Managing the Complexities of PaaS with Rackspace and Azure

A Real-World Use-Case and Example

rackspace

The Microsoft® Azure® cloud ecosystem continues to be a powerful resource for organizations looking to scale their business and their capabilities. Today, leading businesses are leveraging Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) as a complete development and deployment environment in the Azure cloud, with resources that enable them to deliver everything from simple cloud-based apps to sophisticated, cloud-enabled enterprise applications. From there, they leverage third-party providers who deliver hardware and software tools to users over the Internet and cloud.

But what happens when you start to lose control? What do you do when there's just too much complexity to control and critical components like monitoring and security become a serious problem? Most of all, what happens when your cloud is stifled?

These are the growing pains of a digital transformation and working with the cloud.

And, you don't have to deal with these growing pains alone. Working with a good PaaS solution alongside effective managed services can really make your life easier. Gartner recently stated that IT will be increasingly tasked with supporting complex, distributed applications using new technologies that are spread across systems in multiple locations, including on-premises data centers, the public cloud and hosting providers. This means you'll need to adopt a better model to handle your PaaS ecosystem with partners who can support it. In that model you should consider working with a partner that has the solutions and expertise to help manage this ecosystem.
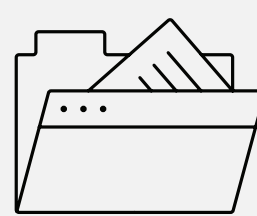
Facing the PaaS Reality

Strategic adoption of PaaS is increasing, while PaaS vendors are continuing to innovate and introduce change. Leaders responsible for architecture and infrastructure support should understand key cloud platform management mechanisms to support even the most complex systems.

And with this complexity comes management challenges. Managed services from a team of experts can enhance — and simplify — the entire cloud journey.

A Real-World Use Case:

How Rackspace Manages Complex Azure PaaS Architectures

1. Our expert architects help design solutions that scale to 10 million unique users per month
2. We leverage intelligent, automated solutions that allow you to scale out for special events and scale in afterward
3. We deliver SQL database models needed to achieve application requirements and new data delivery solutions
4. We follow a hybrid deployment mode that allows you to leverage existing infrastructure and scale into the cloud when necessary
5. We provide a highly secure environment to boost confidence and business resiliency for both internal and external customers
6. We monitor your infrastructure, log incidents and utilize a smart-ticket solution that enables proactive responses to infrastructure issues
7. Our cloud-ready managed services address your scalability needs and security and compliance mandates while allowing us to build and deploy based on your requirements
8. We provide a an efficient and well managed ecosystem to allow for cost-conscious solution delivery

Managing Data:

A SQL Approach Leveraging Managed Services

1. Rackspace Managed Services: Enabling Azure PaaS and Removing Complexity
2. Monitoring to ensure all critical services remain available
3. Security access administration, including passwords and schemas
4. Maintenance and proactive tuning for end- user and application access
5. Point release upgrades and prerequisite patching as needed
6. Consistent SLA measurements alongside HA and scalability
7. Proactive optimization and agility

A Focus on Security

Microsoft Azure excels at providing compute, storage and network-level security. But just because your cloud platform was built with security in mind doesn't mean you have end-to-end security covered in the cloud. You're still responsible for securing the services and applications you run on the cloud.
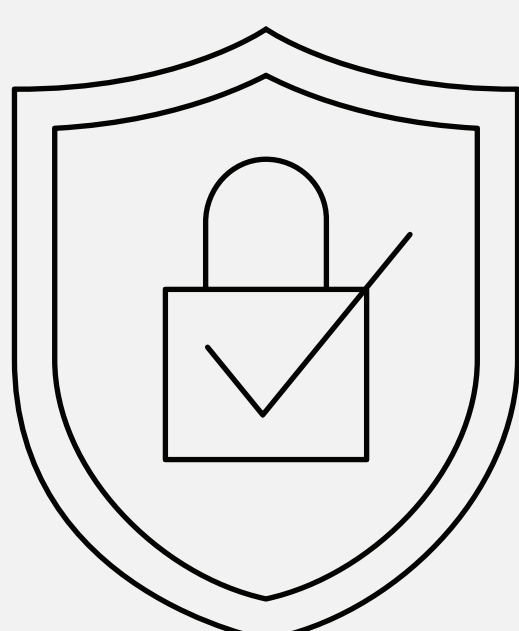
With Rackspace Managed Security Services — a proven managed security service provider (MSSP) — Azure security experts become your first line of security maintenance and defense. Rackspace combines best-of-breed technology with world-class security analysts who monitor your environment 24x7x365 and immediately respond to threats on your behalf.

Keeping an eye on it all!

Globally distributed applications need more than just basic monitoring and analytics. They need a quick and powerful way to continuously monitor the entire Azure PaaS stack, and a customizable level of detail that pinpoints core issues for speedy resolution.

Rackspace Monitoring and Managed Services offer an enterprise-grade solution that helps keep your applications and PaaS architecture up and running fast — all of the time.

For example, remote monitoring tests connectivity from regional zones deployed throughout our global data centers, and agent-based monitoring gathers information from inside each resource — so you always receive the richest information possible.

A Quick Peek Under the Security Hood

- Managed intrusion detection system (IDS)
- Cross-platform vulnerability management
- Security Compliance reporting and attestation for PCI DSS
- Continuous no-touch vulnerability scanning and exposure management
- Log management and daily log review and analysis for malicious user behavior, server-side ransomware detection, post-compromise forensics and compliance
- Managed detection and response monitoring service
- Out-of-band anomaly detection of suspicious application transactions, user behavior, and web application attacks
- Supervised machine learning for detecting multi-stage, multi-vector web application attacks

The Final Azure + Rackspace PaaS Solution

Azure PaaS is as complex as it is powerful. Few organizations have the ability to deploy and run an entire Azure Pass architecture on its own; many fail trying. Rackspace has the expertise, experience and unmatched support you can trust to help you implement Azure PaaS alongside their core managed services offerings.

Now you can realize the flexibility, agility and hyper-scale of Azure, while maintaining the security, customization and control of a single-tenant environment.

www.rackspace.com/microsoft/managed-azure-cloud

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