



AxFina Finds Speed and Regulation with Azure Migration

When Central and Eastern Europe focused asset and loan servicer AxFina Holding S.A acquired Hungarian leasing company Lombard Lízing Zrt., they had just a few weeks to replace Lombard's infrastructure that had reached the end of its life cycle. With AxFina's desire to innovate and scale and regulatory requirements looming, they turned to Hungarian IT company DIGITAL Kft. to help them migrate the entirety of its IT applications to the cloud. Microsoft Azure became the ideal solution to ensure AxFina maintained security, regulatory compliance, and speed.

A team effort for migration

For systems integration, DIGITAL Kft. partnered with Kvazar.cloud, one of the largest Microsoft cloud hosting indirect partners in Hungary, managing more than 40,000 CSP licenses.

AxFina had long hosted their own IT infrastructure in Hungary with in-house datacenters. However, this legacy system was approaching end of support and AxFina needed to find an alternative solution that would not only enable them to significantly reduce costs but even more importantly support AxFina's growth across jurisdictions and product innovation.

“Since the infrastructure change came at the very end of its lifecycle, to replace it we would have had a spend of about 1.5 million Euros just in Hungary. We have completely averted this spend by migrating to Microsoft Azure,” said AxFina CTO Johannes Wolfslehner. “Next year, we will release at least 60 to 70% of the recurring infrastructure-related costs enabled by Azure’s pay-as-you-go subscription model.”

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-- Johannes Wolfslehner, AxFina CTO

The trust between DIGITAL Kft. and Kvazar.cloud and cooperation with Microsoft Hungary was pivotal in helping AxFina meet their needs. DIGITAL Kft. helped safeguard AxFina’s budget, while Kvazar.cloud was able to formulate the Microsoft request without the need for a strategy and planning workshop, as it already contained all the necessary information to build the business use case.

“I’ve never seen such a well-specified request,” said Microsoft Cloud Solutions Architect Lorand Farkas. “It was really easy to lean on it.”

Azure as the solution

AxFina had also been considering a local cloud solution provider, but chose Microsoft Azure for its many benefits, including cost reduction, scalability, and compliance with regulatory requirements and security standards. Azure is also able to offer the reach and scale to support expansion thanks to its worldwide operations.

DIGITAL Kft. and Kvazar.cloud approached local Microsoft cloud architects to assist in a tight timeline lift and shift migration to Azure. The two worked closely to successfully migrate AxFina Hungary’s entire on-premises environment to Azure, by following the best practices described in the [Microsoft Cloud Adoption Framework](#). And the experienced engineering team at DIGITAL Kft. worked tirelessly to meet the strict deadline for the migration.

“The main factor was customer satisfaction,” said Microsoft Cloud Solutions Architect Lorand Farkas. “They got all the help required to make sure that this is a super optimized environment, and they feel confident using Azure as they scale to other countries.”

The gold standard in security and regulations

Because The Magyar Nemzeti Bank (MNB), the central bank of Hungary, had recently changed their compliance and regulatory requirements, local companies were very anxious about these changes and the subsequent audits.

“We are a financial institution in Hungary, that moved its full IT infrastructure into the public cloud and were able to cover the MNB’s regulations and recommendations at the same time. This may serve as a role model for the Hungarian regulator and set an example for other financial institutions. This flexible infrastructure is the foundation of our growth,” said Attila Kovács.



As AxFina was also looking to expand into other countries, compliance was key.

“Compliance is difficult when you add more countries to a solution, because every country has slightly different compliance requirements for financial companies,” said József Fenyvesi, DIGITAL Kft. General Manager. “Orchestrating geographically distributed financial companies across Europe and providing the same, highly trusted computing environment – that is Microsoft Azure.”

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In addition to lifting and shifting all assets to Azure, DIGITAL Kft. also implemented Azure Virtual Desktop for 50 users and performed an Exchange 2010 to Exchange Online migration. An Enterprise-scale landing

zone was also deployed, with governance and security configured using Security Center's Defender Plan and Azure Policies. **Finally, Kvazar.cloud enabled Azure Lighthouse for secure customer management and to streamline future multi-tenant management efforts.**

Ultimately, the transition to Microsoft Azure allowed AxFina flexibility in infrastructure and pricing, easily scalable infrastructure, and compliance with all EU financial regulations. The team continues to provide ongoing support and cooperation with Microsoft and Azure experts, sharing best practices to maintain customer satisfaction.

"Not only have we managed to migrate the necessary infrastructure, we were able to pilot cloud transformation in Hungary within a regulated entity, all while molding it into an innovative player in the market," said Wolfslehner.