Cloud Migration for a 200-Person Law Firm

A Vancouver-based law firm with 200 staff was running all operations on aging on-premises servers with recurring downtime, no disaster recovery, and escalating infrastructure costs. Algebrix designed and executed a phased migration to Microsoft Azure with zero data loss and minimal business disruption.

CLIENT PROFILE	ENGAGEMENT VALUE	DURATION	DECISION MAKER
Law Firm · 200 staff · Vancouver	**USD $44,000**	**14 weeks**	**Managing Partner & IT Director**

THE PROBLEM

The firm's on-premises infrastructure — two physical servers running Windows Server 2012 — was approaching end of life with no vendor support. The servers hosted the firm's document management system, email, billing software, and file shares containing sensitive client files. Over 18 months the firm had experienced four unplanned outages totalling 31 hours of downtime, each costing an estimated $12,000–$18,000 in lost billable hours and emergency IT support. There was no offsite backup and no disaster recovery plan. The Managing Partner had approved a cloud migration budget but the IT Director had no cloud migration experience and previous quotes from managed service providers had come back at $120,000+.

OUR APPROACH

1 **Infrastructure discovery & migration planning**
Catalogued all workloads, dependencies, and data volumes. Designed a phased migration plan prioritising email first (lowest risk), then file shares, then the document management system, to minimise business disruption at each stage.

2 **Azure environment design & build**
Architected the target Azure environment including Azure Virtual Desktop for remote working, Azure Files for shared storage, Microsoft 365 for email, and Azure Backup with a 30-day retention policy and geo-redundant storage for disaster recovery.

3 **Phased migration execution**
Executed each migration phase over planned weekend windows to avoid billing disruption during working hours. Used Azure Migrate for server assessment and lift-and-shift of the document management system, with parallel running during the cutover period to guarantee zero data loss.

4 **Staff training & handover**
Delivered remote training sessions for all 200 staff on the new Azure Virtual Desktop environment, produced an IT operations runbook for the internal IT Director, and remained on call for 4 weeks post-migration.

OUTCOMES

$0
Data loss — zero files lost or corrupted during migration

62%
Reduction in monthly infrastructure cost vs on-premises operation

99.9%
Uptime SLA on Azure — compared to 94.7% on the previous on-prem setup

TECHNOLOGIES USED

Microsoft Azure · Azure Virtual Desktop · Azure Migrate · Azure Files · Azure Backup · Microsoft 365 · Microsoft Entra ID · Geo-redundant Storage

> *"We had been told this migration would cost over $100K and take six months. Algebrix did it in 14 weeks for less than half that, and every partner and staff member was operational in the new environment on day one. The recurring downtime we'd lived with for years has simply stopped."*
>
> **— Managing Partner, Law Firm · Vancouver, Canada (Illustrative)**

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