The ultimate private cloud for the ultimate Hybrid cloud strategy?
The Case for Azure Stack in the enterprise

Cloud adoption in the Middle East continues unabated. Our cloud business in the Middle East is growing at approximately 200% year on year. While we see smaller companies can move easily to the public cloud, enterprises prefer a hybrid cloud model. This can be due to cost, data sovereignty and corporate policy. And this preference is not just limited to the Middle East but is a global trend. Consider these recent stats from Right Scale:

- 50 percent of enterprise IT teams say hybrid cloud is a priority.
- 74 percent of enterprises say hybrid cloud enables business growth.
- 85 percent adopted a hybrid strategy last year.
- 91 percent of IT pros think hybrid will remain a priority in 2023

If you are an enterprise considering a Hybird Cloud strategy then there is only one option that provides a consistent cloud offering as a private and public cloud and that is Azure Stack. It is for this reason BIOS invested early in Azure Stack and became the first company in the world to invest in Cisco's Azure Stack which we have installed and working in the UAE – the only Azure Stack in the UAE.

To create Azure Stack, Microsoft leveraged the code base, portal, APIs and service architecture of its public cloud, Azure. That means both platforms are fully compatible. You can share apps, data and workloads across both environments, with Azure Stack giving you the on-premises control and security of a private cloud, while Azure offers the near-infinite resources of public cloud. This is even more exciting when we consider Azure proper will be live in the UAE in 2019.

Here are four use cases where Azure Stack can have the greatest impact.

Consistent application development

Because Azure and Azure Stack use nearly the same code base, developers and IT staff can build applications once and deploy them on-premises or in a public cloud — one technology, one portal, no re-architecting. That means firms can seamlessly shift, distribute and migrate workloads across public and private clouds. And Azure Resource Manager enables developers to create reusable templates for both on-premises and cloud-native apps, which paves the way for DevOps implementation across hybrid environments, reducing costs and time to market.

Use case examples:

- **Banking:** Banks with a mobile customer base leverages Azure Stack to modernize apps and services across hybrid environments.

- **Industry:** Enterprises looking to modernize business-critical apps can use Azure Stack to standardize development skill sets for on-premises and cloud-based apps.

Security, data sovereignty and compliance

Azure Stack allows companies to develop and run apps in Azure and then, if necessary, deploy them in Azure Stack to meet regulatory requirements or vice versa. Also, if you need to keep data in a country without an Azure data center, you can securely store it on-premises with Azure Stack.

Use case examples:

- **Finance**: financial services institution can use Azure Stack to flexibly deploy apps to a cloud that meets rigorous regulatory requirements.
- **Banking**: Banks can leverages Azure Stack to seamlessly deploy and manage their online trading platform in a fully compliant cloud.

On-demand resources

Azure Stack enables you to rapidly provision and deploy compute, storage and other resources while preserving the secure data isolation of an on-premises environment. It provides private cloud security combined with public cloud flexibility.

Use case examples:

- **Healthcare**: healthcare providers can use a private cloud for personal data but switch to other data, apps and workloads to its public cloud for flexibility and performance.
- **Technology**: software teams working with sensitive data and apps can use a secure dev-and-test environment, with Azure Stack providing access to cloud-based resources for rapid scaling.

Edge Networks

"Data gravity" refers to processing large amounts of raw data in a remote or live environment. Bandwidth fees make it expensive to transmit that kind of "heavy" data to a public cloud for analysis, and connectivity issues may make it impossible. Azure Stack allows you to analyze data where it originates and then transmit the final results to a public cloud.

Use Case examples:

Media: a multimedia company can upload raw videos to Azure, where the footage is enhanced with AI before being rendered at remote newsrooms on Azure Stack.

Manufacturing: a manufacturer generating terabytes of data per hour can use an on-site Azure Stack cloud for real-time analysis instead of transmitting the data to a public cloud.

BIOS knows Azure Stack

We have been building private clouds for more than a decade and operate the largest public cloud in the UAE which we founded in 2013. Through this time Microsoft has been a key technology partner for us. This is why we became the first company in the UAE to stand up an Azure Stack cloud which you can demo as of today.

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