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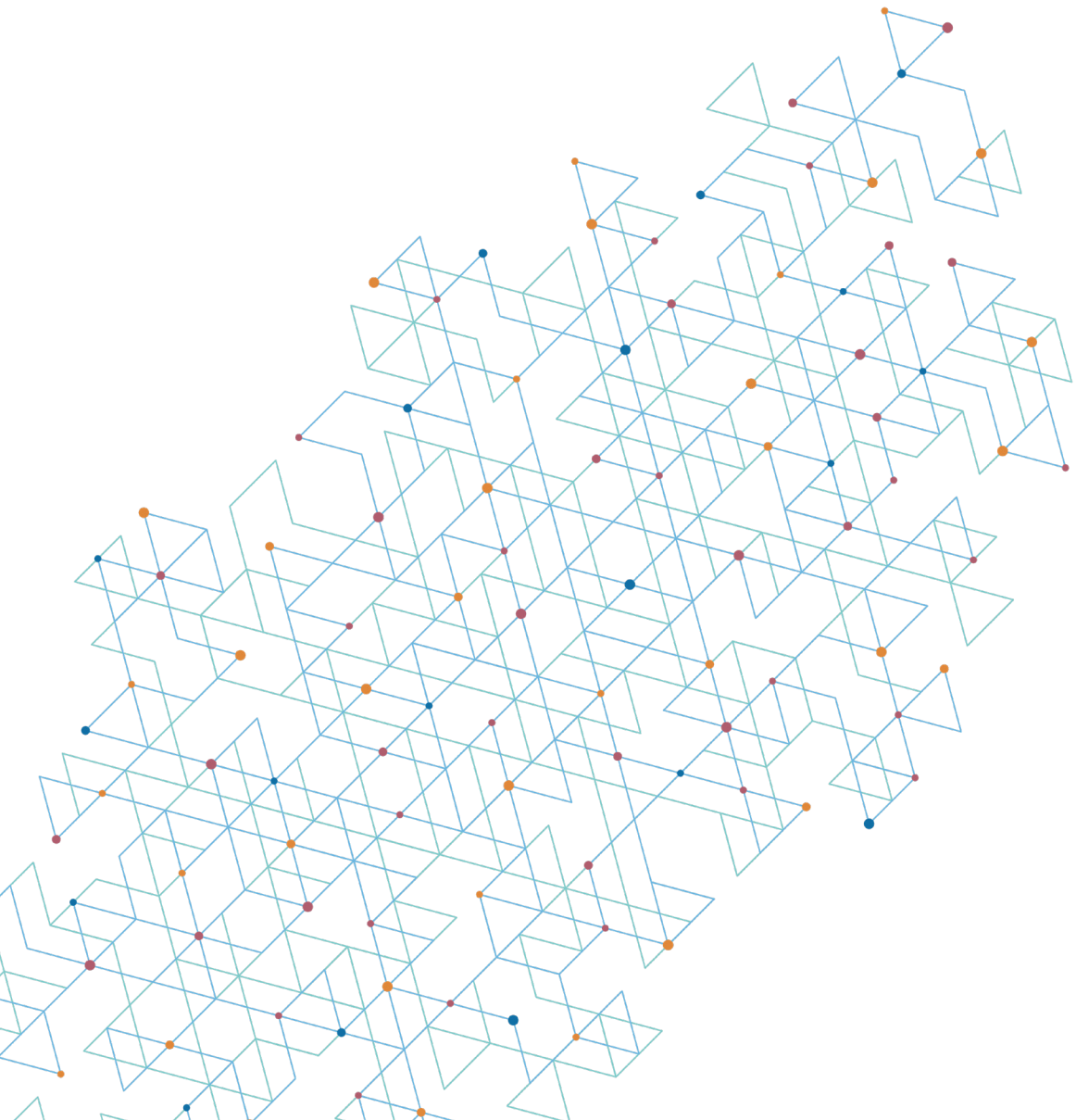
Modernization Without Business Disruption: A Guidewire Cloud Migration Success Story

A CALIFORNIA CASUALTY CASE STUDY



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Results at a glance

- Thousands of cloud assurance issues identified as cloud-update blockers
- Majority of cloud assurance blockers resolved in the first sprint
- 32 file-based integrations upgraded to Cloud S3
- 34 APIs reviewed or remediated for cloud compatibility
- 10-month modernization delivered on time and on budget (single go-live)
- No business disruption at go-live

Executive Summary

California Casualty, a U.S.-based property and casualty (P&C) insurer, partnered with Stratus to modernize its core Guidewire platform by migrating Guidewire PolicyCenter and BillingCenter from a long-running on-premises environment to Guidewire Cloud Platform (GWCP). With more than 10 years of on-premises investment, the codebase and integrations accumulated substantial cloud-readiness constraints. GWCP update tooling identified thousands of cloud assurance issues, standards-based findings that prevented cloud approval until they were resolved. Stratus led a rapid modernization program focused on cloud assurance remediation, integration adaptation, and rigorous testing. Stratus cleared the majority of cloud assurance blockers in the first sprint and delivered the cloud migration in 10 months, on time and on budget.

> “Completing a seamless cloud upgrade of this scale in just 10 months is no small feat.”
>
> **Adam Waldron, VP, CIO**

Business Context and Drivers

California Casualty's' decision to migrate to GWCP was driven by the desire to keep pace with cloud–first innovation, reduce operational burden associated with on–premises infrastructure maintenance, and align the remaining core suite with its existing instance of ClaimCenter on GWCP. The migration focused on bringing PolicyCenter and BillingCenter to GWCP while preserving essential business behavior and minimizing disruption.

Scope

In scope:
PolicyCenter and BillingCenter migration to GWCP, Upgrade Portal Edge Package

Adjacent changes:
Minor work in ClaimCenter and Contact Manager to maintain suite integrations

Out of scope:
Major new feature implementation beyond cloud alignment (cloud modernization with functional continuity)

> "Stratus and the migration team were excellent at communication, followed through on commitments, and remained transparent. Stratus also brings a strong pool of highly skilled Guidewire talent."

Yogesh Baral, Director of Applications, AVP





Stratus was a key partner in our cloud migration. They quickly understood our needs, accelerated the entire process, and delivered the expertise and quality we couldn't have efficiently achieved on our own"

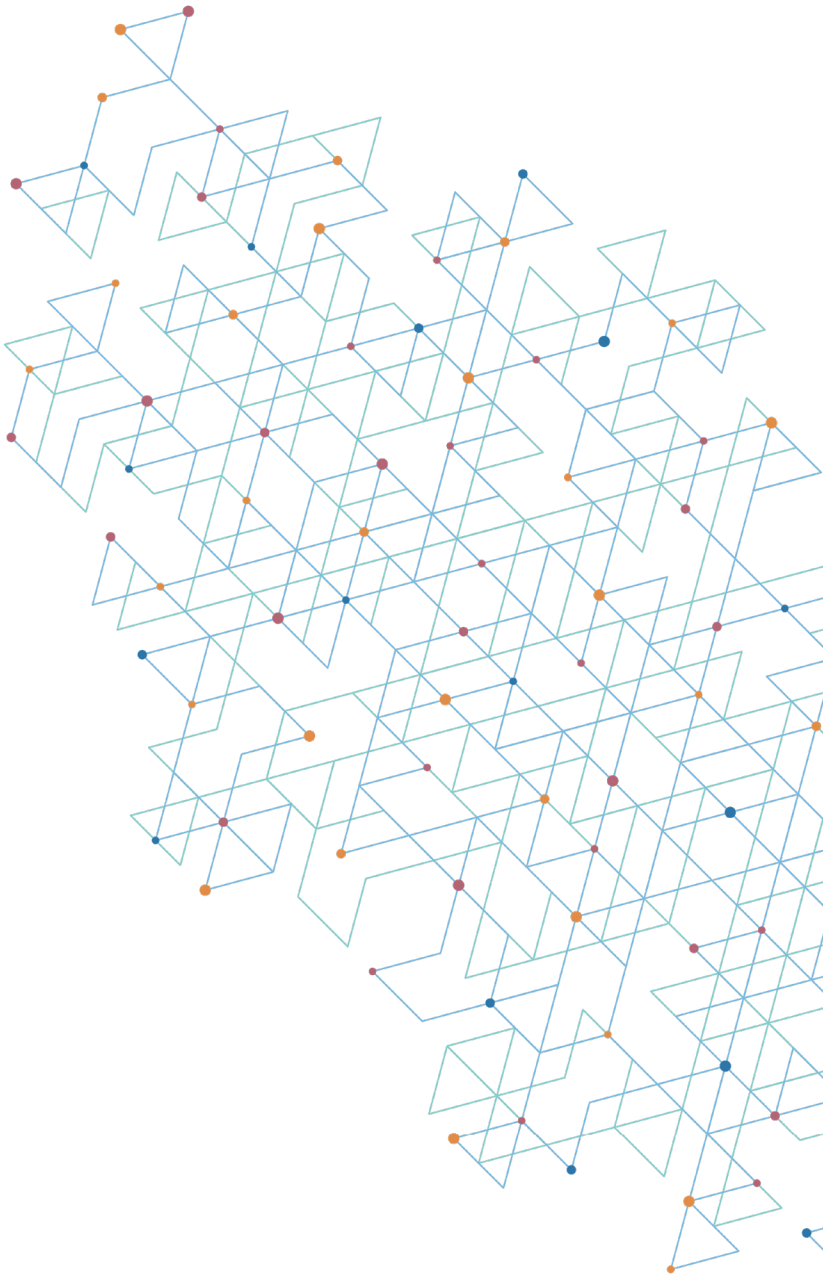
Mark Pitchford, COO

Key Roadblocks at Program Start

- Thousands of cloud assurance issues identified as cloud-update blockers
- Integration refactoring to align to cloud constraints and supported patterns
- End-to-end testing needs across core workflows, integrations, and performance
- Single go-live (not phased), increasing emphasis on stabilization and cutover readiness

Starting Point: What Made This Migration Challenging

Cloud migrations are not simply infrastructure moves. GWCP requires adherence to defined cloud standards for security, operations, performance, and upgradeability. For California Casualty, more than 10 years of on-premises customizations and integration patterns resulted in a large cloud assurance remediation backlog.



> “Stratus delivered on time and on budget, with zero disruption to our business processes.”

Adam Waldron, VP, CIO

Approach: How Stratus Delivered a Rapid Cloud Modernization

Stratus executed a migration program designed to remove cloud blockers early, maintain transparency, and reduce downstream rework. The approach combined an accelerated inception, an assurance-first burn-down strategy, parallel integration modernization, and a quality engineering focus.

1

Accelerated discovery & inception (2 weeks)
Stratus and California Casualty aligned scope, risks, and delivery cadence during the inception phase that emphasized fast knowledge transfer and early identification of failure points. This created a realistic backlog and reduced surprises later in development.

2

Cloud assurance remediation (assurance-first sprint strategy)
Stratus prioritized cloud assurance blockers immediately to unlock downstream activities. By addressing low-friction items early and tackling complex patterns in subsequent sprints, the team reduced perceived risk, created momentum, and cleared the path for integration and testing workstreams.

3

Integration adaptation for cloud
With assurance blockers reduced, Stratus modernized key integrations and suite touchpoints to function reliably in the cloud operating model, including minor updates in ClaimCenter and/or ContactManager to maintain end-to-end workflows across the suite.

4

Quality engineering: functional, automation, and performance testing
Testing objectives covered core workflow validation, edge/API validation, system integration validation, and performance testing, and designated functions to meet cloud assurance standards. The program leveraged modern automation and performance tooling (Playwright and JMeter) and tracked defects through Jira.

Governance & Collaboration Model

California Casualty and Stratus used a high-frequency communication model to keep progress visible, accelerate decisions, and remove blockers quickly.

- Daily internal standups to review status, challenges, mitigations, and roadblocks
- Twice-weekly client checkpoints to align priorities and resolve dependencies
- Weekly program status and look-ahead planning
- Monthly demos to validate progress and ensure shared understanding
- Dedicated Microsoft Teams channel for real-time triage and fast stakeholder responses

Outcomes & Impact

The program delivered PolicyCenter and BillingCenter on GWCP on time and on budget, with a strong focus on code quality and standards compliance. California Casualty stakeholders noted no disruption at go-live and strong collaboration across teams. Delivering predictably, without schedule slippage or budget creep, also helped California Casualty avoid prolonged "dual-run" costs and unplanned spend, preserving budget capacity for future modernization initiatives and innovation priorities.

Delivered Outcomes

- **Modernized to Guidewire Cloud Platform** (PolicyCenter and BillingCenter)
- **Thousands of cloud assurance issues** identified as blockers; majority resolved in the first sprint
- **10-month modernization timeline** with a single go-live
- **30-day warranty support period** post go-live
- **32 file-based integrations** upgraded to Cloud S3
- **34 APIs reviewed or remediated** for cloud compatibility
- **Delivered on time and on budget**

Differentiators: Why Stratus

For Guidewire Cloud migrations, the execution model and cloud-specific experience often determine speed and predictability. Stratus differentiates by applying a focused, cloud-specialist delivery model designed to reduce handoffs, accelerate cloud assurance remediation, and maintain configuration purity while meeting business needs.

Assurance-first delivery: prioritize and remediate cloud blockers early to reduce rework risk

Lean, experienced teams: minimize coordination overhead and accelerate decision-to-delivery cycles

Quality engineering emphasis: automation and performance testing integrated into delivery, not deferred

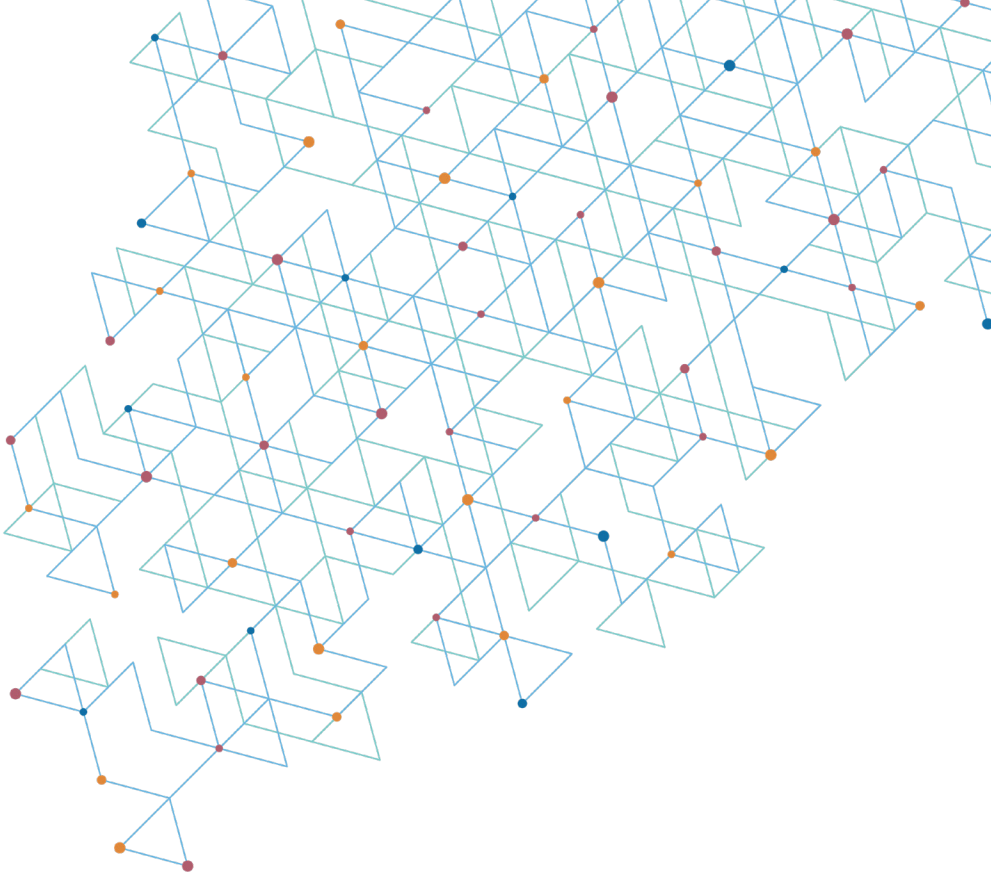
High-cadence governance: real-time triage and transparent progress reporting to prevent stalled decisions

Balance configuration purity with business needs: align to cloud standards while preserving essential behavior

Post-Go-Live Support & What's Next

Following go-live, Stratus provided a 30-day warranty period. California Casualty requested additional short-term developer support to assist with wrap-up items and knowledge transfer. Future enhancement opportunities may include optimizing integrations, expanding automation coverage, and leveraging cloud, only capabilities once the platform is stabilized.





Turn your upgrade into a predictable business outcome.
Book a Cloud Migration Strategy Session with Stratus and walk away with a clear plan for Cloud Assurance remediation, integration readiness, and a go-live path that protects business continuity.

REQUEST A SESSION

It's Always Been About People.

Stratus began over two decades ago by partnering with organizations to build the teams they needed to grow. That people-first mindset still drives us today as we lead in insurance transformation—delivering premium Guidewire services, managed solutions, and modernization strategies to help our clients solve their most complex challenges with agility and care.

Our approach is high-touch and high-trust, rooted in decades of insurance domain expertise and a core belief that people are at the heart of every transformation.

Whether you're navigating legacy system complexities, upgrading core platforms, or pursuing next-gen automation, Stratus delivers secure, scalable, human-centered solutions and the best technical talent tailored to meet your needs.

Visit **stratustech.com** to explore how we can help you lead modernization with clarity and confidence. Follow us on **LinkedIn** for the latest cloud modernization insights.

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