Microsoft Ignite 2019 – Extra Comments

Azure sentinel

Can protect AWS environment linking with Azure. Links alerts and threats together no matter the severity, pulling together a full report with the string of events. Go straight from sentinel to ATP dashboard to view affected devices and issues.

1200 customers running it and processing 2PB (2000TB) of events each month. Links alerts and threats together no matter the severity, pulling together a full report with the string of events. The source of the data is not limited to Microsoft services.

New Cold Storage

Microsoft's CEO Satya Nadella announced Project Silica during the Vision keynote at ignite (go check it out https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jnUiJi4hts4)

Microsoft are working on a new form of cold storage. Warner Bros asked Microsoft for a way to preserve their collection of movies/TV shows. They specified it would need to be small, cost effective, resilient to stand the test of time and any potential disasters, both man made and natural.

Microsoft (and Satya at the keynote) presented a small piece of glass in which a laser had encoded the entire 1978 Superman film onto it with. The glass has layers of three-dimensional nanoscale etching and deformation, which is then read with machine learning algorithms.

This has provided WB and the world a cold storage form which can stand the tests of time. Microsoft also plan to further develop this into Azure in the long run.

Endpoint Manager

IT departments have a huge challenge to reduce attacks, security breaches and data loss through the multiple devices that employees use, which are the prime target to these attacks and threats.

Microsoft is combining ConfigMgr and Intune services to enable organisations to manage their employees' PCs, laptops, phones and tablets in a more effective way, with the Endpoint Manager tool.

Power Platform

Microsoft is increasing the Power platform adding Power Virtual Agent and rebranded Flow into Power Automate.

Power virtual agent is providing the capability to create chatbots with little to no code, utilising the Azure AI to make this possible. This simplifies bot creation dramatically and again, fits in line with their aim to add AI into as much as possible.

With endless use cases, you no longer have to code an amazing chatbot if you don't have the resources internally, smaller and some mid-sized customers are going to benefit the most, as well as teams, or popup projects, greatly increasing communication and information flow.

The new service will allow you to create new actions on the data pulled by the bot, creating richer analytics. The Virtual Agent platform also allows you to go through the entire creation process, creating the dialogue and integrating it into your apps such as Teams, websites and more.

Cortana and emails

Cortana can now read your emails out loud, so you can listen while you drive, go for a run, in the gym or on the go. In addition, it also automatically controls your calendar and daily summary, allowing you to quickly assess your day or week.

Some additional cool features include using Cortana as your PA. Colleagues can use her to schedule time in your diary, automatically finding a preferred time, so you don't have to get two or multiple diaries up and summon the dark arts to find a time that everyone is free. She will also alert you for important mails, focus times, work tasks, bringing in elements of Outlook's work analytics.

Machine learning and AI was a prime focus at Ignite. Microsoft want to integrate AI into as much of the everyday tasks as they can, allowing us to improve our productivity even further.

Microsoft mentioned that there are plans to add this into Teams and that Cortana for emails will be out in a few months.

Visual Studio Online
Want to work online/offline, code anytime, anywhere on any device with all your windows, extensions, plugins and themes? Then you might want to check out Visual Studio online

Visual Studio Online is a Cloud based code editor, you can work, make code and work online and offline on your chosen browser.

Microsoft Edge
For a while now Microsoft has been working on a new Edge browser for Windows 10, macOS and Linux using the Chromium technology.

 GA is still TBC. However, Microsoft plan seems to be release on January 15, 2020.

Edge brings an array of new features; in-private search, new security levels and Microsoft Search appears natively in the taskbar. The most useful feature, I think, is the ability to combine search results and organisation searches and data, linking to the organisation's network. Finding office locations, floor plans, colleagues and organisational acronyms has never been easier.

GA is still TBC. However, Microsoft plan seems to be release on January 15, 2020. if you can't wait until then, you are in luck! Please see this link for the beta version here.

Ignite Day Updates.

Day 1
- The new Chromium-based version of Microsoft Edge will be released 15th January 2020, this will provide a more secure browser and by default will limit tracking.
- Cortana is coming to Outlook. This will be able to read email aloud and give you a daily meeting brief in the mornings. Cortana is also on the road map for Teams.
- A new app for iOS and Android is due to be released (it's in preview), named "Office mobile app". This app will replace Word, Excel and PowerPoint on mobile devices, you will now only need to install this single app to view and edit documents. You will also be able to take a photo of a printed document and then edit it, this includes creating Excel tables from a document photo which is very cool.
- Microsoft are working on a new form of cold storage and so far have taken the 1978 film Superman and saved the entire film onto a bit of glass the size of a beer mat using a laser. Microsoft see this as a way to bring down the cost of long-term storage.
- Zero waste data centres are coming, with the first in Sweden.
- Insider risk management solution – 53% of attacks start from inside of the network – treat all devices as zero trust – insider risk as an example can tie into the HR system, if a user hands their notice in and then started to download a large amount of data this could flag an alert.

- Teams Whiteboard – this will allow you to focus a camera on an old-style white board and share it with others in the meeting, the cool part of this is AI will remove the person in the room when they write on the board.
- Azure Synapse is a limitless analytics service that brings together enterprise data warehousing and Big Data analytics – 75 times faster than the same function on google.
- Azure quantum computing service in private preview.
- New dual screen surface devices are coming Q4 2020,
- Azure Sentinel is now in GA with 1200 customers running it and processing 2PB (2000TB) of events each month. Links alerts and threats together no matter the severity, pulling together a full report with the string of events. The source of the data is not limited to Microsoft services.
- New auto information protect services, with machine learning to auto classify documents.

Day 2
- In short, they are adding new services, there is a huge drive on new services and adding an array of new features to existing services.
- New conditional access report only mode - allows you to design and enable conditional access polices in a monitor only mode so they don't break things for users when enabled.
- New Azure AD connect functions which will allow multi forests to sync to a single Azure tenant.
- Azure authentication method policy - allows you to switch a test group of users to for example FIDO authentication, in the past this was an 'all or nothing' change.
- Azure Active Directory (Azure AD) entitlement management is an identity governance feature that enables organizations to manage identity and access lifecycle at scale, by automating access request workflows, access assignments, reviews, and expiration.
- Big focus on WVD (windows Virtual Desktop) with partners and Microsoft, building out assessment and deployment tools. This is a hot topic at the convention. This creates an opportunity for assessment and deployment services which can be sold.
- Direct B2B federation, federate time Google / any SAML.
- Auth methods policy in preview, can enable for tenant and then roll out to select users for Fido etc.
- WVD will be getting additional management featured added to the platform.
- Entitlement management access - can create an app package of Azure apps, users can then request access, and this can be approved for a set time period.
- Password-less is gaining more traction and uptake, seems to be a trending topic.
- Can now sign in with phone numbers, SMS gets sent to the user (first line users) and no password needed.
- New conditional access report only mode.
- New my staff, managers can manage / reset passwords for people they manage.
- Rise in cloud HR systems for user creation.
- Changes get deployed to 10,000 ms accounts before going live to the public.
- Going from 5 fault domains to 50 fault domains.
- App proxy multi Geo support coming.

Day 3
- New Exchange Admin Centre for Exchange Online – allows administrators to customize the layout and the information to be displayed.
- New migration wizard and faster G Suite migrations connecting direct to the G Suite API.
- Faster and more reliable Exchange Online PowerShell cmdlets, these all have EXO in them and is a sign that as said last year Exchange Online and Exchange server are going separate ways for the design teams.

- Azure AD Connect cloud provisioning, Cloud provisioning can sync user identities from Windows Server AD forests and Azure AD regardless of where the AD forest is located by using a light-weight agent.
- Azure AD is now integrated with 1.4 million unique applications.
- Azure AD My Sign-Ins - a new feature that allows users to review their sign-in history to check for any unusual activity. Follow this link if you want to view your Sign-ins https://mysignins.microsoft.com/.
- Azure Sentinel is a modern world SIEM (Security information and event management) which I saw a demo of, it tracked the events of a hacker and how they gained access a domain admin account, very cool stuff and this is going to be big.
- We spent some time with Citrix looking at the new cloud solution which works with WVD, Citrix are partnering closely with the Microsoft product and engineering teams for the WVD (windows Virtual desktop) solution, they are also putting together a DaaS solution for this space. (Fun fact - Citrix is the second biggest workload in on prem windows servers)
- Teams for Virtual Consultation was announced, and it's a healthcare solution for customer service calls, candidate interviews, and patient consults.
- New Microsoft certifications now include certification for Power Platform and a new Teams administrator role.
- Teams is getting new features, including Outlook integration to allow users to move and share emails in the chat.

Day 4
- New Microsoft project online came out a week ago, Microsoft have designed this based on feedback and have taken a lot of the functions from Microsoft planner, I had a demo and the interface looks slick and easy to use.
- SQL migration tool now gives you readiness score on if your database can go to a Azure VM or Azure PaaS. Making it easy for low hanging fruit, they are also launching a Azure Migration program for customers.
- The new Surface laptop 3s offer an AMD based processer for the consumer market devices and an Intel process for the business market, you can have the option to have the carpet on the keyboard area or metal, also for the first time you will now be able to remove the SSD from the devices in case the old device is to recycled but you want to keep the SSD.
- Power Automate - Use Power Automate to design logic for your Power Apps. Instead of writing code, use the point-and-click flow designer to build out your business logic.
- BitTitan Migrationwiz – now fully supports Microsoft Teams migrations, I was shown the process from start to finish, it's slick and will help Softcat's Public Cloud team move forwards with Teams migrations for customers.