QUALITEST™

Large UK Local Authority Achieves Faultless Migration from On-prem to the Cloud

When Essex County Council decided the time was right to move from an on-prem data center to a cloud-hosted one, they turned to Qualitest to de-risk the migration data at rest and in transit.

Challenges

A large local authority's entire infrastructure needed migrating to the cloud.

The migration needed to happen quickly, efficiently, and faultlessly.

Solutions

Independent and objective cloud migration strategy designed.

Staggered migration strategy executed with milestones to communicate identified risks and determine reaction.

Results

Successful, seamless, and on-time migration of six priority applications in scope.

More than 40 further applications incorporated into the "lift and shift" phase one.

Client overview

Essex County Council (ECC) is a local authority that serves a population of over one million people within the non-metropolitan county of Essex in England, UK.

When they realized the limitations their on-prem architecture was placing on their operational capacity, ECC embarked on a program of work to migrate their IT systems from their existing data centre to a new hosted data centre.

Meeting a need for a swift and faultless migration

With contractually binding migration dates, they needed needed efficient, independent, and objectivetesting to de-risk the data migration.

Qualitest was asked to work alongside the new hosted data centre supplier for and on ECC's behalf to provide independent and objective quality assurance, quality governance and testing of the migration program.

Having undertaken many migration and infrastructure projects with large telecoms providers, government departments and utility companies, Qualitest would need to quickly identify which of its extensive domain knowledge, skills and experience in business-critical migrations – including CRM and billing applications and the associated databases – would need to be deployed.

There was a requirement to plan, analyze, and design an effective and efficient approach to ECC's data centre migration testing.

Creating full confidence in the migration process

Qualitest's extensive portfolio of prior work on large-scale data migrations, combined with holistic testing of complex

infrastructure projects, provided the assurance blueprint. This included detailed visual reporting to support informed risk-based decision-making points throughout the program lifecycle.

On the ground, Qualitest moved quickly to implement a project team with strong leadership experience and to establish a collaborative approach with the business users, server, and network experts. The team brought extensive expertise in assuring Extract, Transform and Load (ETL) processes, in leading ETL tools and in data migration best practice.

> " I valued the independence and objectivity which the Qualitest team brought to the Essex County Council data migration program. The Test Planning, Test Preparation, Test Execution and Test Reporting have been delivered to an excellent standard and the Test Progress Reporting provided project reassurance and the honest view required."
>
> - Rob Brown, Data Center Migration Program Test Manager, ECC

The team was led by Qualitest's Operational Acceptance Test Manager, focused on data quality and integrity from the user perspective and also coordinated configuration management activities, environments, defect tracking and defect management.
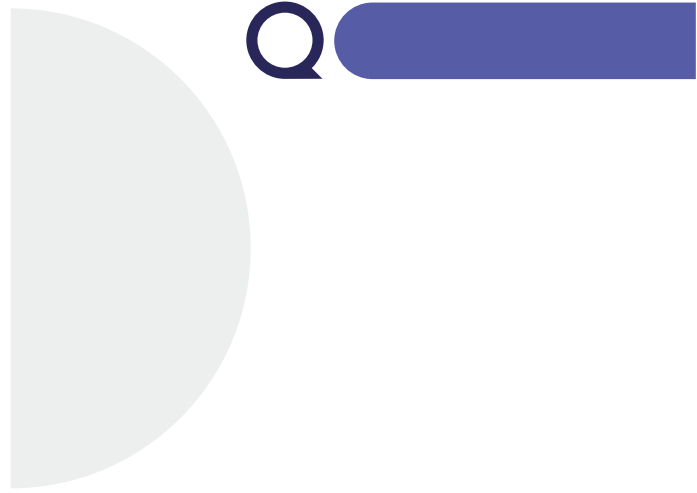
Working closely with the ECC data migration program team and the new hosted data center supplier, Qualitest developed an efficient risk-based approach and plan for the quality assurance, quality governance and testing of the ECC data migration program: from the assurance of the data itself to the validation of the data in the target applications for the assurance of the business users.

At each point in the project plan, Qualitest's expert evaluation provided key decision-making information to ECC about their readiness to progress to migration and any outstanding risks, their impact, and mitigation recommendations. This proved a popular mechanism with the Client.

" The test deliverables the team have produced have been to the highest standard, and the team has the trust of the client project, business teams and Test Manager alike. The Qualitest team provides an honest yet considered viewpoint and only escalates when absolutely necessary – all actions/decisions are carefully thought through. The Qualitest Team have added value throughout the project, been pivotal in the smooth go live and have required very little management. "

Rob Brown, Data Center Migration Program Test Manager, ECC

Key benefits

The quality method of operation devised for this migration resulted in:

- Six highest-priority applications successfully and seamlessly migrated from the old Primary Data Center to the new infrastructure.
- More than 40 applications part of the "lift and shift" migration from the old Secondary Data Center.
- All contractually mandated time limits within which to conclude migration comfortably met.
- The acquisition of a trusted test partner and full confidence in capabilities, agility and dependability for subsequent migration project phases.

"The Qualitest Team has contributed significant value to the successful delivery of the Data Center Migration project. This project represents a significant milestone for us in ECC, and the entire organisation was relying on us for successful delivery. The efforts of the test team to de-risk the data center migration by honestly reporting the risks and issues and pushing to get them resolved was a major factor in our success."

- Mark Briggs, Chief Information Officer, Information Services, ECC

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