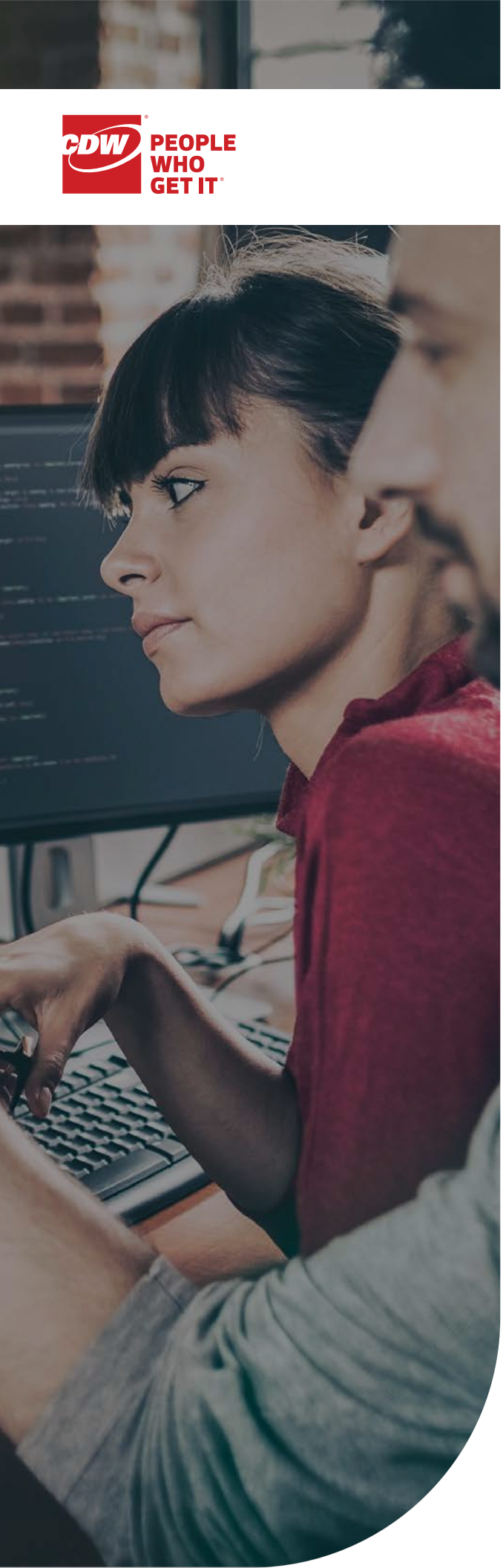

CASE STUDY

PARTNER OVERVIEW

CDW partnered with a timberland company and real estate investment trust based in the United States. This company manages millions of acres of timberlands under long-term licenses while also manufacturing wood products.

Background

The customer had previously embarked on a multi-year effort of cloud adoption, migration, and modernization, launching multiple initiatives to enable their cloud and app modernization. They had a history with a leading cloud service provider, with centralized oversight, and an initial implementation of an account vending machine that provided access and enablement for fast development. Prior leadership was invested in the previous cloud provider, though minimal work was done in cloud native and a lift-and-shift approach was used to migrate from the data center into the cloud. At the time of engagement, their internal IT department was providing operational support (care and feeding) for multiple environments, and automation had been difficult to standardize. The customer's current leadership had a prior working relationship with CDW and were aware of the strengths and services the company could provide to their organization.

Goals

The customer came to CDW seeking to enable standardized Azure landing zone environments with enterprise grade security, governance, and automation. They had recently migrated to Azure/Multi-Cloud and needed help getting automated landing zones/environments for their developers. CDW pitched the benefit of creating developer-ready environments – landing zones that are pre-configured through automation with the tools developers need to do their work. Objectives for development that were identified included:

- Assistance with onboarding, configuration, and integration of HashiCorp Terraform Cloud (TFC)
- Design and implementation of an enterprise Azure foundation
- Creation of a contemporary Azure Landing Zone (codename "Service Catalog") project/repo/pipeline in ADO
- Creation of HashiCorp Terraform for resource deployment in Azure DevOps (AD

Plan

Phase 1

The engagement kicked off with business alignment and discovery, assessing the environments and infrastructure and getting to know the customer as an organization. Using the information gathered, Azure was chosen for supporting multiple target modernization efforts. CDW developed an Azure Foundation MVP plan that aligned to the customer's business goals. All cloud infrastructure provisioning and configuration would be done through HashiCorp's Terraform using Infrastructure as Code (IaC) to build an Azure enterprise-scale foundation with modernized organizational structure, networking/connectivity, centralized monitoring and logging, and cloud native security. After the plan was created and agreed upon, CDW moved into Phase 2 of the project.

Phase 2

CDW deployed an Agile Scrum Team to assist the customer in conjoined and collaborative development practices to implement the Azure foundation design. As part of this phase, the Azure foundation and landing zones were developed and automated, following modern CI/CD practices for IaC using HashiCorp Terraform.

The customer's legacy Azure environments were isolated and security controls were put in place to prevent continued growth in the legacy environment. CDW developed a landing zone factory that automated both the creation of the landing zone (with peer networking) and connected tooling (Azure DevOps and HashiCorp Terraform Cloud) to enable developers to immediately start implementing application solutions (developer-ready). The landing zones were then deployed for selected use cases and their list of objectives for development were prioritized. Through this work it was discovered there were still additional logging and monitoring configuration needed after the fact, which led to subsequent engagements.

Conclusion

Most recently, CDW continued their partnership with the customer to further their HashiCorp Terraform footprint through server image enablement and deployment. Overall, the total engagement included seven sprints over the course of four months.

Business Impact

At the conclusion of the project, the customer expressed that because of CDW's work around the Azure environment, they had more repeatability to produce new, identical environments that are not dependent on hand configuration or tribal knowledge. This has helped secure their business by reducing dependency on individuals, which has increased efficiency and consistency.