



Rachfael IT-Solutions delivers Hybrid Cloud with Azure Stack

Microsoft Azure Stack promises to bring a new dimension to hybrid cloud solutions by extending the Azure public cloud into the data centre. Microsoft Partner Rachfael IT-Solutions is ready to help customers make the most of this exciting stage in the hybrid cloud journey.

Rachfael IT-Solutions has been supporting businesses and service providers in Germany for more than 25 years. Having started in PC-based computing, the company has kept pace with major shifts and trends in the IT landscape. Today, it's relied on by German enterprises and service providers for managed services and virtualisation and cloud solutions.

Deep expertise in Microsoft platforms and services has led Rachfael IT-Solutions to be one of the top Microsoft Partners in Germany. In addition, managing director Carsten Rachfael is a seven-time recipient of Microsoft's Most Valued Professional (MVP) annual award.

"We work very closely with Microsoft, and have followed the development of Azure Stack right from the start," says Carsten. "We've gained a good understanding of what it offers and how to work with it, and are very excited about the prospect of integrating it into customers' hybrid cloud solutions."

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Extending the Azure cloud into the data centre with Azure Stack means organisations can build hybrid clouds that are consistent across the public and private domains.”

**Carsten Rachfael, Managing Director,
Rachfael IT-Solutions**

'Your Azure' in the data centre

About Interxion

Interxion (NYSE: INXN) is a leading provider of carrier and cloud-neutral colocation data centre services in Europe, serving a wide range of customers through over 50 data centres in 11 European countries. Interxion's uniformly designed, energy efficient data centres offer customers extensive security and uptime for their mission-critical applications. With over 700 connectivity providers, 21 European Internet exchanges, and most leading cloud and digital media platforms across its footprint, Interxion has created connectivity, cloud, content and finance hubs that foster growing customer communities of interest.

For more information, please visit
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Microsoft Azure Stack extends the public Azure cloud into the data centre. "This is unique to Microsoft: you can't extend any other public cloud in this way," says Carsten. "It means organisations can build hybrid clouds that are consistent across the public and private domains."

With Azure in the data centre, organisations can tap into the agility and rapid innovation that are typical of public cloud in their on-premises environment. And because Azure Stack shares Azure's interface, tools and commands, organisations can develop services and applications once, and run them in the cloud, in the data centre, or across the two.

Azure Stack integrated into a hybrid cloud test lab

Rachfahl IT-Solutions has carried out extensive testing of Azure Stack using the developer kit. As part of the Azure Stack Early Adaption Program and Azure Stack Technology Adoption Program (TAP) Rachfahl has invested in an integrated Azure Stack appliance, that the company has incorporated into a hybrid cloud test lab at Interxion's Frankfurt campus.

The test lab environment can be made available to enterprises and other service providers who want to run tests and PoCs before deploying production environments. "It's the perfect way for organisations to experience the benefits of using Azure Stack in a hybrid cloud environment," says Carsten.

The test lab takes advantage of Interxion's Cloud Connect service to access Microsoft Azure ExpressRoute for direct, high-speed connectivity to the Azure public cloud. "If you want to ensure great performance for services spread across Azure and Azure Stack, you need guaranteed bandwidth between the two," says Carsten. "Interxion's Cloud Connect is an easy and cost-effective way to access the ExpressRoute service."

Ready to help customers get the best from Azure Stack

The integrated Azure Stack appliances required for production workloads are available from Microsoft-selected OEMs. "The OEM installs the Azure Stack software on the appliance," says Carsten. "All that customers have to do is accept patches and updates from Microsoft, to keep their Azure Stack deployment aligned with the Azure public cloud."

As well as helping customers select the right OEM, Rachfahl IT-Solutions can provide customers with installation, configuration and migration services. Working with a Microsoft Partner like Rachfahl IT-Solutions helps customers get the most out of Azure Stack. "We've done the learning so we're ready to support customers, both in the test lab and with production solutions now that Azure Stack is on general release," says Carsten, adding:

"If customers want to colocate their Azure Stack appliances in a secure, professionally run data centre, and benefit from direct connectivity to the Azure public cloud, we'll be delighted to recommend Interxion's facilities and Cloud Connect service."



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