Hello FooLawFirm,

I went ahead and ordered you a networked laser multifunction printer/scanner for your new SF offices. I also contacted Comcast Business for a 200Mbps line to be installed this week. I think that will be a decent compromise between speed and cost.

I know you're interested in leveraging Azure for the "BarLegalApp" that you used at your previous company. I also know that you're in the process of designing a website and registered the foolawfirm.com domain name with godaddy.com., but that you need a place to host the website in Azure. For now, you're getting by by using dropbox to share large legal documents, but as I understand it there are still some client contact files that you'd like to store and share in Azure as well.

Please see the attached document (it is a large png, you may need to zoom in) from Microsoft's pricing calculator totaling $689.66/mo using the "pay as you go" payment plan. Given that you're a new business, I thought it best to go with a month to month payment plan, but there are significant savings if you can commit to at least a year (or more) of Azure usage.

I chose the US West 2 as the best region for all of your resources in Azure. Ideally this region should be as close as possible to your SF offices. In our case either "US West" or "US West 2" would suffice, but the offerings in "US West 2" are slightly cheaper.

I recommend a pair of Windows Servers that will be used for the the "BarLegalApp." The app supports a 2 server/redundant configuration, so we will place these in an availability set, which should ensure 99.95% uptime. This means that in any given month, there should be no more than 22mins of downtime from the pairs of servers (the stability of the application itself is another ballgame). Generally Microsoft performs maintenance at night, so the chances of these 22mins overlapping with your 9-5 workday should be slim. For "BarLegalApp" I slightly exceeded recommendations from the vendor, and I went with VM's with 4vCPUs and 16GB of RAM. Generally storage is the slowest part of any server/application, so I added disks that bump the throughput to 50 MB/sec (64GB capacity might be overkill for the BarLegalApp, but I think the application responsiveness will be worth the cost). I included a Windows license here just so we don't need to deal with that hassle separately.

I included a storage account to the estimate. I chose 500GB of "files" type storage

so you can store client contact info and any other small-ish text based files needed. After we create this storage, you should be able to map a drive straight to your Windows laptop and treat it like any other files you're already used to dealing with. Additionally, you'll able to share those files with others in the office. I also added some storage for snapshots, so we can take a daily backup of the contents. Assuming the contents of the storage don't change too regularly, 850GB of snapshot storage should suffice.

For the website, I recommend "Azure App Service" which is a Pass offering from Microsoft. I suspect the website developer you've contracted with will know how to develop on any of the offered platforms. You're typically not interacting with an OS directly for a PaaS service, so I went with Linux for the OS as it was the cheaper option. 2 Instances (each with 2 cores and 3.5GB GB's of RAM) of the standard tier should perform adequately. Once we have the website up and running we can repoint godaddy's DNS to our application.

I thought it be a good general ideal to have a standard support contract associated with our account, mostly so we can get help with the inevitable technical support questions that will arise.

The only other expense not specifically covered here will be your outbound network costs. We are not billed for any incoming (ingress) network traffic, however outbound (egress) traffic is charged once we exceed 5GB of data. We will need to closely monitor these costs.

Please keep in mind that these are high level estimates. In my experience Microsoft errs on the conservative side with these figures, but there are tools within Azure we can use to set budgets, alerts, and look for more granular areas to reduce costs.

Thanks for your time,
Parker