



Pointer: An Ambitious Challenge meets Aztek's Azure Migration Experts

Meet Pointer

Pointer is a global company that uses advanced technology to help enterprises all over the world manage, track and control their vehicle fleets – including trucks and industrial vehicles. A leader in its field of expertise, Pointer also specializes in cutting-edge cargo and logistics management solutions.

Pointer employs 500 personnel in offices all over the world. The company's headquarters are located in Tel Aviv, and its technology innovation center is based in Israel.

Taking on an Ambitious Challenge

Pointer presented Aztek Technologies with a specific challenge: migrating applications and infrastructures from local Pointer-owned data centers in Israel, Brazil, Mexico and Argentina to Microsoft Azure, in order to enjoy greater server flexibility, performance and stability. Regarding the migration process, Pointer stressed the importance of minimal downtime.

Conducting a Precise Assessment

After accepting the task, Aztek Technologies moved forward with the traditional first step in the majority of migration processes: conducting an assessment of the company's server components. These components included:

- Gateway servers
- Application servers
- Web servers
- SQL database server
- Domain controller servers
- Network load balancer
- Firewall
- Switches
- Storage

Aztek's assessment revealed several issues that needed to be addressed. These included heavy hosting service costs, non-optimized computing and storage resource allocation and underutilized resources in sites with low loads. Duplicated licenses and peripheral services (firewall, antivirus) were also detected.

As it turned out, uneven and unaudited management and administration levels pertaining to various infrastructure and applications were also identified. This was reflected in non-balanced system performance.

The assessment also defined a list of key performance indicators. These indicators included terms of availability (uptime), response times, system health status, and more.

Delivering a Tailor-Made Solution

After consultation, Aztek Technologies and Pointer made the joint decision not to copy the company's existing environment (Lift & Shift) to the cloud, but rather to restructure a new and modern Pointer environment on Azure.

The new environments include:

- A VPN gateway with S2S connections with multiple cellular providers
- Gateway servers with load balancers
- Application servers with auto scale set
- Redis cache service
- Backups
- Domain controller servers
- Database servers

Benefitting from a Positive Outcome

Prior to the migration to Microsoft Azure, every Pointer overseas subsidiary relied on its own infrastructure and R&D processes, with no comprehensive centralization or monitoring.

The migration process created top-level infrastructure consolidation, thereby allowing Pointer's Israel-based R&D team to control and monitor all activities. This allowed Pointer to create guidelines for use, reduce expenditures and improve automation and overall performance.

Warm Words from Pointer

"The migration process led by Aztek Technologies enabled Pointer to scale upwards. We were able to utilize more cloud-based services, and therefore provide better solutions for our customers in terms of availability and business continuity. Our partnership with Aztek Technologies ensures that when it comes to Microsoft and Azure in particular, Pointer is always on point."

Moshe Tal
Cloud department Manager