ultima

Disaster Recovery as a Service

Maintaining a disaster recovery (DR) capability across any enterprise is a critical component of an organisation's wider business continuity (BC) strategy. With downtime measured in more than just monetary terms, maintaining operational availability for your mission critical services has never been more important. Knowing that your business can - not only survive an event such as a natural disaster, power outage or even human error - but continue to function, is absolutely vital. DR events can happen anywhere, at any time, therefore the peace of mind that accompanies a cloud-based safety net is invaluable.

As a Microsoft Gold Partner for Cloud Platform, we can provide a Proof of Concept (PoC) for Azure Site Recovery, which illustrates how, as part of a broader BC/DR strategy, applications, workloads and data can remain accessible during periods of downtime. During the engagement, we will demonstrate how to automate replication, invoke DR and monitor protected instances - before recovering to normal working conditions in an orderly manner, using the Azure portal and runbooks.

Scope

Ultima will deliver an Azure Site Recovery PoC to explain the benefits of having a Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS) solution. It shows how your organisation can continue functioning during, and after, an adverse event - without the cost and ongoing management that is normally associated with non-cloud DR solutions. This engagement will include:

- Configuration of Azure Site Recovery (ASR)
- How to add protected servers
- Guidance on advanced features
- Demonstration of test failovers and built in automation
- The value of a DRaaS and how it can help your business

Engagement Approach

Delivered by a consultant from our Data Centre and Cloud team, we adopt a simple, but effective, four stage process, allowing us to select workloads that demonstrate the value of a robust disaster recovery approach.

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Key Benefits

- Gain experience of Azure Site Recovery (ASR) in your environment
- Identify areas where ASR could benefit you
- Recognise how it will fit within an existing BC/DR strategy
- Get advice and guidance from a cloud specialist
- Find out how to better protect your IT investments

Prerequisites

- Azure compatible source virtual machines
- ISP connection or Express Route for replication traffic
- Capacity to deploy ASR agents and management servers
- Azure trial subscription
- Schedule of engagement, outlining the scope

Key Deliverables

- Azure Site Recovery Proof of Concept
- Next steps meeting to present the key benefits of ASR and define post-PoC actions

Typical Duration	4 Days

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 Site Recovery into your environment. Once a schedule of engagement has been drawn up, the following activities will be undertaken:

- Assess RPO (recovery point objective) and RTO (recovery time objective) as part of a business continuity plan
- Due diligence on the source environment, including aspects such as connectivity, hypervisor and capacity for ASR integration
- Discuss change management implications regarding the impact of the PoC in your environment e.g. production, user acceptance testing (UAT) and development

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

Step 2 - Define

Ultima will review the information from the analysis and use this to tailor the PoC 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
- Define compatible servers and workloads to be protected by ASR, 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
- Establish the other Azure services required to complete the PoC, such as virtual networks, security groups and network gateways
- Describe the method of connectivity for testing failed over workloads, including virtual private network (VPN), remote desktop protocol (RDP) or Express Route
- Agree the UAT regimen, including workload-specific tests
- Create the scheduling plan to allow for replication 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. 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 DRaaS platform is set up, before we move on to 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.

Activities

- Install on premise Azure Site Recovery components (agents and servers) on the source infrastructure
- Configure supporting Azure features as identified in the previous stage
- Configure Azure Site Recovery using the Azure portal
- Trigger initial replication of workloads (up to 5 servers)
- Configure options for failover in ASR and discuss the options available
- Perform test failovers as agreed
- Support with basic application level testing

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, including expanding the use of Azure Site Recovery beyond the PoC and into production.

Following on from this engagement, Ultima is well placed to help with anything from a full deployment of Azure Site Recovery to a top down review of Business Continuity (including Disaster Recovery) in your business.