# thedocyard – A XIRUS success story

**thedocyard** is a cloud-based deal management platform built specifically for managing the entire lifecycle of any corporate or commercial transaction. It is steadily gaining popularity globally to support deal management in investment banking, legal, corporate and fund management firms. In 2019 **thedocyard** approached **XIRUS** to define a solution which would address the technical and business issues related to their current infrastructure build and service management processes.

## BUSINESS CHALLENGES

- **Availability and reliability concerns**: The legacy IT infrastructure lacked resilience or redundancy, relying on VM snapshots
- **Poor monitoring and problem diagnosis**: Ineffective manual monitoring systems and processes increased the risk of unnecessary incidents
- **Inefficient use of IT resources**: The requirement to run high spec VMs to cater for high load periods resulted in considerable periods of resource under-utilisation and unnecessary cost
- **Expensive service management**: Reliance on a 24/7 service provider, and limited access to their own infrastructure, resulted in unacceptable incident resolution times and outstanding issues
- **Scalability issues**: The current infrastructure had limited ability to scale; no automation capabilities resulted in long lead times to deploy new features and functions
- **Security concerns**: Reliance on manual deployments, patching and updating infrastructure and application made testing and adopting new security features difficult
- **Inadequate test capabilities**: Manual deployments prolonged testing cycles and increased testing effort for infrastructure, architecture or application changes

## XIRUS SOLUTION

Over a 40-day timeframe **XIRUS**:

- Enabled Azure Front Door cloud-based routing services to provide users with best and fastest access to the application
- Adopted Hashicorp Terraform to enable infrastructure-as-code and automated deployment of multi-regional web applications
- Updated Virtual Machine infrastructure to Windows Server 2019
- Introduced automated load-based scaling of servers with Virtual Machine Scale Sets
- Installed Azure cloud based monitoring and logging
- Established CI/CD infrastructure pipelines to ensure that changes to infrastructure and application are tested and validated before deploying to production

## BENEFITS ACHIEVED

- **Improved availability and reliability**:
  The Azure highly resilient infrastructure ensures that an issue related to a server or application in a specific cloud region does not impact customers or services. Customers in the affected region are seamlessly and automatically switched to another region
- **Proactive monitoring and problem diagnosis**: Azure's detailed monitoring and alerting capability provides up-to-date information about system health, enabling fast diagnosis and resolution of issues, as well as facilitating proactive trend analysis to prevent potential future incidents
- **Improved agility and scalability:** Terraform's automatic infrastructure-as-code deployment capabilities provide improved resource utilisation (resulting in cost reduction) and fast application of new features and deployment of new regions

- **Reduced risk and improved security:** Through use of pipelines and automation, the production environment is locked down to read-only for users, reducing risk and improving data security. Patches and updates are automatically deployed reducing risk of security breaches
- **Cost reduction:** Azure managed Platform as a Service enabled **thedocyard** to cease paying vendor service provider fees and manage the infrastructure in-house, resulting in reduced maintenance costs

> *The result is transformational for the business. We can scale out in minutes, add new regions at the stroke of a key and evolve our infrastructure and application architecture together as a homogenous unit rather than the traditional separation commonly seen.*

**thedocyard CTO**