Acuutech®

Hybrid file server (Azure File Sync) Planning & Deployment

File Access

A remote file access solution powered by Azure File Share; the system allows SMB 3.0 shares to be accessed from any location over the Internet using standard Windows file access protocols.

Features

- Access Windows file share from any location with an Internet connection using standard Windows SMB protocol and addressing format (\\Full server name\share name\).
- Works with any operating system that supports SMB 3.0 or later.
- The migration of cold data from local file share to Azure-based storage reduces internal data storage requirements.

Limitations

- The performance of shares via the Internet will depend on the Internet connection.
- The share's latency and response time will depend on the connecting user's geographical location to the data's storage location (Azure region).
- It is not recommended that IO or latency-sensitive applications or workloads operate directly against remote file access.
- Charges for Data retrieval from Azure storage accounts will apply.
- File and folder-level permissions are only supported where Azure AD Connect synchronisation is in place.

Distributed File Sync

A file replication and caching system based on Azure File Sync, the solution increases file access speed (through the deployment of geographically local cached copies) coupled with the archive of sedimentary data (data at rest) from internal systems to save internal disk usage to Azure, with user support instigated real-time file retrieval.

Features

- Local data caches speed up data access (access to the cached version of data is transparent to end users).
- The migration of cold data from local file share to Azure-based storage reduces internal data storage requirements.
- Data migration is transparent to end-users. Users can view and open the entire folder structure when navigating the share as if all data were located locally.

Limitations

- The performance and availability of file sync will depend on an Internet connection.
- The sync storage account's latency and response time will depend on the connecting server's geographical location to the data's storage location (in Azure) and Azure File account type (Standard or Premium).

- The recovery of archived data from a remote Azure location will depend on the Internet connection of the server hosting the file share. Users may therefore experience a significant delay in opening archived files, depending on file size or location.
  - Applications sensitive to slow file or data retrieval times should not be used with the Azure file sync (data archive solution).
- Archive data will be stored in Azure storage accounts. This will incur data storage fees.
  - Storage fees will be based on the amount of data archived or replicated.
- Charges for Data retrieval from Azure storage accounts will apply.