Sitecore hosting and deployments in Azure PaaS

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WHAT IS PAAS

- Platform as a Service
- Azure Cloud Services
- Volatile & stateless
- “Sitecore as a Service”
IaaS
Infrastructure-as-a-Service

Virtual Machines
Ease of use
Control

PAAS
Platform-as-a-Service

Cloud Services
Ease of use
Control

SAAS
Software-as-a-Service

Apps (Web Sites)
Ease of use
Control
BENEFITS OF CLOUD

• Low Cost
  • zero capital investment and low operating costs
• Elastic
  • zero capital investment and low operating costs
  • scale instantly on demand (also to new geographic areas)
• Reliable
  • enterprise grade infrastructure up to 99.9% availability
BENEFITS OF PAAS

• Pay per use
• High availability
• Quick setup
• No server management or maintenance at all
  • Flexible / Highly scalable
  • Never update, always delete & re-create
  • Automatic restart in case of failure
“With Sitecore Azure, an enterprise can focus on the application (and its data) rather than the infrastructure it runs on.”
CHALLENGES

• No persistence of data on server #stateless
• No control of time slots for updates and re-installs
• Deployments take 15-20 minutes easily
• Development and testing activities in Azure are billed too
• Some other small issues... (include all files, max. file length)
Requirements

• Modify solution to generate Azure packages
• Move logging and caching to portable solution
• Add enablement servers for swapping
CACHING & SESSION MANAGEMENT

- Not in-proc
- Redis Cache (https://kb.sitecore.net/articles/901069)
- MongoDB

Table Storage
‘Classic’ WebRole Cache
SQL Azure Session state
HOW TO DEPLOY

• Sitecore Azure module
  + Scaffolds Azure config
  - Not yet supported for SC8
  - Default database installation*
  - Less control of environment

• Custom VS Deployment
  + Full control on all configuration details
  + Custom tailored to fit own best practices
  - Initially more time consuming
“Live” Demo

- Cooking Show style
- Sitecore 8 ➔ Azure Cloud Service
- Our way of deploying (there’s more than one way...
EVALUATE

+ Visual Studio oriented
+ Azure stuff separated
+ Don’t include /sitecore

- Multiple solutions
THE FUTURE

• Azure Apps isn’t supported yet, but offers greater flexibility
  • Automatic scaling
  • Faster startup times (near to instant)
  • Guaranteed uptime and availability (99.95%)
  • Doesn’t require enablement servers
  • Less control of your environment though, not suitable for all applications
  • Requires manual configuration (for Sitecore)

• PaaS will gain popularity for enterprise solutions
Thank you