VirtualZ for Microsoft Azure

A Comprehensive Solution

VIRTUALZ
COMPUTING™

SOLUTION BRIEF

Overview

As businesses undergo digital transformation, effective integration between on-premises mainframe environments and cloud platforms becomes essential. VirtualZ offers advanced solutions designed to bridge the gap between IBM Z mainframes and Microsoft Azure. Our products empower organizations to access, manage, and modernize their data seamlessly, allowing them to leverage the full potential of a hybrid cloud strategy.

Challenges

Organizations running on the IBM Z mainframe face several significant data access challenges when migrating to or integrating with Microsoft Azure:

- **Limited Real-Time Data Access**

  Traditional data replication methods can result in delays in accessing up-to-date information, hindering real-time decision-making and analytics.

- **Complex Data Migration**

  Moving large volumes of data to Azure can be cumbersome and time-consuming, often requiring extensive planning and execution to ensure data integrity.

- **Data Silos**

  Existing data may remain trapped in mainframe silos, making it difficult to leverage it alongside cloud-native applications and services.

- **High Costs**

  Replicating data for cloud access can incur significant costs, both in terms of data transfer fees and the resources needed for maintenance and management.

- **Security and Compliance Concerns**

  Ensuring that sensitive data remains secure and compliant with industry regulations during migration and integration can complicate data access efforts.

- **Skill Gaps**

  Organizations may lack the necessary skills or tools to effectively manage data access across both mainframe and cloud environments, leading to inefficiencies and increased risk.

Benefits

Lozen: Real-Time Data Access with Lozen

Our solution transforms data access by offering real-time, read-write capabilities directly from the IBM Z platform, eliminating the need for data replication. Key benefits include:

- **Efficient Data Integration**

  Connect Azure applications directly to mainframe data, reducing latency and avoiding costly duplication.

- **Cost Efficiency**

  By minimizing the need for data replication, organizations can significantly lower their operational expenses.

- **Enhanced Security**

  Keeping sensitive data securely on the mainframe ensures compliance with regulatory requirements while allowing controlled access for Azure applications.

Lozen OpenAPI Connector with Azure Logic Apps

Lozen offers several connectors to enable no-code, real-time, read-write mainframe data access to a broad range of applications. One of these is the Lozen OpenAPI Connector, which allows access to mainframe data (such as VSAM files) from Azure Logic Apps.

What is Azure Logic Apps?

Azure Logic Apps is a cloud platform that allows users to create and run automated workflows with little to no code. By using a visual designer and selecting from prebuilt operations, users can quickly build workflows that integrate and manage apps, data, services, and systems. Azure Logic Apps simplifies connections across cloud, on-premises, and hybrid environments, providing low-code/no-code tools for developing scalable integration solutions for enterprise and B2B scenarios.

What is OpenAPI?

OpenAPI is a set of standards focused on standardizing software APIs. It makes it easy to integrate services from diverse providers into sophisticated applications. Lozen's OpenAPI connector enables access to mainframe data, such as VSAM files, from any OpenAPI application. Many commercial and open-source applications support the OpenAPI specification, allowing these applications to read and update mainframe files using simple OpenAPI objects without requiring custom coding.

Integration Details

Azure Logic Apps lets customers create automated workflows that integrate apps and data from various sources. With Lozen's OpenAPI implementation, users can embed steps in Azure Logic Apps workflows to read or update mainframe datasets just like they would access any other data type. This approach requires zero custom coding and is entirely declarative. Users can configure an OpenAPI object to connect to the desired Lozen server and embed access to mainframe data wherever needed.

PropelZ: No-Code ETL for Cloud Migration

This solution simplifies the extraction, transformation, and loading (ETL) of mainframe data into Azure, providing a no-code approach for users. Key features include:

- **User-Friendly Interface**

  Business users can easily extract and load mainframe data into Azure without extensive technical expertise.

- **Streamlined Data Migration**

  Automate the data migration process, reducing the time and effort required to move data to Azure.

- **Compatibility with Azure Services**

  Integrate seamlessly with Azure tools like Azure Data Lake Storage, Azure Synapse Analytics, and Power BI for enhanced analytics and reporting capabilities.

Zaac: On-Demand Mainframe Storage

This solution delivers innovative storage capabilities that connect cloud storage with mainframe applications, optimizing data storage strategies. Key advantages include:

- **Cost-Effective Cloud Storage**

  Replace traditional Direct Access Storage Device (DASD) with virtual disk and tape storage in Azure, significantly lowering storage costs.

- **Flexible and Scalable Solutions**

  Provide on-demand storage capabilities, allowing organizations to adjust their storage based on current usage and needs.

- **Seamless Integration**

  Work with existing mainframe security protocols and storage infrastructures, ensuring a smooth transition to cloud storage.

Use Cases

- **Data Analytics**

  Utilize our solutions to enable real-time analytics by integrating mainframe data with Azure's analytics services, enhancing business intelligence and decision-making.

- **Legacy Application Modernization**

  Transition legacy applications to Azure while maintaining access to critical data, allowing for a phased modernization approach.

- **Cost Management**

  Optimize data storage costs by managing mainframe data in Azure, reducing reliance on on-premises storage solutions.

Conclusion

VirtualZ offers comprehensive solutions tailored for organizations seeking to integrate with Microsoft Azure for enhanced data accessibility and operational efficiency. Our innovative products empower businesses to tackle the challenges of cloud integration, enabling them to modernize their data management strategies while achieving cost savings and maintaining security. Unlock the potential of your mainframe data in the cloud with VirtualZ solutions for Microsoft Azure.

For more information, please visit VirtualZ Computing.