Packing to Move: A Real Estate Company’s Migration to Azure

For a Painless Azure Migration: When application challenges abound, trust in DCAC’s globally renowned expertise in Azure and the ecosystem Microsoft has built. Azure is the “Best in Breed” of cloud providers, while DCAC’s expertise ensures applications that weren’t designed for the cloud can be migrated successfully.

The Client:
ATTOM Data Solutions multi-sources property tax, deed, mortgage, foreclosure, environmental risk, natural hazard, and neighborhood data for more than 155 million U.S. residential and commercial properties covering 99% of the nation’s population.

Todd Teta and Richard Sawicky are the Chief Technology Officer and Chief Data Officer respectively.

The Challenge:
After numerous acquisitions, ATTOM wanted to consolidate and move a full 50 Terabytes to Azure.

Sawicky explains, “The project included consolidation and upgrading 10 legacy SQL Server databases, migration, conversion to SSIS catalogued project model as well as sizing and choosing the correct VM for the Azure environment.”

ATTOM’s expiring contract with a colocation facility added another level of complexity. “We didn’t want to sign another multi-year contract. There was a 45-day parallel run state. It was a ‘cannot fail’ event.”

The Solution:
Having worked with Denny Cherry & Associates Consulting years ago, Teta and Sawicky called DCAC. “We put Denny and the team in the budget from Day One. It’s that comfort level: you can trust them.”

Denny and Joey worked with the ATTOM team in designing the plan. The migration would be in two phases: customer-facing components first, back office second. As for sizing, Joey recommended the GS5. Sawicky and Teta favored the M Series. Todd admits, “During diagnostic testing we saw clearly Joey called it from the beginning.”

The Results:
Teta’s favorite aspects of the new Azure environment are the performance and budget savings. “Our response times have improved and thanks to the work on automation around monitoring, performance is great. Cost-wise, we reduced our infrastructure spending by more than 30%.”

For Sawicky, the new environment means better service and scalability. “We have the flexibility and the ability the scale and expand to consolidate all of our operations and be flexible as we take on new projects, new datasets. We can also better serve customers on a modern platform capable of enrolling a lot of the Azure functionality.”

Sawicky admits, “There were a ton of moving parts. Joey and Denny were there to quarterback us through it all. There is no way that we would be sitting here 100% in Azure without those guys.”