

**Company Type**

Technology services

Industry

IT/ITES

File Server to Office 365 Migration

Background:

A leading solutions provider in the services sector based in the US was using file servers hosted locally on their premises. They were storing different types of data including documents and files on a legacy system that they had; and were ready for an upgrade. The business was exploring cloud solutions to modernize their operations and workflows. They opted for SharePoint Online as a part of the Office 365 suite.

Migration:

The legacy file server that the organization was using had several drawbacks. As the organization expanded, its operations were becoming increasingly complex and the server could not be scaled up easily to accommodate the increasing volume of data that was being stored and retrieved. Also, the dated architecture prevented them from leveraging modern capabilities that are needed to sustain the business. The business required a solution that would preserve the data integrity after migration and is affordable at the same time. Based on these, requirements, Microsoft 365 was identified as the best solution for migrating the contents of the file server.

Result

The Microsoft 365 subscription helps the business solve all the problems it had with its legacy file server. With its current plan, the business can accommodate a lot more data than it ever did in the past. Its employees have a lot more flexibility. Not only do they have more applications and services that can complement the features of SharePoint Online, but also access the data from anywhere because of the cloud-based platform.

Background:

A service-based company in the US was using an on-premises file server to store all kinds of data. This included document, customer information, and even backups. This was being used as a centralized storage repository that could be accessed by authorized users and machines. This was implemented on legacy hardware that was hard to upgrade or reconfigure. The file server used older protocols that are now susceptible to malicious attacks. Additionally, it was implemented several years ago when the business had relatively fewer employees and stored a lot less data. Many of these employees are no longer associated with the organization and a lot of the data, including drivers, program updates, text content, and multimedia was no longer being used. As the organization pursued to become more lean and agile, the management was looking for solutions to leverage technologies that fit into its philosophy and decided to revamp its infrastructure and operational procedures. Consequently, they decided to aggressively adopt cloud solutions in their pursuit of modernization.

Choosing Office 365 for File Server Migration

Although the business required only a collaboration platform, they decided to opt for a Microsoft 365 Business plan. Instead of opting for a standalone SharePoint Online plan, the choice of the productivity suite was driven by a longer-term vision. The employees in the organization were already familiar with, and accustomed to the applications in the Office suite. They were delighted to learn about the enhancements. While OneDrive for Business could be used for collaborating on individual documents, SharePoint Online could be used for accessing organization-wide resources. This was in addition to other applications such as Yammer and Teams that also used SharePoint Online for real-time collaboration on documents and projects.

The management, on its part, took comfort in knowing that the organization's data and services were protected by Microsoft's Service Level Agreements. They did not have to worry about backups, outages, updates, and security once everyone in the organization would start using Microsoft 365. This also meant that their IT team could now focus on core business tasks rather than the management of the cumbersome file server infrastructure which was in-line with the organization's larger vision of becoming lean, agile, and efficient.

Challenges of File Server Migration

Any migration from a legacy system to the cloud comes with its fair share of challenges. File servers that were designed over a decade ago have compatibility issues with modern document management solutions. As with any other older systems, the business had a lot of dead data that was mixed with business-critical data on the file server. The business was generating metadata continuously that also had to be migrated to SharePoint Online without disrupting operations. Additionally, the top-down directory structure of any legacy file server is challenging to replicate on SharePoint Online that uses Team Sites. These challenges were coupled with issues such as broken inheritances in the existing system that complicated the transition from the legacy file server to Office 365. The business had tried several methods to transfer data into the cloud solution but failed due to the dissimilarities between the environments.

Resolving File Server to SharePoint Migration Issues

Such migrations involving legacy file servers to Office 365 are best performed using tools by migration specialists. SharePoint migration service providers like Apps4Rent have deep expertise in analyzing and understanding the directory and folder structure of file servers and customizing plans for migrating to Office 365. Even though SharePoint Online provides a convenient admin dashboard for managing settings, certain aspects such as managing permissions and audit logs need expertise. Additionally, the tools used by the experts not only ensured that there was no loss of data, but also the metadata of the files was retained. The experts were able to move data incrementally to ensure that there were no disruptions in business operations. The business was able to migrate all the folders along with their required permission setup without losing data integrity despite having to change the information architecture significantly.

Driving Customer Satisfaction

Apps4Rent engineers are adept at such migrations involving upgrading legacy file servers to Office 365. We have performed tens of thousands of migrations in the past 17 years and provide tailor-made SharePoint migration services to businesses like this service provider. As a Tier 1 Microsoft CSP, not only do we help you procure the right Office 365/ Microsoft 365 plans and set it up for you, but also provide SharePoint hosting services. All this is backed by 24/7/365 phone, chat, and email support. Reach out to our experts to enquire about our services.