

Client: GamePlan Marketing for Scalar Decisions

Project: Case study: City of London disaster recovery in the cloud

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## **City of London Builds Disaster Recovery in the Cloud**

### **Successful Proof of Concept Runs Mission-critical Applications**

With nearly 400,000 people, the City of London is the largest municipality in Southwest Ontario. Located midway between Windsor and Toronto, London is a regional centre for medical research, health care, and education.

For about 10 years, the city has contemplated adding redundancy to key applications to aid in disaster recovery. The preferred solution, adding a second data centre, was hampered by budget and complexity. Quentin Grandine, the city's IT infrastructure manager, says, "Being public sector, getting funds and approvals is not simple. Hundreds of lines of business compete for the same dollars." And they shied away from the cloud due to data residency issues.

However, when one of the city's preferred vendors, Microsoft, added Canadian data centres to their Azure platform, Grandine proposed a proof of concept for disaster recovery in the cloud. "It's not as good as having our own data centre," Grandine continued, "but it can still provide us some of the redundancy we were looking for without the massive initial investment needed for a second data centre. That's where Azure was so tempting for us. You can start with a very low-risk initial investment to see if it works. If that investment doesn't work out, you can pull the plug. We don't have to wait for major forms of funding to come through."

### **Our Approach**

With these advantages in hand, the city moved forward with a proof of concept for cloud-based disaster recovery. They identified two key applications for the test: JD Edwards ERP software and Kronos for time entry and payroll.

Then, the city engaged Scalar to engineer a solution in Azure to ensure that users running applications from the cloud had the same experience as their on-premises system.

## **Solution**

Based on the city's needs, Scalar created an Azure infrastructure to support the proof of concept. First, Scalar worked with the city's application owners and infrastructure professionals to identify and configure all the supporting services required to create the infrastructure.

Next, Scalar configured all of the necessary services, servers, and workloads required to run the applications in the cloud. Scalar also configured the city's existing on-premises servers and software to successfully work with the new cloud environment.

To round out the infrastructure, Scalar collaborated with the city's IT team to create a list of virtual machines that needed to be protected. This enabled the team to start moving and protecting workloads in the cloud. As the project evolved, Scalar was on hand to troubleshoot issues, which required extensive tweaking to get the system humming.

To help the city's IT team understand their new cloud infrastructure, Scalar led workshops to get the team comfortable with their new environment.

## **Outcome**

With the help of Scalar's cloud expertise and skill set, the proof of concept was successful. The city was able to get JD Edwards and Kronos to work in Azure as a disaster recovery solution, making the City of London's first foray into the cloud a success. Grandine says, "Getting the infrastructure up and running and the workloads protected went relatively seamlessly, and Scalar did all of that. The Scalar team was very patient with us. They were very helpful and were there every step of the way."

As a result, the City of London is now confidently moving more workloads into the cloud. In the meantime, the city's arduous quest for IT funding resulted in the possibility of building a second data centre. "We will probably move down the second site route," Grandine explains, "however I believe that we are going to leave what we have up there and possibly still protect additional workloads in Azure just as an additional layer of redundancy."

## **Results**

- Created infrastructure in Microsoft Azure
- Key applications run successfully in the cloud for disaster recovery

## **Profile**

Scalar Decisions

Industry: Managed IT Services

Headquarters: Toronto, Ontario

Website: <https://www.scalar.ca>

### **Objective**

- Develop a proof of concept for running mission-critical applications in the cloud for disaster recovery
- Create redundancy without large data centre investment
- Install and configure applications and supporting services to create a user experience that matches what is delivered with on-premises servers

### **Highlights**

- City of London's first cloud project
- Created infrastructure in Microsoft Azure to protect new cloud workloads
- Developed list of virtual machines
- Configured on-premises servers to interact successfully with the cloud environment

### **Technology Used**

Microsoft Azure

JD Edwards ERP

Kronos