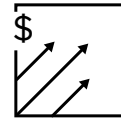


Reduces costs and simplifies administration of multi-cloud and on-premises infrastructure



Protects the business and valuable intellectual property from hackers and other unauthorized system access



Delivers a more cost-effective, robust disaster recovery service

Amoun Boosts Security and Reduces Costs by Migrating Disaster Recovery Center



AMOUN PHARMACEUTICAL CO. S.A.E.

Amoun Pharmaceutical Company focuses on the development, manufacturing, marketing, distribution and export of a wide range of human pharmaceutical and animal health products.

INDUSTRY

Pharmaceutical

HEADQUARTERS

Cairo, Egypt

ABOUT MICROSOFT

Microsoft enables digital transformation for the era of an intelligent cloud and an intelligent edge. Its mission is to empower every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more.

CLOUD FOOTPRINT

Azure VMware® Solution, including VMware vSphere®, VMware NSX-T™ Data Center, VMware vSAN™ and VMware HCX®

ON-PREMISES FOOTPRINT

VMware Horizon®
VMware vSphere

For pharmaceutical companies, the pressure to deliver new treatments and expand into new markets, while complying with government regulations, requires a nonstop effort. Integral to success is adopting the right technologies to streamline product research, manufacturing and the overall administration of everyday activities. Amoun Pharmaceutical, headquartered in Egypt, is no exception.

When Mohamed Soliman, business technology infrastructure lead, joined Amoun, he saw an opportunity to improve the performance and security of the company's business and manufacturing systems. "I'd successfully deployed VMware at other companies and wanted to bring similar advantages to Amoun's information systems," he says.

Soliman and his team replaced the legacy virtualization platform with VMware vSphere across the organization. Today, the VMware environment runs all business applications, from the company's SAP business suite to specialist manufacturing software used at local sites.



Disaster recovery de-risked

Having successfully completed the on-premises VMware deployment, Soliman looked for opportunities to further streamline administration and reduce costs. He soon identified the company's disaster recovery operations as ideal to migrate to the cloud. This would help ensure business continuity while reducing costs associated with the maintenance of hardware and manual backups.

With all of these business-critical objectives, Soliman knew it was essential to choose the best technology partner for a cloud-based disaster recovery plan. He was already impressed by Microsoft Azure, and when Microsoft announced Azure support for VMware, he didn't think twice.

"Microsoft already had solid experience working with global pharmaceuticals and understood the pressures we face," explains Soliman. "The announcement of Azure VMware Solution also meant that we could retain a single-pane-of-glass view of our information systems, which is fundamental to our streamlined approach to IT."

Amoun now runs several business-critical systems on Azure VMware Solution as part of its disaster recovery cloud platform, including Microsoft Active Directory, Microsoft Exchange, SAP business systems, customer management systems, and sales force automation tools. This represents about 20 percent of the overall software estate, mostly used by its HR and finance teams, but the company plans further migration to the Microsoft and VMware Cloud™ environment as part of its longer-term IT roadmap.

This coincides with Soliman's efforts to reinforce the networking infrastructure that connects Amoun's five locations in Egypt, including the addition of new fiber cables and microwave last-mile internet connections. By 2021, the company hopes to have at least 50 percent of its applications running in the cloud, while some local services will remain on premises. This includes specialist pharmaceutical manufacturing software, such as the company's high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) systems.

A smaller, but equally important, feature of Amoun's VMware environment is VMware Horizon to support desktop and app virtualization used by about 50 employees, mostly in IT, HR and finance. The number of users is expected to grow, and eventually this system will also move to the cloud supported by VMware Horizon® Cloud Service™ on Microsoft Azure.

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MOHAMED SOLIMAN
BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE LEAD,
AMOUN PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY

Soliman focuses on two fundamental benefits of moving to the cloud. "Security is paramount, and the choice of Azure VMware Solution was shaped by our determination to protect Amoun's systems and data from unauthorized access," he explains. This matters more than ever in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, as hackers step up their attempts to steal valuable intellectual property from pharmaceutical manufacturers.

The choice of Azure VMware Solution also enables Amoun to build on a flexible architecture that serves the needs of its traditional and cloud native apps, while building in operational consistency across the entire environment. "We can significantly reduce costs by standardizing on Azure VMware Solution and progressively migrating our systems to the cloud," says Soliman. "We can do this incrementally without disruption to administration and application development. We also expect to see considerable financial savings as we reduce our on-premises infrastructure and software."



Securing the business: Pharma leader Amoun migrates disaster recovery platform to Azure VMware Solution as part of long-term strategy to move much of its operations to the cloud. #VMwareCloud
