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Case Study
Hedge Fund Saves $2.3MM
Through Data Platform Modernization

A large financial firm responsible for over $35 billion in assets wanted to modernize their SQL Server data estate and migrate their servers to the Cloud. While data performance is integral at any size, larger organizations require meticulously organized data management systems to handle varying workloads and global demand. Without a highly available and scalable ecosystem, their business operations could suffer.

The Problem

When embarking on a cloud migration project, it is important to first understand the details of all data environment workloads. Often organizations will have mismatched environments, with some servers over-utilized and others essentially asleep. This financial firm was eager to move their data environment to the Cloud, but they needed to thoroughly review the performance of the current system. After the initial data tier assessment, Fortified discovered data sprawled over 1,000 databases in 100 separate servers.

The size of their environment determined Fortified's first objective to deliver a right-sized, optimized, highly-available data ecosystem before Fortified began the Cloud migration.

Our Solution

Through the initial data tier assessment, the Fortified team determined that the data ecosystem needed optimization before the migration could begin. Fortified began by organizing all customer data, managing multiple duplicated databases, and updating legacy SQL Server software. Given the environment size of over 1,000 databases in 100 separate servers, the Fortified team first created a right-sized data estate on-premises. Fortified then expanded the capabilities of features and applications, increased the performance of the overall operating system, and reduced the infrastructure size. Using this new architecture, Fortified decommissioned 75 servers, leaving just 25 on-premises.

Within six months, Fortified fully stabilized the data environment. All servers were healthy, data protected, and Fortified had deployed maintenance processes.

Increasing Capabilities
Creating a future-state data ecosystem

Fortified continued to guide the transition from on-premises to fully cloud-based, IaaS operations. Once completed, the change further reduced hardware costs and removed additional operating systems from the client's data environment. In addition, the Fortified team also worked to implement DevOps practices into the client's ecosystem. The implementation process helped transform work done to the client's DevOps templates, integration, automation, and orchestration. As a result, nothing will enter the Cloud environment without the scripted, self-serve portal.

Making It Scale
Optimizing migration to Azure Cloud

With a healthy data ecosystem in place, the Fortified team began reviewing the details of the first cloud migration project. Fortified started by resizing workloads, consolidating duplicate servers, and decommissioning redundant SQL databases. In Microsoft Azure, consumption equates to cost, and utilization resource management can become complex. Network pipe, disk space usage, IOP (in-out-operations), CPUs — everything attributes to performance and availability. "Right-sizing the environment to understand workload and availability is key not only to server performance, but it also deeply impacts cost in the Cloud," says Ben DeBow, Fortified's CEO. "We have a myriad of tested and trusted tools that help us right-size the environment based on trending data. That was a big contributor to the cost savings."

Results

- **Reduced server sprawl from 100 servers to just 25 on premises**
- **Reduced monthly cloud spend by $65,000**
- **Saved 2.3 million dollars in licensing over 3 years**

The journey to the Cloud can be complex, and the financial model is different than managing SQL Server on-premises. Most organizations need a partner to assist in the Cloud journey.

"We can save our clients millions of dollars by understanding their business goals, where they are in their cloud migration journey, and what their utilization needs are," says Ben DeBow, Fortified Data's CEO. "Through an assessment of this client's Microsoft Azure usage and needs, we reduced their monthly cloud spend on Azure by $65,000, resulting in 2.3 million dollars saved over 3 years."

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Let us show you what's possible.

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