

Case Study

Implementing Active Directory on Azure for an Indian NBFC with 2000+ Users across 700+ Branches

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Introduction

This case study showcases the successful implementation of Active Directory (AD) on Azure virtual machines (VMs) for a prominent Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) operating in India. With a widespread presence across 700+ branches and over 2000 users, the NBFC faced significant challenges in terms of decentralized identity management, disorganized network infrastructure, security risks, and limited collaboration and productivity. By leveraging Azure's cloud capabilities and the scalability of VMs, the NBFC successfully implemented a centralized AD infrastructure, streamlining identity management, enhancing security, and improving operational efficiency.

The Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) under consideration operates across India with a large branch network and a substantial user base. The company recognized the need to establish a centralized identity management system and streamline their IT infrastructure to overcome the challenges posed by decentralized user management and disorganized network architecture. The implementation of Active Directory on Azure VMs emerged as the ideal solution to address these challenges.

Challenge

The NBFC encountered the following challenges in their IT infrastructure:

1. Absence of Centralized Identity Management

Without a centralized Active Directory, user management was decentralized and inefficient. This resulted in inconsistencies, increased administrative overhead, and security vulnerabilities.

2. Disorganized Network Infrastructure

The lack of a standardized network infrastructure across branches made it difficult to implement centralized security measures, enforce policies, and ensure consistent connectivity.

3. Security Risks and Compliance Concerns

The decentralized setup posed security risks and compliance challenges. It was challenging to enforce access controls, monitor security events, and meet regulatory requirements.

4. Limited Collaboration and Productivity

The absence of a centralized IT environment hindered collaboration, communication, and productivity among employees across branches.

Solution

The Active Directory implementation included establishing an Active Directory Forest and Domain on the Azure VMs, creating a centralized identity management system. User accounts, security groups, and access policies were configured to streamline user provisioning, authentication, and access control processes.

1. Azure VM Deployment:

- Azure virtual machines were provisioned to host the Active Directory infrastructure, providing a scalable and flexible platform for centralized identity management.
- The VMs were configured with appropriate specifications and scalability options to accommodate future growth and demand.

2. Active Directory Implementation

- Active Directory Forest and Domain were established on the Azure VMs, creating a centralized identity management system.
- User accounts, security groups, and access policies were configured to streamline user provisioning, authentication, and access control processes.

3. Point-to-Site VPN and Network Connectivity

- Point-to-Site VPN tunnels were set up to establish secure connectivity between the Azure VMs and the end user's workstation.
- Network routing, subnets, and network security groups were configured to ensure secure and reliable communication between the Azure VMs and branch networks.

Results and Benefits

The solution provided numerous benefits for the NBFC. The following are some of the benefits of the implemented solution.

1. Centralized Identity Management

The implementation of Active Directory on Azure VMs provided a centralized identity management system, simplifying user provisioning, authentication, and access control processes across all branches.

2. Enhanced Security and Compliance

The centralized AD infrastructure, coupled with Azure's built-in security features, improved security controls, access management, and compliance adherence, mitigating security risks and ensuring regulatory compliance.

3. Streamlined Network Infrastructure

The Azure VMs and Point-to-Site VPN connections established a secure and organized network infrastructure, enabling consistent connectivity and centralized security management across users.

4. Scalability and Flexibility

Azure VMs provided scalability and flexibility, allowing the NBFC to accommodate future growth and changing business needs. As the organization expanded, the infrastructure could easily scale to accommodate additional users, branches, and resources without significant disruptions or additional hardware investments.



5. Cost Savings

By leveraging Azure's cloud capabilities, the NBFC reduced their infrastructure costs. Azure VMs eliminated the need for on-premises servers and hardware, resulting in lower capital expenditures. The pay-as-you-go pricing model of Azure allowed the NBFC to optimize their IT spending, paying only for the resources they used.

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We are delighted with the successful implementation of Active Directory on Azure VMs. This project has revolutionized our IT infrastructure, enabling centralized identity management, improved security, and enhanced collaboration. The dedication and expertise of our project team, in collaboration with our technology partner, have been instrumental in achieving these remarkable outcomes. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone involved in making this transformation a resounding success. With our robust and secure IT foundation, we are well-positioned to drive further innovation and growth for our organization.

- Program Manager, NBFC

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We are proud to have partnered with the NBFC in implementing Active Directory on Azure VMs. This successful collaboration showcases the power of Azure's cloud capabilities and the value of centralized identity management. By leveraging Azure's scalability and security features, we have provided the NBFC with a robust and efficient solution that addresses their unique challenges. We commend the NBFC's commitment to embracing technology for growth and applaud their dedication throughout the implementation process. This project is a testament to the transformative potential of cloud technologies in enhancing operational efficiency, security, and collaboration.

- Debasish Pramanik, Director SysTools

Conclusion

The implementation of Active Directory on Azure VMs empowered the Indian NBFC to overcome the challenges associated with decentralized identity management and network infrastructure. The centralized AD infrastructure, coupled with Azure's scalability, security, and collaboration tools, streamlined operations, improved security, and enhanced productivity across the organization. The Program Manager's appreciation reflects the positive impact of the project on the NBFC's IT landscape, affirming the value of a centralized and secure infrastructure for future growth and success.

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