**Azure Web Apps: Formally Known as Azure Web Sites**

Microsoft Azure is a cloud hosing platform that has simplified the development and hosting of different kinds of applications. Web Apps, is part of the App Service platform which allows the hosting of websites in the cloud. Cloud services are an up and coming technology and many questions arise from this. What are the benefits of using Azure Web Apps versus traditional hosting methods? What is the purpose of using Azure Web Apps when developing websites?

Microsoft Azure has provided a quick a simple solution for hosting web applications. It allows developers to focus on the data and the code that is used in an application. One of the major benefits of hosting with web apps, is that a lot of the mundane tasks are taken care of by Microsoft Azure personnel. These tasks include runtime, middleware, operating system, virtualization, servers, storage, and networking. Microsoft calls this Platform As A Service or PaaS for short. PaaS allows developers to really do what they love. They design the application and the rest is already taken care of. There are also settings in the Azure portal that allows more control if the developers would like to use them.

Web Apps is a highly customizable platform that allows users to get only what they need from the service. They offer multiple pricing tiers which allows for applications of any size to be deployed on Azure. This is a huge benefit. Scalability is basically the growth of an application based on the users needs. Azure allows multiple options for scaling an app. Manually scaling an app allows the developers to select exactly what they need. Automatically scaling the app allows for the scale to adjust based on traffic. This option is highly sought after because the user pays for only what they need. Integrated pricing tiers allows for a payment plan that supports the customer base without paying for what is not needed.

Although pricing is one of the most important aspects of Azure, availability is also a big concern. If a web app is not available, customers cannot visit the app. Traditional publishing of web applications presents many issues with availability. The user must maintain a server that is running at all time. With Microsoft Azure, the availability is maintained by Microsoft. They guarantee a 99% up time for their availability. This is a huge benefit to the user.

To a developer, being in control of your application is vital to ensuring the product you want to present. With Azure, the developer has a full lifecycle experience when designing the application. The ability to create a testing environment is vital when developing applications. Azure allows developers to have complete control over this.

With the ability to ensure that the web app is online and the ability to scale automatically, Azure services are becoming a standard in the industry today. Web apps can streamline the developers process while providing a customizable payment option. With the many benefits of Azure Web Apps, the service is a viable option when deciding how to deploy a new Web application or web site.

# References

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