



Sodexo leverages managed connectivity to Azure to accelerate its cloud transformation





Global services and facilities management company Sodexo has chosen InterCloud to manage its cloud connectivity end-to-end. Leveraging InterCloud's Software-Defined platform, Sodexo has moved from a "cloud first" strategy to a "cloud by design" approach. As a result, half of its 2,000-2,500 applications have been moved to Microsoft Azure.

The move to Azure to boost infrastructure modernization

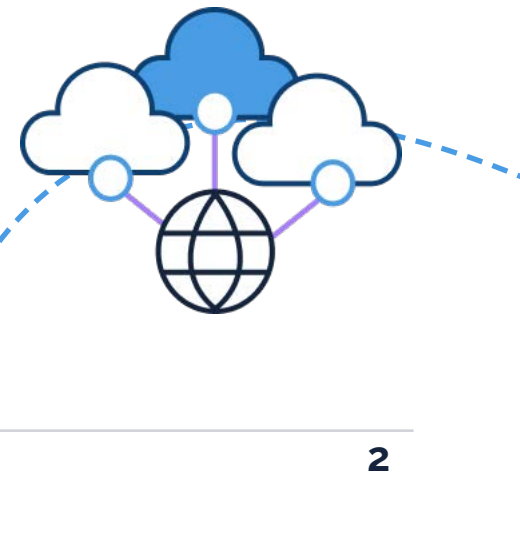
Sodexo began looking at the public cloud to expand the capacity of its data centers. Its plan was to gradually move out of its four large infrastructure sites and several other locations spread throughout France.

"We went from a cloud first strategy three years ago to a cloud by design approach," says Florent Trécourt, Global Network Architect, Sodexo, Global IS&T, Sodexo Group.

"All our new applications have to be cloud native. We are modernizing our infrastructure using Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) as well as Infrastructure as Code and Platform as a Service (PaaS) as part of our data strategy."

Sodexo chose Microsoft Azure as its main public cloud platform.

"In an effort to reduce our data center footprint, we believed that Azure was the best option for infrastructure standardization, scalability, improved performance and automation. We see Azure as an extension of our own data centers."





Sodexo started to migrate some of its 2,000 - 2,500 applications to Microsoft Azure

Besides the platform to platform migrations, certain on-premise servers have also been consolidated to Microsoft Azure cloud.

Development of a new facility management platform offering new digital services to its customers

"This platform shows our commitment to completely rethinking the way we manage our clients' facilities", says Florent Trécourt. "This platform shows our commitment to completely rethinking the way we manage our clients' facilities", says Florent Trécourt.

"Combining various Microsoft productivity solutions, particularly Dynamics 365, Azure, AI and IoT, allows Sodexo to offer its worldwide teams a collaborative workspace.

Ideally, our users shouldn't notice any difference between applications hosted on-premises and those hosted by Azure".

- Global Network Architect



“ In September 2018, we compared different offers and selected InterCloud, on the one hand for its ability to provide a managed service overseeing all of the Express-Route links we wanted to deploy, and on the other hand, for its capacity to manage all of our points of presence, which is something the other operators couldn't do.

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- Global Network Architect

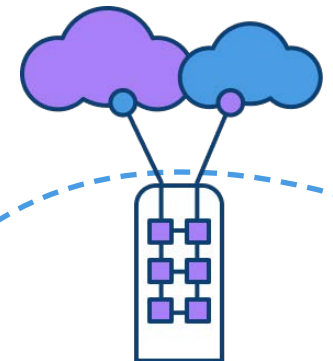
>> Choosing a managed connectivity provider with truly global capabilities

Sodexo chose InterCloud's fully managed solution to implement private connectivity via ExpressRoute in Asia, Latin America and Europe.

Sodexo had a clear preference for a platform service as well as a managed solution to free its internal IT team from 24/7 operations.

BGP protocol support is one of InterCloud's strengths and a clear benefit for Sodexo. “Whenever a new service is available - whether hosted on-premises or in Azure- the routes are broadcast dynamically throughout our Global-WAN, which covers over 70 countries and 220 points of presence. BGP allows us to broadcast anywhere in the world the availability of a service in the closest footprint,” explains Mr. Trécourt.

Sodexo is still in the Azure platform launch phase within its information system. “We're integrating every country into this new architecture step by step, using VPN links on the internet as backup. The long-term goal is to mirror these links with InterCloud once traffic towards Azure starts growing.”





>> Enhanced network flexibility through software-defined connectivity

Through the InterCloud platform, Sodexo can control its services in a simple way. The console provides access to the operation parameter history for each link managed by InterCloud.

"We want to automate the control of these network links, and occasionally increase their bandwidth, let's say during an application migration. This software-Defined approach will enable capacity planning on the fly as well facilitate planned operations."

Sodexo's goal is to migrate its entire information system to Microsoft Azure within the next three years.

"Consolidation of resources in the Cloud is Sodexo's first cloud use case, but I'm sure that throughout this transformation other use cases will appear. Reshaping our network and infrastructure and shifting from a very traditional MPLS network to a SD-WAN anticipates a key structural trend."

In this context, Sodexo is interested in optimizing its connectivity with InterCloud's NFV (Network Functions Virtualization), which provides additional services like WAN acceleration or security such as firewalls or proxies during important deployments of IT resources on Microsoft Azure.



About InterCloud

InterCloud's end-to-end global connectivity platform eliminates the complexity in deploying the cloud, giving businesses full control over the security, sovereignty, and performance of their critical data traffic with complete peace of mind.

Working with organizations to help them transform global connectivity, reduce network complexity, and accelerate growth and innovation, InterCloud is a trusted advisor to some of the world's leading brands when it comes to leveraging the cloud for future success

With offices across Europe, the company's platform is underpinned by its team of cloud experts who guide customers to implement effective strategies to leverage the power of the cloud across their organization – making global connectivity a driver for business performance.

www.intercloud.com