

Case Study

With cloud transformation,
Bonava gains resources
to support its rapid,
geographically
dispersed growth



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Bonava

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-Patrik Ström, CIO, Bonava

Executive Summary

Most companies can afford to migrate to the cloud slowly, moving one or, at most, a few apps at a time. Then there's Bonava. The European housing developer had a nine-month deadline to move virtually its entire infrastructure and application landscape—including solving all the mobility and security challenges of its new environment. And while some companies perform a lift-and-shift migration that keeps them from realizing the full benefit of the cloud, Bonava has fully transformed its IT in the cloud, thanks to the right technology—and the right technology services provider.

Bonava is a top housing developer in Northern Europe, having built more than 34,000 homes since its inception in 2009. In 2015, its parent company decided to spin it off as an independent business and gave Bonava nine months in which to complete the separation. Like one of its customers looking for a new home, Bonava needed to find a new place for its technology infrastructure to live—and quickly. Bonava had been using its parent's IT, a mix of on-premises line-of-business systems, Microsoft Office 365, and mobile devices running Apple, Google, and Microsoft software. Replicating that environment was out of the question, given the limitations of time and money—and the limitations that a largely on-premises solution would impose on the new company for years to come.

It's solution: a modern, secure enterprise with Microsoft Enterprise Mobility + Security (EMS), Office 365, and Windows 10 Enterprise.

The responsibility for defining and overseeing the implementation of Bonava's new IT infrastructure fell to its newly hired CIO, Patrik Ström. “We had to migrate our systems, processes, and users to something new,” says Ström. “We had to re-create the assets we'd used in our parent's environment, such as communications, the corporate website, and treasury site for our loans. We needed management tools optimized for our new mobility and security needs. And we needed new functions, new business applications, to help spur productivity and innovation. Nine months was a very aggressive time line for all that.”

Ström and his team had a clear idea of what they wanted from their new environment. The first requirement was a mobile-first and cloud-first infrastructure—and they wanted it for very practical reasons: It would be faster to develop than an on-premises infrastructure and would enable secure anywhere, anytime network access without expensive and cumbersome VPNs. That was especially important to a company with 250 temporary job sites operating at any one time as well as an increasing number of offices throughout Northern Europe.

The second requirement was collaboration, not just with colleagues but with vendors such as architects and subcontractors. As well, they wanted a low-cost platform and compliance with regulatory requirements—such as data sovereignty needs in the Russian market, which Bonava had recently entered.

It was a daunting job, but Bonava got a running start on its cloud transformation because it knew the technology and the technology partner that it wanted: Microsoft technology and Microsoft solution provider Avanade. “From our experience with Microsoft, we knew it had the best mobility, security, and cloud solution for us with the most complete set of services,” says Ström. “And we knew that Avanade was the best partner to work with given its deep insight and skill set with Microsoft technology. We couldn't have made our successful journey to the cloud without their leading-edge services.”



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Mobile Management + Security + Productivity = Cloud Success

Bonava succeeded in its mission to quickly reestablish its IT environment in the cloud. Ström attributes much of that success to a management solution that could cover all of Bonava’s temporary job sites, the expanding number of regional offices, the headquarters office in Stockholm, Sweden, and hundreds of mobile devices—including iOS, Android, and Windows phones and tablets.

That solution is the combination of Office 365, Windows 10 Enterprise, and Microsoft Enterprise Mobility + Security (EMS). The three products—licensed together as Secure Productive Enterprise—work together to provide the most trusted, secure, and productive way for Bonava to work across its highly diverse—and dispersed—enterprise. EMS, for example, includes management and security technologies including Microsoft Intune, Azure Active Directory Premium, and Azure Information Protection. Bonava uses Secure Productive Enterprise to avoid having to deploy traditional on-premises resources, instead empowering its approximately 2,000 users with digital workplace collaboration and productivity tools as part of the company’s broader digital transformation.

“Microsoft EMS meets all of our management needs,” says Ström. “We use it to provide access to applications, data, and resources from virtually anywhere on any device, so workers can be productive

even when they’re not in an office, while helping to keep corporate information secure. Using one tool simplifies our management processes and avoids additional costs. EMS is fully up to the job.” Ström and his colleagues also use Secure Productive Enterprise including EMS and new capabilities within Windows 10 as part of a solution to deliver IT services to new job sites and offices as soon as they’re needed, so employees can be fully productive immediately, without having to wait for local area networks to be deployed. In fact, there are no local area networks at the remote sites, nor at headquarters; they’re no longer needed.

“Microsoft and Avanade give us a very robust and flexible architecture solution for greater productivity,” says Ström. “As long as we have broadband access, our people can access all their apps and data and work together right away. That speeds our geographic expansion and enables us to provide full digital access to remote locations that we couldn’t support before.”

The Secret Sauce for App Migration

Getting all the right apps and data into the cloud and providing secure access to them was another key challenge addressed by the combination of EMS technology and Avanade services. Bonava had been using some packaged services in the cloud even before building its own environment, most notably Office 365. But its custom line-of-business software included older, on-premises applications. So, as a key step in Bonava’s journey to the cloud, Avanade

assisted with the integration of all new applications for the new platform. In some cases, Bonava moved from commercial on-premises software to software-as-a-service (SaaS) versions of the same packages. In others, the company abandoned or consolidated little-used solutions or worked with Avanade to create new, born-in-the-cloud services. Bonava currently runs more than 30 SaaS apps in Microsoft Azure and adds more on a continual basis. Each systems manager handles more apps than he or she could on premises, confirming the higher productivity that Bonava gets with the cloud.

“We changed 90 percent of our applications but our users were affected very little,” says Ström. “That’s really impressive because we moved 21 SaaS apps into production in nine months. Microsoft and Avanade were essential in this. I’ve never heard of anyone migrating 21 on-prem apps in that time period.”

Authentication and access control to those apps is the lynchpin of Bonava’s IT security and EMS helps here, too. The Azure Active Directory Premium component delivers multifactor authentication as well as conditional access control based on device health, user location, and holistic security reports, audits, and alerts. “Having a high degree of access control is crucial to our success in the cloud,” says Ström. “That’s what we get from Azure Active Directory Premium.” Bonava uses Azure Active Directory Premium with key security features within Windows 10 to securely share data while protecting user identity and device access, with very little burden on the users themselves.

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Autodesk, for example

Microsoft isn't the only software that Bonava wants to use in the cloud, so the ability to host third-party solutions is another key to the company's cloud success. For example, one of Bonava's mission-critical line-of-business applications is Autodesk. The company took advantage of the broad, third-party support in Azure to migrate the software from on-premises to the cloud. A custom, branded Microsoft SharePoint Online intranet site, called Bonava Projects, serves as a front end, through which users access their Autodesk solutions and files.

The use of Autodesk on Azure, along with SharePoint, provides an example of the new ways that Bonava employees can be increasingly effective in the digital workplace. “Our people work in a way that's far more 'info-centric' now,” says Ström. “Everyone who needs it has access to the same building models, virtual design, and construction data, whether they're in our central office or at a construction site. People can work together

on the same files, which really smooths the process. Before, we had the challenge of transmitting massive files, compiling changes, and doing cross-correlation checks, which can take days. Now it's all done in real time. Add up all that savings over the life of a given project and it might shorten the design-and-construction process by months.”

[Explore more and learn about Enterprise Mobility + Security.](#)

Customer Name: Bonava
Industry: Construction
Country or Region: Sweden
Customer Website: www.bonava.com
Employee Size: 2,000
Partner Name: Avanade
Products:

- Microsoft Azure
 - Azure Active Directory Premium
- Microsoft Enterprise Mobility + Security
- Microsoft Intune
- Microsoft Office 365
- Microsoft SharePoint Online
- Windows 10 Enterprise

Customer Profile

Bonava is a leading housing developer in Northern Europe. Formerly a subsidiary of NCC, Bonava develops and sells affordable and sustainable housing units to consumers and investors in select markets in Sweden, Germany, Finland, Denmark, Norway, St. Petersburg (Russia), Estonia, and Latvia.



About Avanade

Avanade is the leading provider of innovative digital and cloud-enabling services, business solutions and design-led experiences, delivered through the power of people and the Microsoft ecosystem.

Majority owned by Accenture, Avanade was founded in 2000 by Accenture LLP and Microsoft Corporation and has 30,000 professionals in 24 countries.

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