

CASE STUDY

Fortune 500 Financial Services Firm: Breaking Barriers for Cloud Data Migration to Snowflake

For just under 100 years, this Fortune 500 financial services organization has provided insurance to its community. It now facilitates the financial security of more than 13 million members through a full range of financial products and services, including banking and investment alongside insurance.

To meet the firm's commitment to provide highly competitive rates to its members, it prioritizes efficiency and lower internal costs. But legacy infrastructure and a decentralized data management model made accessing data – the key to every business's success today – difficult and costly. Long known for their innovation, the Enterprise Technology Team embarked on an ambitious plan to transition their onpremises data platform 100% to the cloud, and eventually multi-cloud. They developed a strategy to create a foundational managed pipeline (FMP), a scalable, repeatable, and auditable shared data service for all business units.

Challenge

With century-old roots in the conservative financial services industry and business units such as banking and property & casualty (P&C) insurance running separately, siloed data was scattered in legacy, onpremises systems owned by different teams. A decentralized data management model, where each business unit chose and ran their own data integration solution, only exacerbated this issue. The organization had significant vendor and solution redundancy and interoperability challenges. To add to the tool sprawl, many of the IT teams across the company preferred to build their own custom solutions. Unfortunately, this model generated a tangle of custom-coded data pipelines that are fragile and easily break when confronted with every change (and changes to data structure, semantics, and infrastructure are unending).

The team realized that if they wanted to scale and keep pace with the business, they had to automate data pipeline development and operations, migrate to cloud data platforms, and evolve to a shared service model. Adopting AWS as their initial cloud platform and Snowflake Data Cloud moved them well toward realizing their FMP. But they needed a way to quickly

and continuously migrate data from numerous sources into Snowflake and get multiple disparate business units to trust and adopt the new foundational managed pipeline.

“ Working alongside the Snowflake and AWS teams, StreamSets has helped us to standardize, automate, and scale our foundational managed pipeline. This has significantly reduced operational costs and future-proofed our technology infrastructure. ”

- Head of Enterprise Information and Insights

Solution

Snowflake's team introduced the organization to StreamSets early in the FMP planning and design stages. Using StreamSets to build the FMP enabled teams to migrate data from on-premises systems into Data Cloud much more quickly than existing data platforms. In addition, with a wide variety of data sources and the potential for multi-cloud infrastructure in the future, StreamSets' portability and interoperability allow the firm to avoid vendor lock-in and work with many different platforms on a single pipeline. The StreamSets platform simplifies building smart data pipelines to standardize across all business units. These smart data pipelines abstract away the details and automate as much as possible, so they are easy to set up and operate continuously with very little intervention. They're fast to build and deploy, fault-tolerant, adaptive, and self-healing, with built-in monitoring capabilities to provide trustworthy data insights. By providing business units with these smart pipelines and reusable assets as part of the FMP, the organization made it easy for business

units to onboard, register and work with their datasets, and scale usage.

Results

Migrating data into AWS and Snowflake happened incredibly fast once they brought StreamSets onboard. The company's new cloud data infrastructure and foundational managed pipeline consolidated redundant systems and created standardization using best-in-class vendors AWS, Snowflake, and StreamSets. By eliminating overlap, they decreased costs and significantly improved efficiency.

StreamSets' data engineering approach to building smart data pipelines, and operating and monitoring the pipelines in real time globally, has empowered the firm to scale by creating a shared FMP service. This shared service has been leveraged by many different business units that have become much more productive and efficient, as well as cost-effective. For example, the number of data ingestion jobs doubled in the first month – without adding additional staff – and they've now run over 4,000 jobs in less than a year. And, the team has this insight thanks to the cross-business unit transparency and controls provided by the StreamSets platform. Finally, the Enterprise Technology Team reduced onboarding time to the FMP by 6 months with StreamSets. By lowering the barrier to working with data, business units

ABOUT STREAMSETS

At StreamSets, our mission is to make data engineering teams wildly successful. Only StreamSets offers a platform dedicated to building the smart data pipelines needed to power DataOps across hybrid and multi-cloud architectures. That's why the largest companies in the world trust StreamSets to power millions of data pipelines for modern business intelligence, data science, and AI/ML. With StreamSets, data engineers spend less time fixing and more time doing.

To learn more, visit www.streamsets.com

