

Case Study

Downsizing helps international financial software company migrate and scale to the cloud.

Financial software is everywhere, helping individuals and companies alike manage every aspect of their finances. The sensitive data they handle must be highly available and secure, particularly through the regular peaks in activity - during monthly billing periods and at annual tax season. But performance tuning each database for such stark differences in activity is difficult, and these factors add further complication to the infrastructure challenges of this complex data ecosystem.

Recently, a large financial software company offering services from tax filing assistance to small business

payroll management wanted to migrate its growing database ecosystem from on-premises servers to AWS. This move would allow them to better scale their operations run on with tens of thousands of employees and millions of users, more operational support was long overdue. The software company had attempted the migration 18 months prior, yet outages and performance issues forced them to fail back to their on-premises servers. They needed the right partner to help make the migration be a success, ensuring no interruptions to service.

The Problem

The company experienced data performance issues as well as critical outages, rendering their initial migration to the cloud unsuccessful. With their software supporting billions of dollars in business worldwide, integrating with thousands of servers and applications, a repeat of this failure was not an option.

With tight timelines and mission-critical support needed, the Fortified team was recommended to help investigate the issues and provide a viable solution. The company needed to migrate back to AWS in just two weeks to avoid potential issues during their peak season; fortunately, our team of experts is well-versed in migrations on tight deadlines.

Our Solution

To successfully migrate to the cloud, we employed a proven and reliable migration and workload strategy. With three days dedicated to planning and the rest to migration and optimization, we were able to meet the two-week deadline. However, moving the data was only half the task.




Once the databases and applications were securely hosted in the cloud, the Fortified Team focused on optimization to prepare for the anticipated annual spike in activity during spring tax season. Once performance was tuned so the platform was stable during the peak workloads, we could begin executing the following actions on a regular cadence with the client:

-  Assess current data systems performance
-  Decrease data environment risk
-  Increase data scalability
-  Fortify performance for peak workloads
-  Plan for continuous upgrades

When our team successfully remediates acute issues, we garner a certain level of trust. That trust leads to a successful year-on-year cycle of performance enhancement based on decreasing risk and increasing opportunities for improvement.

Results

When it comes to effective scaling strategies, it's important to bear in mind that "scale" doesn't necessarily just mean increasing capacity and adding more capacity and bigger servers; it also means optimizing for space inside the same-sized box.

-  20% more server capacity
-  2/3 less memory usage
-  \$2 million saved in one month

