



Link Development Enables Egypt's Central Bank to Migrate from SharePoint On-Prem to Azure



Central Bank Of Egypt
البنك المركزي المصري

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) is the highest financial and banking regulatory authority nation-wide. As part of its continuous motion towards digital transformation, the CBE has put the light on its online portal, one of the most critical information hubs in the country. To improve and boost reliability, scalability and performance, the CBE entrusted Link Development with upgrading and moving its infrastructure and technology from on-prem to SharePoint 2016 IaaS on Azure. The shift & lift was a success that reinforced CBE's digital infrastructure, network performance and security without risking content integrity, user privacy or causing any downtime.

Customer	Central Bank of Egypt
Industry	Financial Services
Solution	CBE IaaS on Azure
Technology	Azure SharePoint 2016

CBE, the Upper Financial Regulatory Arm in Egypt

The CBE is an autonomous regulatory body, assuming the authorities and powers vested therein by Law No. 88 for 2003, and the Presidential Decree No. 65 for 2004. Considering the significant role of the digital transformation in the banking sector, CBE consistently worked vigilantly to adopt latest technologies and best practices to achieve its objective for 99% availability with 800+ concurrent users.

CBE, Modernizing a Critical Information Hub for the Nation

The core vision of CBE's official website is to inform the public about policies and decisions related to monetary and banking stability. It also supports disclosure and transparency.

The CBE is also keen on establishing effective communication with the public in addition to various stakeholders such as the banking sector, local and international financial institutions, and others.

With the growing number of individuals and corporates accessing CBE Website in addition to the incredible load on the performance of its infrastructure, the IT department team at CBE determined an urgent need to find alternative solutions that avoid increases in website downtimes and find an easy-to-use mechanism for troubleshooting any unexpected problems.

Also, it was highly recommended to ensure system scalability to meet the various requirements at different times. The system must address the need of both the growing user and data capacity.

Based on the findings of CBE IT department team, it was preferable to resort to a specialized digital partner for consultancy and analyses of the confronted challenges and constraints to propose the best solution that can resolve the situation.

Link Development was chosen to be CBE digital transformation partner. Based on the understanding of CBE requirements, Link Development proposed a solution based on the new cloud computing model (IaaS).

IaaS on Azure in Motion

By choosing the Azure IaaS approach, Link Development carried the responsibility to manage the IT infrastructure including the storage, server and networking resources and delivered them to CBE via virtual machines accessible through the internet.

The IaaS was chosen because it is easier, faster, and more cost-efficient to operate website workloads without having to buy, manage and support the underlying infrastructure..

Upgrade to SharePoint 2016

As part of the migration process, the CBE website was migrated to SharePoint 2016. Accordingly, the portal benefited from stronger web content management and search functionalities.

Upon conducting the upgrade operations, CBE portal acquired these new privileges:

Content Search Web Part: by configuring the new Content Search Web Part, each block, each segment on the site can now have a unique and dynamic user experience powered by search.

SEO: by enabling metadata management for SEO and to automatically create sitemaps and with the separation of URL's from the native site hierarchy, CBE ensured that its URL's are friendly for not just users but also search engines that crawl it.

Design Manager: the feature enables CBE IT team to create a visual design for the website whenever needed by using their preferable web design tool or HTML editor then uploading that design into SharePoint.

Effective Web Portal Transition

The move to the new setup ensured the integrity, authenticity and sustainability of core portal building blocks.

Diverse Content

The content of CBE is diverse. Among its sections one can find the monetary policy of the CBE, including its instruments and goals, a section about banking supervision including its mechanisms and rules, payment systems that support monetary stability, auctions of the government debt instrument, and details about the development of the Egyptian banknote since 1899.

Smart Search Engine and Electronic Index

The website is supported by technological features and tools that facilitate usability. On top of most important features are a search engine that brushes through all the website's content and the first electronic index for supervisory instructions issued by the CBE.

Statistical Data

The section on economic research on the website includes many reports and statistical data that cover several time periods. These reports and data will be a valuable reference for researchers and scholars in many economic fields.

The Benefits

- High-performance, modernized infrastructure and applications
- Cost-effectiveness of IaaS on Azure
- No downtime
- Increased security and privacy