Microsoft Fabric for Non-Profits

In a world dominated by information and data, it's paramount that a non-profit organization has strong data analytics: "the collection and comprehensive evaluation of data from many different sources" (BCG Global, n.d.). Though many non-profits want to integrate data analytics, 47% of them lack the necessary funds (Small Charities Data, 2023). Thus, Canadian non-profits need a cost-effective way to integrate data analytics, while maintaining donor trust and advancing their social mission.

Introducing Microsoft Fabric, a software that will allow non-profits to automate both the data collection and organization processes. However, Fabric will be useful for more than just data analytics. Fabric is built off the industry-leading visualization and analytics platform Power BI. It unifies several tools for data science, unified optimized storage and real-time analytics to create a complete analytics platform (Ulagaratchagan, 2023). As an Azure Expert MSP and Microsoft Solutions Partner (BDO Digital, n.d.), BDO can tailor Fabric implementation to include non-profit specific services for donor engagement, impact reports, and personalized marketing to maximize the utility of Fabric for non-profits.

BDO's partnership with Microsoft is underutilized for its non-profit companies (BDO Digital, n.d.). Many BDO clients in other industries, such as Coverdell, are already leveraging Microsoft's Azure services to save millions of dollars (BDO Digital, 2018). For a non-profit, it could cost less than $300 monthly for a mid-sized company to implement these solutions (Microsoft Azure, n.d.). Along with these cost benefits, Microsoft's focus on personalization and security will give clients better control over their data. It's been found that 4 in 5 non-profits experience internal struggles in navigating digital transformation (Sage, 2022), but with access to BDO's 500 member AI team, these companies have the resources required to make the switch

(BDO Digital, n.d.). As these services will finally give non-profits a way to utilize all their data, their operational efficiency will be greatly improved. This solution will ultimately support non-profits in easing the impact on their bottom line, while also providing significant assistance to their overall mission.

With that said, there have been two major risks identified with this strategy. First, there is the challenge of cybersecurity threats, which have low likelihood and high potential impact. To counter this, a three-fold strategy has been put in place: the company will engage in third-party testing to uncover vulnerabilities, strengthen security governance to ensure compliance, and enhance training programs to allow employees to identify and respond to security threats. Finally, although the event of data loss is unlikely, the impact could be significant. To keep data safe, the company can utilize Azure Disaster Recovery Services and back up important data.

In summary, by leveraging their existing relationship with Microsoft and utilizing Fabric as a complete analytics suite, BDO will be able to address the growing issue of operational technical integration and automation in the non-profit sector. Overall, it is expected that implementing Fabric will reduce operating costs and empower mid-sized non-profits, enabling them to make a greater impact in their social mission.

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