Technical case study

Melville Housing

Navigating to the cloud with Azure and Kick

Melville Housing is a charitable organisation that supports local communities with high quality affordable homes and services. They are committed to meeting local housing needs and own and manage properties across Midlothian, South Lanarkshire, North Lanarkshire, East Lothian and Edinburgh.

The challenge

Melville Housing grappled with the complexities of an in-house IT setup, characterised by high costs, increased risks, and security concerns. The financial strain of hardware procurement, software licensing, and the necessity for skilled IT staff were compounded by the rapid pace of technological advancement.

Partnering with Kick

Melville Housing's ongoing partnership with Kick combined with the appointment of an in-house IT Manager, proved to be pivotal. Kick's expertise in cloud solutions, cybersecurity, and a broad spectrum of IT services was instrumental in transforming Melville Housing's operational framework, allowing them to focus on their core objectives.

Solution and implementation

The adoption of Azure and Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) marked a transformative approach to disaster recovery, management efficiency, and cybersecurity for Melville Housing. Kick played a crucial role in this transition, leveraging Azure Site Recovery (ASR) to bolster disaster recovery capabilities and ensuring a secure, streamlined IT environment.

Key deliverables and milestones:

/ **AVD Proof of Concept (PoC):** Establishing a foundational PoC for AVD to assess its functionality and performance
/ **Golden image creation and management:** Crafting and managing a unified OS image for AVD to guarantee security and consistency
/ **Migration planning and execution:** Strategising and implementing a phased migration to Azure, minimising operational disruptions
/ **Training and documentation:** Providing comprehensive training and documentation for the Azure setup
/ **ASR disaster recovery setup:** Implementing ASR for disaster recovery, including workload replication and failover testing, to ensure business continuity

Impact and benefits

The migration to Azure signalled a paradigm shift for Melville Housing, immediately reducing physical infrastructure costs and enhancing IT operational efficiency. This foundational change not only optimised current operations but also paved the way for future innovations like Passwordless Authentication and integration with third-party cloud systems. Azure's disaster recovery solutions fortified their resilience, while its scalability facilitated sustainable growth.

Working together

The successful collaboration with Kick was evidenced by clear communication, responsiveness, and effective project management, ensuring the project's success without diverting focus from Melville Housing's core functions. Kick's expertise offered a level of support and knowledge far beyond what an in-house team could provide, showcasing the benefits of external IT partnership.

Melville Housing
working with you

IT