CASE STUDY

IZO™ PRIVATE CLOUD HELPS FULFIL MISSION TO DELIVER FIVE MILLION SCHOOL MEALS DAILY BY 2020

# TATA COMMUNICATIONS FURTHERS BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION FOR AKSHAYA PATRA TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN'S EDUCATION IS NOT AFFECTED BY HUNGER.
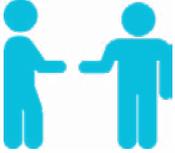
## BUSINESS CHALLENGE

In India hunger deters many children from attending school. Thanks to the Akshaya Patra Foundation that's changing. However, its ability to deliver hot meals to schools was being affected by an expensive-to-manage and hard-to-scale IT infrastructure. With downtime becoming more frequent, it was time to create a platform for growth.

## SOLUTION

Now, an IZO™ Private Cloud solution sees critical data and applications running on virtual servers in the Tata Communications data centre in Bangalore, while a Tata Communications Global VPN offers connectivity to key sites in Lucknow and Jaipur. Meanwhile, Tata Communications security specialists act to avert cyberthreats.

## BENEFITS

With unbroken access to key applications like Microsoft Dynamics ERP and Office 365, branch and remote workers work more efficiently. Moving to a consumption-based model means Akshaya Patra only pays monthly for the IaaS resources it uses. The fully managed service releases the IT team from its hardware-support burden.

**Feeding 5 million children by 2020**

**24/7/365 service from Tata Communications**

**1-hour server replacement time**

**4-strong IT team serves 34 branches**

"Like all non-governmental organisations, we must manage funds carefully. Getting more value from our IT spend is a key part of that challenge; one that's been considerably eased thanks to our partnership with Tata Communications."

VIJAY KUMAR, IT DIRECTOR, AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION

### ABOUT THE AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION

Akshaya Patra is the world's largest non-profit-run school lunch programme, serving wholesome food to more than 1.6 million children in over 13,000 schools across 12 states in India.

To learn more, please visit www.akshayapatra.org

## LESS TIME MANAGING; MORE TIME INNOVATING

Powered by the Tata Communications IZO™ Private Cloud, the new infrastructure-as-a-service (IaaS) solution comprises servers, storage, virtualisation, firewalls, and support – under a single contract. The fully managed service eases the burden of supporting and upgrading equipment on the Foundation's IT team.

Says Vijay: "Tata Communications offers the best data centre footprint and a safe pair of hands. The implementation process was smooth, and we're confident our data is secure. Now we spend less time managing hardware and more time on innovation."

Regarded by the Foundation as the best technical solution, IZO™ Private Cloud means new locations can be deployed in a fraction of the time it used to take. "As we extend our service to more and more children, we can scale our infrastructure in days or weeks instead of months," confirms Vijay.

## SEEING MORE VALUE FROM IT EXPENDITURE

Moving to a consumption-based model means Akshaya Patra no longer needs large CapEx outlays for new hardware. It only pays for the IaaS resources it uses as part of a monthly charge.

"Like all non-governmental organisations, we must manage funds carefully," says Vijay. "Getting more value from our IT spend is a key part of that challenge; one that's been considerably eased thanks to our partnership with Tata Communications."

"The implementation process was smooth, and we're confident our data is secure. Now we spend less time managing hardware and more time on innovation."

VIJAY KUMAR, IT DIRECTOR
AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION

## EASIER TO WORK EFFICIENTLY AND STAY IN TOUCH

Microsoft Office 365 runs messaging with more than a thousand email IDs in use, while salesforce.com supports fundraising CRM activities. With a dependable IT environment, employees working from remote locations find it easier to work efficiently and stay in touch.

"The service has been running for over 18 months," says Vijay. "Now, with snapshot-based backups, our users very rarely experience downtime – and even when they do, it's less than two minutes. We have never lost a server but, if such a situation arises, we are confident that we will be operational again in an hour."

## TIMELY, INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

Centrally managed data and applications run on virtual servers in the Tata Communications IZO™ Private Cloud. A Tata Communications Global VPN provides MPLS connectivity between the core Bangalore data centre and key locations such as Lucknow and Jaipur. Meanwhile, Tata Communications Internet Access services offer fall-back connections in case of local circuit failure.

Also running in the Tata Communications Bangalore data centre, Microsoft Dynamics ERP provides real-time visibility into meal production and distribution. That ensures timely, informed decision-making across all functions including procurement, supply chain, school enrolment and finance.

"As we extend our service to more and more children, we can scale our infrastructure in days or weeks instead of months."

**VIJAY KUMAR, IT DIRECTOR, AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION**

## REACHING MORE CHILDREN BY 2020

By growing its Mid-Day Meal Scheme, the Foundation aims to feed five million children daily by 2020, providing the nourishment and motivation they need to pursue education and the assurance of a better future that comes with it.

Moving to Tata Communications IZO™ Private Cloud has given the Akshaya Patra Foundation the reliable IT platform it needs to successfully achieve that mission.

## SUPERIOR SECURITY AND SUPPORT

Supported by a global team of skilled technicians, recovery time SLAs are embedded throughout the Tata Communications IZO™ Private Cloud architecture. The managed nature of the solution sees service specialists available around the clock to meet those SLAs and keep the platform at peak efficiency, while providing access to a single point of contact.

When it comes to security, Tata Communications specialists help with the heavy lifting, acting on emerging threat intelligence and remotely monitoring and managing firewalls. "We can stay ahead of cyber threats without having to hire experts or build competencies in non-core functions," says Vijay.

## CLOUD COMPUTE SERVICES FROM TATA COMMUNICATIONS

Encompassing both physical and virtual computing, the Tata Communications cloud portfolio is transformation-ready and future-proof. As an end-to-end solution, any company can build a bespoke cloud environment to meet the needs of the enterprise, with on-demand scalability to support growth and fully-managed services to drive it. They can choose from a wide range of Tata Communications cloud technologies to deliver seamless application performance, protect vital data, and meet critical SLAs.

"We can stay ahead of cyber threats without having to hire experts or build competencies in non-core functions."

**VIJAY KUMAR, IT DIRECTOR**
**AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION**