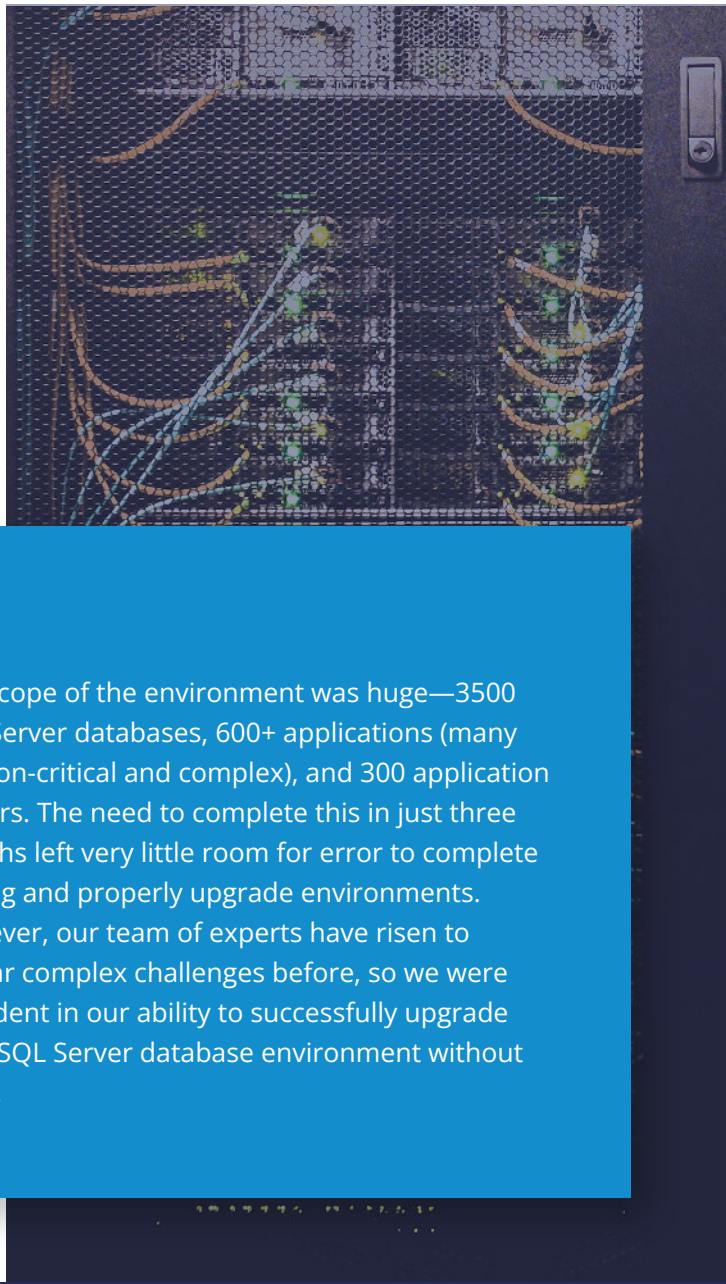
Case Study

Making a large, 3500 SQL Server database migration possible in just three months.

The average insurance organization handles large amounts of highly sensitive data that support 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 an needed to be upgraded. Upgrading and migrating 3500 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 receive security patches, updates, or extended support contracts from Microsoft. For the insurance company, this presented an opportunity to upgrade their SQL Server 2012 environments to SQL Server 2019, migrate their data, encrypt it, and coordinate its migration along with over 600 unique applications in the data ecosystem. But 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, our team of experts have risen to similar complex challenges before, so we were confident in our ability to successfully upgrade their SQL Server database environment without issue.

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Our Solution

First, we completed a thorough Data Tier Assessment. In any data environment, there are both areas of strength and those needing improvement. But as data experts, our 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, we are able to deliver better results more quickly.

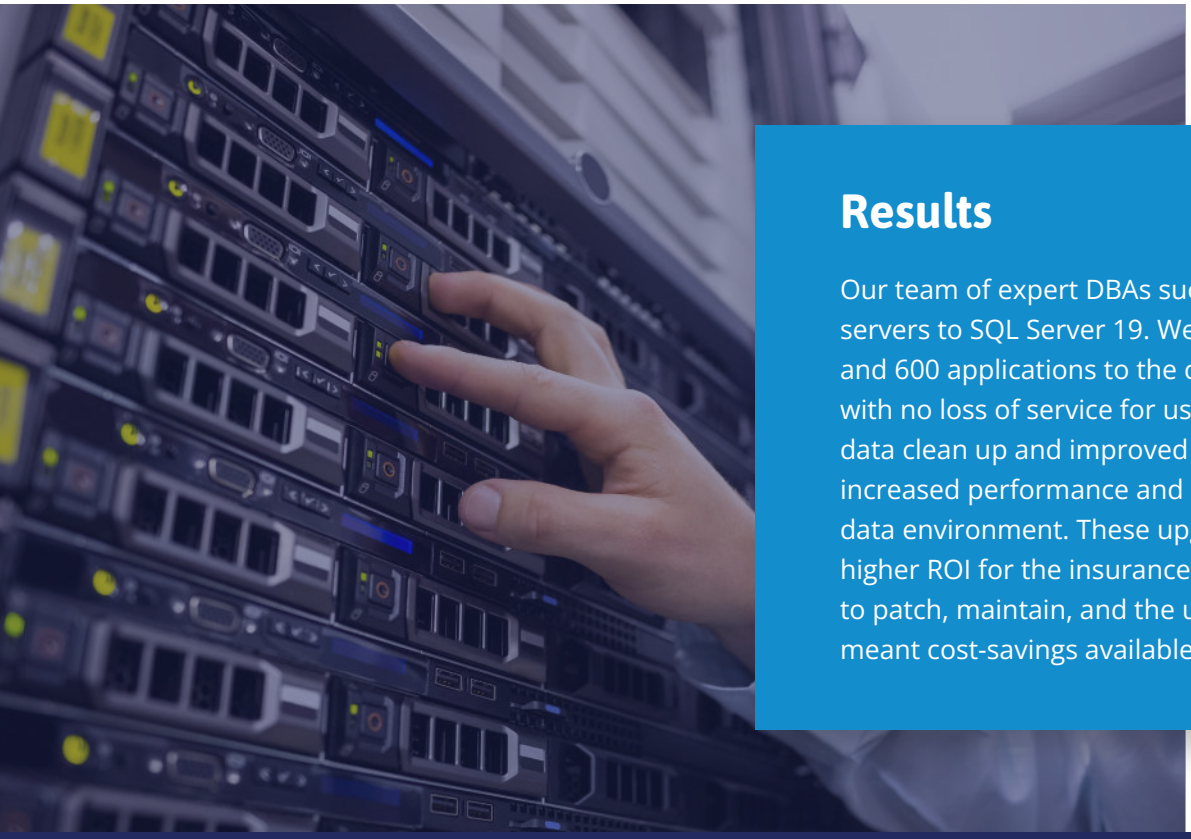
In our Data Tier Assessment, we determined that completing this project would require:

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 dependancies
- Application supportability
- Encryption support

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



Results

Our team of expert DBAs successfully upgraded all servers to SQL Server 19. We migrated 3500 databases and 600 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.