

Resolving the Hybrid Cloud Management Challenge with AZURE OMS



Whether your organisation has been leveraging cloud solutions for years or you are only just beginning to scratch the surface of what's possible, keeping pace with developments is a tall order, especially when your business is evolving at scale and you don't have the operational insight to make key decisions.

Accelerated pace of innovation within the modern era presents many challenges for traditional management systems. IT departments now need to think about how best to integrate and support a broad spectrum of hybrid infrastructure, heterogeneous environments and agile development work streams, in order to provide a single uncluttered viewpoint to both consumers and administrators.

Having workloads in different places and across diverse platforms has historically required a range of different tool-sets to provide end-to-end IT life-cycle management, all of which require different skills to operate effectively.

The lack of a consolidated management view across the hybrid cloud directly impacts agility and performance. Organisations who want to scale rapidly often find themselves hindered by the very systems that have been put in place to protect them. Administrators lack the kind of deep analytics that allow them to identify issues quickly and maximize performance, and the disparate nature of the tools used do not allow for end-to-end automation.



Diverse Platforms = Limited Visibility

Relying on wholly separate monitoring and management tool-sets for both on premises infrastructure, hybrid cloud and public cloud services can result in a very distributed viewpoint, often with conflicting information being presented to the user. The intelligence that would otherwise be gained through the use of a unified platform is lost, as administrators try and piece together a picture of their IT estate using multiple datasets, often during times of crisis when a more consolidated view would help in root cause analysis and decision making.

Expensive and Ineffective DR Platforms

While disaster recovery systems provide an expensive insurance policy that is rarely invoked, the capability they provide are absolutely necessary. Organisations treat recovery time and recovery point objectives in many different ways, from maintaining a complete copy of their IT systems in another data centre, to using a traditional backup process to restore systems during an adverse event. Having expensive secondary systems sitting idle can stretch the IT budget unnecessarily and a lack of cover can expose the business to unacceptable risk.

Slow and Cumbersome Management

Managing the IT life-cycle is inherently a slow and often manual process. Deploying new servers and workloads and protecting them with monitoring, disaster recovery and backup can be exacerbated by the sheer number of tools and systems that must be employed to achieve the desired result. A lack of automation and self-service can often result in misconfiguration, which in turn can lead to a lack of consistency across the estate. IT is seen as unresponsive, unable to keep up with the rapid developments at the application layer.

Complex and Unreliable Backup

Maintaining backups across diverse systems and platforms, each with different recovery and retention requirements can become unmanageable. Administering backups across the enterprise can be extremely time consuming and despite best endeavours, can often result in unreliable restore capability. Backup jobs fail to finish as the volume of data grows and pressures on the backup window become too great. Similarly, the storage of backup and archival data long term becomes a real constraint, as legislation and company policy drives behaviour.

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Unified Management with Azure OMS

Azure Operation Management Suite (OMS) is Microsoft's IT management, monitoring, automation and protection solution for the hybrid cloud. It can be used either as a standalone product or to extend an existing System Center deployment, giving you flexibility and control for cloud-based management of your infrastructure. With it, you can manage instances in Azure and AWS, as well as on premises systems such as Windows Server, Linux, VMware and OpenStack.

Azure OMS offers a brand new approach to managing your enterprise. It is the fastest, most cost-effective way to meet new business challenges and accommodate new workloads, applications and cloud environments whilst protecting against failure or attack.



Protection and Recovery



Insight and Analytics

OMS Backup provides heterogeneous protection at a fraction of the cost of most traditional solutions. State-of-the-art security coupled with a cost-effective model for long-term retention makes it possible to eliminate costly and unreliable off-site tapes. Similarly, Site Recovery addresses the challenges associated with organic growth by providing comprehensive protection for VMware, Hyper-V and physical servers, while allowing organisations to leverage Azure as their recovery site.

To meet the demands of rapid changes in the competitive landscape, businesses are often taking a hybrid approach to IT, combining public cloud services with existing on-premises resources. Azure OMS enables you to set up an IT operational intelligence platform in the cloud. It is designed to deliver a simple and unified experience, allowing you to gain control over your entire environment, no matter what type of resources you have or where they are located.



Security and Compliance



Automation and Control

Today's IT Security and Operations teams are tasked with managing complex, hybrid-cloud, cross-platform systems that are increasingly vulnerable to sophisticated attacks. Using OMS, administrators can quickly understand their security posture as well as detect and investigate threats to their estate. OMS leverages Microsoft's own security data and analysis to perform intelligent and effective threat detection, mitigating potential damage and helping organisations comply with security audits.

In a competitive world, organisations need to drive innovation faster to market. Leveraging Windows PowerShell and Azure technologies, OMS Automation gives you the tools to handle increased speed without sacrificing reliability. You can set up automated processes, including remediation, that ensures you can meet tight SLAs and respond to business needs faster. OMS is designed to manage and control activities across a hybrid cloud, including support for Linux and AWS.

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How to Get Started

Regardless of your exposure to Azure OMS, Ultima can help you exploit its benefits, from demonstrating the technology as part of a business justification review, to getting you set up on the right subscription model and deploying the functionality throughout the entirety of your organisation.

Ultima will deliver Azure OMS (comprised of Insight and Analytics, Automation and Control, Security and Compliance, Protection and Recovery) into your organisation and set up each component, allowing your team to begin exploiting the benefits of a truly unified management platform.

Our on-boarding service is designed to be flexible, ranging from tenant setup and integration of services running in Azure, AWS, Windows Server, Linux and VMware, to advanced configuration, leveraging the power of Azure OMS.

Depending on your requirement and the subscriptions held, E1 and E2 plans will be required to deliver full functionality on a per-node basis. For customers using System Center with Software Assurance, we can either add Azure OMS to your existing licence or convert them to an appropriate subscription model, extending your existing investment.

While Ultima is able to provide flexible data centre and cloud-related engagements, to help you get started, we have highlighted three key services aimed at introducing, extending and managing OMS across your business.



Azure OMS Proof of Concept

Find out how to collect, analyse and search millions of records across your workloads and servers, and provide a consolidated view of performance, event, alert and configuration data. Use real-time intelligence and metrics to make informed decisions, mitigate security risks and orchestrate complex operations.

Azure OMS Consultancy

For customers thinking about adopting Azure OMS, our team can help you to maximise return on your investment by developing custom analytics, simplifying backup and disaster recovery scenarios, taking back control through automation and responsive lifecycle management, and streamlining security and compliance.

Azure OMS Managed Service

Wrapping an ITIL-aligned managed service around an OMS implementation allows you to leverage our extensive experience as a specialist data centre and cloud partner, offloading everything from device on-boarding and backup management, to detailed security analysis and disaster recovery testing.

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Ultima and Azure OMS

Whether you are looking to optimise, migrate, consolidate, modernise or expand your data centres into the cloud, or simply want to support your existing platforms more effectively, our specialists are here to help make the technologies like Azure OMS a positive asset.

In addition to being a Microsoft Licensing Solutions Specialist and Service Interactor, Ultima is a certified Cloud Deployment Partner, authorised to deliver Microsoft Deployment Planning Services. Through our flexible engagements, organisations can unlock the full range of OMS benefits, from increased compliance and control, greater agility through automation of complex processes and enhanced analysis of even the most diverse environment.



Certified Experts

Services delivered by a dedicated Data Centre practice, specialising in delivering Hybrid IT solutions with OMS and Azure at its core.



Hybrid Experience

Our specialists are experts in designing, developing, implementing and managing multi-vendor data centre and cloud solutions.



Strength In Depth

As a ten times Microsoft Gold Partner, Ultima maintain the highest accreditations including Gold Cloud Platform and Datacenter.



Vision and Leadership

Our architects and consultants are able to support strategic business imperatives and become a trusted technology advisor.



Releasing Potential

Continually delivering cloud benefits at the very heart of your business, based on optimised and service-orientated data centre solutions.



Connected Services

Gain access to the Ultima expertise, linking in associated strategic and tactical engagements from across the data centre and beyond.