



Azure Backup Proof of Concept

Recovery of backups from an off-site location using removable media can be a time-consuming process; one that, in the event of a critical data recovery scenario, you may not be able to afford. Providing a resilient, on premise backup solution requires a significant CapEx commitment, followed by high levels of management and maintenance costs over the life of the service. Couple this with the fact that corporate data is doubling every two years, organisations need a viable alternative to traditional on premise tape-based solutions, which allows them to scale as quickly as they do. A scalable backup service is therefore central to a business continuity plan.

To counter the issues inherent with on premise backup solutions, we provide an Azure Backup Proof of Concept (PoC). As a Microsoft Gold Partner for Cloud Platform, we can articulate the benefits of a geo-replicated Backup as a Service (BaaS) solution within a broader Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery (BCDR) strategy. The engagement will demonstrate how such a service can help minimise maintenance, provide shorter recovery times and deliver consistency around tools (through the Azure Site Recovery portal), while embracing features such as compression, encryption, longer retention and bandwidth throttling to boost IT efficiency.

Scope

Ultima will deliver an Azure Backup as a Service PoC, providing an overview of how simple data backup to the cloud is, without the cost and ongoing management that is normally associated with on premise tape-based solutions. This particular engagement will outline how to:

- Select the correct backup model (agent or server)
- Protect workloads or files
- Recover data
- Embrace data sovereignty and encryption
- Understand the value of disaster recovery as a service

Engagement Approach

Delivered by a consultant from our Modern Data Centre team, we adopt a simple but effective four stage process which allows us to select data workloads that demonstrate the value of a robust cloud backup approach.

Step 1 - Analyse

Our consultant will lead a planning call to agree the scope and objectives of the proof of concept, and further understand the issues and operational challenges that may prevent the successful integration of Azure Backup into your environment. Once a schedule of engagement has been drawn up, the following activities will be undertaken:

- Identify existing data sovereignty, backup and encryption requirements
- Assess recovery point and recovery time objectives, as part of business continuity plan
- Due diligence on the source environment, including aspects such as connectivity and capacity for Azure Backup
- Discuss change management implications regarding the impact of the PoC in the customers' environment (e.g. production, user acceptance testing and development)

Step 2 - Define

Ultima will review the information from the analysis and tailor the Proof of Concept to suit the environment and emerging requirements of the business. During the engagement our consultant will:

- Outline the success criteria for the PoC and set expectations on what constitutes completion
- Select the correct backup model (agent or server), based on expected customer needs
- Define compatible servers and workloads to be protected by Azure Backup within the constraints of the PoC (up to 5 servers)
- Identify the source of Azure credits (e.g. Microsoft funding entitlement, pay as you go, or trial)
- Agree the UAT regimen, including backup related tests
- Create the scheduling plan to allow for backup testing within the time limits of the PoC
- Provide an estimated Azure credit expenditure figure for the PoC

Step 3 - Deliver

During this on-site stage, Ultima will set up the PoC environment as agreed. Knowledge transfer will be provided through shadowing, as our consultant goes through a pre-defined installation, configuration and testing process. This allows staff time to understand how the BaaS platform is set up, before we demonstrate the capabilities of the technology. At the end of the PoC we will leave the environment running for you to use, within the constraints of the trial agreement. Key steps to highlight in this step:

- Configure Azure Backup using the Azure Portal
- Install on premise Azure Backup components (agents or servers) on the source infrastructure
- Make sure the backup server is completing backups successfully (only applicable to the server PoC)
- Trigger initial backup of workloads (up to 5 servers)
- Perform basic test restores as agreed to demonstrate the process

Step 4 - Present

Ultima will present a summary of the PoC engagement against the success criteria to your team via Skype. This will give you an opportunity to ask questions, share experiences, gain advice and plan for potential next steps. This could include expanding the use of Azure Backup beyond the PoC and into production, as part of a wider BCDR strategy.

Following on from this engagement, Ultima are well placed to help with anything from a full deployment of Azure Backup to a "top down" review of business continuity (including disaster recovery) in your business.

Azure Backup PoC Summary

Key Benefits

- Gain experience of Azure Backup in your environment
- Identify areas where a cloud BaaS could benefit you
- Recognise how it will fit within an existing BCDR strategy
- Advice and guidance from a qualified cloud specialist

Prerequisites

- Candidate data or workloads backed up
- ISP connection or Express Route for backup traffic
- Capacity to deploy backup agents or servers
- Azure trial subscription
- A schedule of engagement outlining the scope

Key Deliverables

- The Azure Backup Proof of Concept
- Present BaaS benefits and define post-PoC actions

Typical Duration (Agent) 4 Days

Typical Duration (Server) 5 Days

Microsoft Partner

- Gold Datacenter
- Gold Cloud Platform
- Gold Cloud Productivity
- Gold Identity and Access
- Gold Devices and Deployment
- Gold OEM
- Gold Messaging
- Gold Volume Licensing
- Gold Communications
- Gold Enterprise Mobility
- Silver Software Asset Management

Head Office

Gainsborough House,
Manor Park, Basingstoke Road,
Reading, Berkshire, RG2 0NA

☎ 0333 015 8000
✉ enquiries@ultima.com
🌐 www.ultima.com

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Ultima packaged services, please visit
ultima.com or call our sales team