe team was able to identify a configuration that would maintain or improve the existing VM performance while realizing a 44% reduction (over \$15,000.00 annually) in Azure Virtual Machine operational costs.

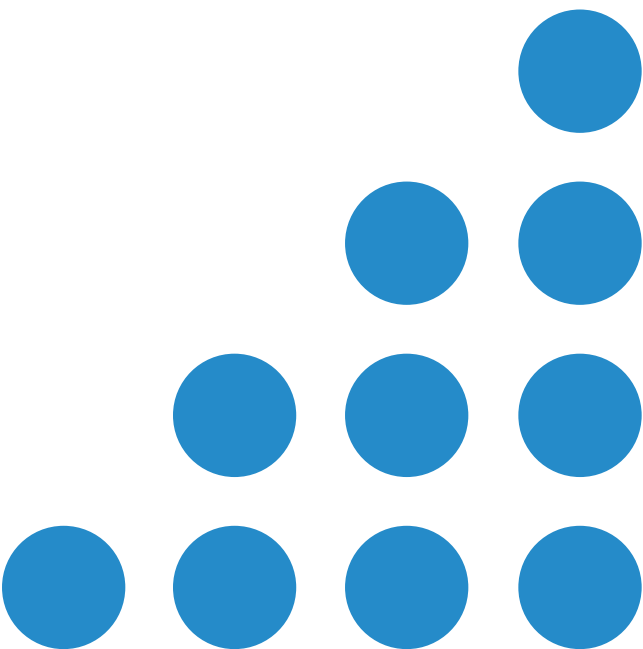
For Novo, a customized cloud optimization assessment and complete cost analysis resulted in significant savings along with a boost in VM performance.

Novo Building Products is an industry leading manufacturer and distributor of mouldings, stair parts, doors, and specialty building products. Novo serves building material dealers (lumberyards), door shops, retail home centers, and millwork manufacturing partners throughout the United States and parts of Canada and Mexico.

The Problem

Joe Johnson, Director of Infrastructure has leaned on InsITe for various projects in the past, mostly involving their cloud and hybrid server infrastructure. Through continual engagement with Joe and his Team on previous projects, the InsITe Team brought to Joe's attention that Novo's Azure cloud resources may not be optimally configured, and there was a potential for cost savings through an optimization exercise.

At the time, Novo was also leveraging a SCE agreement for their cloud services, which locks them into a minimum spend for Cloud services. This is not ideal in the long term as it reduces the effectiveness of one of the primary cloud advantages, elasticity in resources and cost. Joe agreed to allow InsITe to evaluate the environment and provide recommendations for cost savings.



“InsITe has been really great to work with. Our latest Azure cloud optimization project was well managed, and provided us with significant savings on cloud utilization. I would highly recommend InsITe as a key technology partner.”

—Joe Johnson, Director of Infrastructure
Novo Building Products

The Solution

A targeted assessment was performed, measuring current usage of each VM, then comparing the relative usage to the capacity of each VM. From our assessment, we developed a complete cost analysis for current state, and a comparison cost analysis for future state, given several areas of overprovisioning we discovered. We determined that there was indeed significant savings that could be realized with the changes we recommended.

It was also noted that Novo was still on the “Classic” Azure services, which are no longer fully supported by Microsoft, and also don’t provide optimal VM pricing at this time. The InsITe engineering Team built a project plan to first migrate the Azure resources to the Modern ARM Architecture, then perform a complete cost optimization. The overall plan handled 13 Classic Resource servers migration to Azure Resource Manager by June 2018 as the first step in the project. The complete migration plan included VM size recommendations, projected cost savings and migration requirements.

Once completed, the new Virtual Machine types and sizes would become available in Azure ARM and we performed utilization analysis to determine the optimal configuration post-migration. The InsITe team worked with Novo IT to discover the current Azure deployment state, migration dependencies, and Virtual Machine roles.

Equipped with a complete understanding of the migration requirements, the InsITe team migrated all resources from the Azure Classic platform to the Azure Resource Manager within the planned downtime event window. After initial discovery and migration validation, the InsITe team walked through the validation failures, remediation steps, and migration plan.

Complete Solutions with InsITe’s ESIM Approach

InsITe proactively notified Novo of the opportunity to save on cloud costs. We were able to quickly migrate Classic resources to ARM extremely efficiently, through our customized migration tools, saving project costs. To obtain much of the savings, we leveraged a new series of VMs that allow for CPU time bank, with burstable performance as required – True elastic cloud.

Solution Components

Software

- Microsoft Azure Virtual Machines (burstable and non-burstable)
- Azure Virtual Networks
- Azure VPN
- Azure Storage Accounts

Services

- Migration of all Azure Resources from Classic management (deprecated) to Azure Resource Manager (modern)
 - Cost analysis and VM criticality review, Implementation of cost savings
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ESIM is a structured approach to a business's needs and allows InsITe to find the very best solutions for organizations, for both current state and long-term. Using ESIM, InsITe was able to tailor its optimization strategy for the best-fit solutions, meeting and often exceeding all of Novo's cloud optimization needs.

The Results

Through this project the InsITe team was able to identify a configuration that would maintain or improve the existing VM performance while realizing a 44% reduction (over \$15,000.00 annually) in Azure Virtual Machine operational costs.



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