

ACS International Schools



Optimised Public Cloud environment aids enhanced learning

Number of sites: 20+ | Number of users: 1,000+

The project

Established in 1967, ACS provides high quality, truly international education, which nurtures global thinkers and inspires better solutions to positively impact the communities they serve. ACS supports over 3,700 students from more than 100 countries.

An expedited Data Centre exit meant ACS had to move essential workloads to the cloud quickly. As a result of their accelerated migration, the IT team identified some key risks they needed to remediate.

The solution

ACS engaged Focus Group to undertake an Azure Best Practice Audit, giving them a holistic view of their cloud adoption model. This consultancy realigned their migration strategy to the Microsoft Cloud Adoption Framework, ACS internal policies and industry best practice.

The audit covered:

- Assessment of current Azure configuration
- Evaluation of Azure consumption and spend
- Identification of high-severity risks
- Comprehensive workshop and support strategy for future cloud requirements

As well as bolstering ACS' cloud security, we also enriched their network security with a Fortinet Secure SD-WAN solution across all UK sites that was then integrated into their existing Cisco Meraki LAN and Wi-Fi solution.

The result

Following this refactoring in Microsoft Azure, ACS now have improved cloud governance, security and Identity Access Management (IAM), as well as back-up and recovery functions. This has increased security and standardisation across their platform, reduced cloud consumption, monthly costs and ultimately complexity, resulting in quicker response times and end-to-end protection across their estate.

