

# Case Study

## Migrating 3,500 Servers in 3 Months

The average insurance organization handles large amounts of highly sensitive data that supports several mission-critical systems and has thousands of users that depend on the applications and databases that support them. Recently, a large North American insurance company realized that its hundreds of Microsoft SQL Server 2012 databases were quickly approaching end of life and needed to be upgraded. Upgrading and migrating 3,500 SQL Server databases is a complex process, especially within a condensed time frame of just 3 months to complete.



### The Problem

When SQL Servers reach end of life, this means that the SQL Server software no longer receives security patches, updates, or extended support contracts from Microsoft. For the insurance company, this presented a need to upgrade their SQL Server 2012 environments to SQL Server 2019, migrate their data, encrypt it, and coordinate its migration with over 300 unique applications in the data ecosystem. And because end of life was imminent, this upgrade had to happen quickly.

The scope of the environment was huge—3500 SQL Server databases, 600+ applications (many mission-critical and complex), and 300 application owners. The need to complete this in just three months left very little room for error to complete testing and properly upgrade environments. However, Fortified's team of experts have risen to similar complex challenges before, so they were confident in their ability to successfully upgrade the company's SQL Server database environment without issue.

## Our Solution

First, Fortified completed a thorough Data Tier Assessment. In any data environment, there are both areas of strength and those needing improvement. But as data experts, Fortified's job is to isolate the few specific areas of focus that will have the most impact in helping clients achieve their goals. By first creating a detailed plan for execution that prioritizes the right actions, Fortified is able to deliver better results more quickly.

**In Fortified's Data Tier Assessment, we determined that completing this project would require:**



**Establishing priority for the data environment to mitigate the risk of critical outages.**



**Preparing for side-by-side upgrade with the following critical path:**

- System integrations
- External and application dependencies
- Application supportability
- Encryption support



**Designing the right service for the right applications, right-sizing for capacity planning, and improved encryption.**

## Results

Fortified's team of expert DBAs successfully upgraded all servers to SQL Server 19. They migrated 3,500 databases and 300 applications to the Cloud in just 128 days with no loss of service for users or app failure. With data clean up and improved encryption, there was increased performance and security throughout the data environment. These upgrades also meant a higher ROI for the insurance provider, as there is less to patch, maintain, and the upgraded architecture meant cost-savings available for capacity planning.