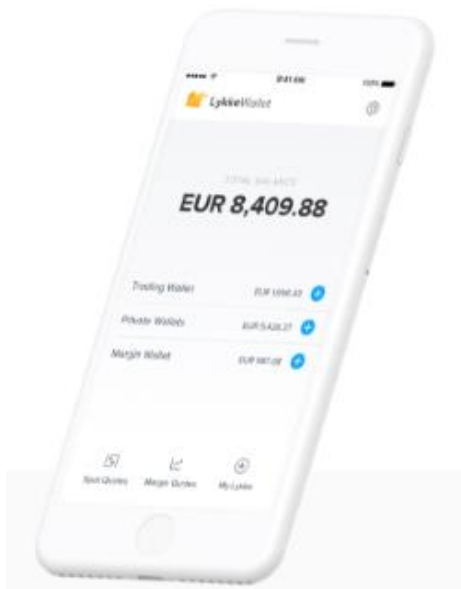


## Blockchain Startup Lykke relies on Microsoft Azure

Fintech Startup [Lykke](#) operates a blockchain based online exchange for crypto and traditional currencies. Lykke's vision is to create a global, transparent and decentralized marketplace for all types of financial products based on blockchain technology. With a mobile app, the user accesses the Lykke exchange in the simplest way and saves his coins and tokens in the integrated, secure wallet.



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Lykke was founded in 2015 by [Richard Olsen](#), who revolutionized online forex trading with Oanda in the late 1990s. In autumn 2016, the Fintech company carried out one of the first ICO (Initial Coin Offerings) and today employs **more than 100 people in over 20 countries** in Europe, Asia, the USA and South America.

Lykke's software is open source and is developed by a broad community. Lykke has chosen the [Microsoft Azure Cloud](#) as its base technology. We can support the innovative startup with consulting and operations services in the [cloud solution provider model](#).

In the following interview **Andrey Migin**, Head of Software Development, tells us about his experience with Microsoft Azure.

### **Andrey, why did you decide to realize the Lykke Platform on Azure?**

We were very pragmatic. I checked the biggest cloud providers like Azure, AWS and Google. The decisive factor for the decision was:

- Microsoft operates the largest number of data centers on the planet
- Azure Table Storage and Blobs offer the best prices for data handling in most applications
- Later, with Azure, [Kubernetes](#) became available as an „out-of-the-box“ solution

### **What were the biggest challenges in building the platform?**

Blockchain is still a new technology. It is quite difficult to find experts and developers in the open source community in one person and to bring them into line with our

internal development culture. We have to educate and develop these experts ourselves.

Regarding Azure: the crypto market is developing rapidly. The time to build up new resources like CPUs, storage accounts, load balancer roles, public API etc. should definitely be shortened and the necessary steps simplified. I know that we have enormously high demands here, but it is a real challenge.

New developers often know AWS. If you ask them why, no one has a good answer. When they then take their first steps with Azure, they quickly realize that the user interface is more comfortable, and the initial resistances quickly dissolve.

**How does the platform scale in times of peak trading and strong customer growth?**

First of all, more power with CPU and memory. We develop with a micro-service architecture that automatically scales all important services. And then you can always optimize the code for better CPU and memory usage.

**How satisfied are you with the support of Baggenstos?**

We are very satisfied. Baggenstos supported us quickly and competently in all cases.

**What are your experiences with the Cloud Solution Provider (CSP) model?**

Here, our expectations have been fully met. What we really appreciate is the monthly billing and flexibility.

**What are the next steps in the development of the Lykke platform?**

Scaling all services is certainly our top priority. Then we want to integrate as many blockchains as possible. And finally, we want to optimize our Kubernetes Federation in such a way that there is no longer any downtime.

**What do you think of the Azure price model?**

The Azure prices are absolutely competitive. In storage, Azure has the best price/performance ratio with around \$7 per 100GB and two indexes covering around 90% of applications. The most valuable feature is that virtually unlimited storage resources are available.

**What are your wishes and expectations for Azure in the future?**

In general, we are very satisfied with Azure Services.

For me, Azure should be such that we can outsource system administration to Microsoft and concentrate fully on software development. I think there is still a lot of potential. Today we don't need system administrators anymore, but dev-ops.

My wishes for additional or extended services:

- Unlimited storage capacity in any type and for all use cases
- Kubernetes as services
- Better user interface and more evaluation options for the load balancer
- Improved and easier handling of availability sets
- Realtime display of costs
- Simplified scaling of resources such as CPU, disk, IP addresses

**What kind of cryptop currencies do you personally own and how do you see the future?**

First of all a small definition of terms: there are cryptocurrencies (Bitcoin, Ether, Litecoin etc.) and tokens, which offer additional functionality of the respective exhibitor

Personally, I will buy any cryptocurrency traded on the Lykke Exchange. No one can say which will rise and develop in the long term.

**Many thanks Andrey, for the open and exciting conversation. We wish you and the whole Lykke team continued success and look forward to contributing to further growth with our services and Azure.**