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Exchange 2016 – O365 Hybrid Migration

About Customer : An Automobile Company located in Sydney, Australia

Industry : Automobiles

Location : Sydney, Australia.

Overview :

- Setup Hybrid Exchange Configuration and Migrating all users', Shared Mailboxes & Public Folders to Exchange Online

- Our customer was running Microsoft Exchange Server 2016 15.1 (Build 1591.10) with CU Roll Up 11 installed for email services. The objective of this project was to setup Hybrid Exchange Configuration between on-premises Microsoft Exchange 2016 server and O365. Followed by migration of all users', Shared Mailboxes & Public Folders to Exchange Online Environment without any interruption to end users & minimal reconfiguration required if any.

Solution :

> Seamless migration of entire exchange configurations & users' mailboxes (including Public Folders, shared mailboxes, DLs, Contacts etc.) to Office 365. A Hybrid Exchange relationship was established between on-premises Exchange & Exchange Online Organization & following procedures were carried out for flawless migration of email services to Office 365

  > Setup Directory Synchronization between on-premises AD & Azure AD using Azure AD Connect Tool.

  > Configure Hybrid Exchange relationship between On-Premises Exchange & Exchange Online for seamless migration of users' mailboxes & reconfiguration of their outlook profiles.

  > Provisioning of Migration endpoint & batches for users' & shared mailboxes, public folders migration in staged manner.

  > Analyze results of configured migration batches, identifying any errors/warnings along with their remediation.

  > Schedule & Perform DNS Switchover for routing mail flow to Exchange Online.

Once all the files were migrated successfully, the old Windows Server and the temporary setup were gracefully decommissioned. A post-migration support was also provided for the next few days.

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Technical Challenges :

Mainly there are two different approaches for migration of current on-premises exchange environment to Exchange Online (Office 365),

- Use some 3rd Party paid migration tools: Bit Titan, SkyKick, AvePoint etc. which requires an additional software deployment either on server or users' workstations for email data migration & reconfiguring their Outlook Profiles

- Microsoft Native Hybrid Exchange Migration: Leverage Microsoft native methods for migrating all users' mailboxes along with exchange configuration to Office 365, without the need for any extra application deployment under users' devices for reconfiguring their outlook profiles. Hence this approach was opted for flawless delivery of this project & again it is a recommend way to do so by Microsoft as well.

Technologies used :

Azure AD Connect   Microsoft 365   Hybrid Configuration Wizard

Accomplishment :

- The migration was seamlessly carried out without hampering productivity of The

- Successful migration of all users' mailboxes & Exchange Configuration to Office 365

- The migration led to an enhanced performance and reliability

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