



## Case Study: Insurance

# Insurance giant speeds application development cycles up to 80%

A North American insurer wasn't benefiting much from its on-premises data centers. Cognizant helped the company move to the cloud, with great results.

Insurance is rapidly evolving from a traditional industry into a data-driven sector where digitalization creates new opportunities and greater efficiency. Taking advantage of this transformation is critical to major players keen to maintain their competitive edge. But one mutual life insurance company in the U.S. was finding it hard because of data center constraints. The firm's massive on-premises data center footprint was costly to maintain and hard to scale and adapt, with new application environments taking up to four weeks to build.

With nimbler rivals intent on luring the company's 26 million customers, the insurer knew it needed a more flexible and agile data center setup that could allow for continuous delivery of

### At a Glance

A major North American insurer wasn't getting the value it wanted from its on-premises data centers. We helped it move to AWS cloud. Now, IT is nimbler and more cost-effective, while data remains fully secure and compliant.

### Outcomes

- Reduced application development cycles by 60% to 80%, leading to faster rollout of new product features and updates to existing products.
- Lowered change processes from days or weeks to two or three hours.
- Moved 200 applications in 18 months.

software. The obvious solution was to move its applications to the cloud. But the company couldn't afford to take any risks with the migration of its core applications. It needed a technology partner that was not only a cloud specialist but also an experienced provider to the insurance industry. Cognizant measured up on both accounts.

**Our cloud experience includes being a channel and marketplace reseller and a partner for premier consulting, managed services and migration acceleration programs with Amazon Web Services (AWS). We are also a leading global services partner for the insurance industry, with seven of the top 10 global insurers and 33 of the top 50 U.S. names benefiting from our integrated services portfolio.**

With the insurer keen to host North American application workloads in locations that best meet its business, compliance and technical requirements, Cognizant was contracted to prepare the AWS public cloud for hosting new and existing applications and to assist with the migration. Specifically, our objectives were to:

- Create a scalable IT infrastructure that would reduce the time and effort associated with deploying new environments.
- Introduce an updated toolset for continuous integration and continuous deployment software engineering practices.
- Improve quality by streamlining test environments.
- Automate application code build and deployment.
- Standardize computing and application services.
- Support application development requirements.
- Implement security and compliance controls.
- Reduce the data center footprint.

#### **Architectural Approach:**

- Implementing infrastructure security, including encryption, malware and distributed denial-of-service protection, as well as threat and vulnerability management.
- Building an AWS hosting platform fully compliant with the insurer's enterprise security and compliance standards.
- Adhering to compliance requirements such as logging, audit trails and appropriate handling of sensitive client data.
- Leveraging key AWS capabilities that provide elasticity and a highly available and on-demand hosting environment.
- Automating capabilities to reduce manual effort, human errors and time to market.

Following these considerations, we were able to migrate more than 200 applications, ranging from Websphere app servers to Oracle databases. We migrated 2,000 virtual machines to AWS cloud within the first 18 months of a two-year engagement. The new environment gives the insurer high availability, disaster recovery, elasticity and self-healing capabilities, helping to reduce application deployment cycle by 60% to 80%.

It also offers automation tools, including an AWS CodeDeploy fully managed deployment service, Bitbucket web-based version control, Jenkins automation servers, Jira issue tracking, Puppet

configuration management and Terraform infrastructure-as-code software. All this is helping the insurer modernize application delivery and standardize its technology offerings on a secure, fully compliant infrastructure that is highly available, intelligent and scalable in response to workloads.

The company saves costs by not only using resources in non-business hours but also eliminating seldom-used application environments that can now be re-created easily when needed. Development times have come down, helping the insurer regain its competitive edge.

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## About Cognizant's Insurance Business Unit

Cognizant is a leading global services partner for the insurance industry. In fact, seven of the top 10 global insurers and 33 of the top 50 U.S. insurers benefit from our integrated services portfolio. We help our clients run better by driving greater efficiency and effectiveness, while simultaneously helping them run differently by innovating and transforming their businesses for the future. Cognizant redefines the way its clients operate—from increasing sales and marketing effectiveness, to driving process improvements and modernizing legacy systems, to sourcing business operations.

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## About Cognizant Digital Systems & Technology

Cognizant Digital Systems & Technology works with clients to simplify, modernize and secure IT infrastructure and applications, unlocking the power trapped in their technology environments. We help clients create and evolve systems that meet the needs of the modern enterprise by delivering industry-leading standards of performance, cost savings and flexibility. To learn more, contact us at [simplify@cognizant.com](mailto:simplify@cognizant.com) or visit [www.cognizant.com/cognizant-digital-systems-technology](http://www.cognizant.com/cognizant-digital-systems-technology).

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## About Cognizant

Cognizant (Nasdaq-100: CTSH) is one of the world's leading professional services companies, transforming clients' business, operating and technology models for the digital era. Our unique industry-based, consultative approach helps clients envision, build and run more innovative and efficient businesses. Headquartered in the U.S., Cognizant is ranked 193 on the Fortune 500 and is consistently listed among the most admired companies in the world. Learn how Cognizant helps clients lead with digital at [www.cognizant.com](http://www.cognizant.com) or follow us [@Cognizant](https://twitter.com/Cognizant).



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