

### CUSTOMER OVERVIEW

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA) represents nearly all hospitals and healthcare systems in Illinois. IHA's mission is to be the trusted voice and resource for its members, aiming to advance optimal health and healthcare. Through advocacy, policy development, and various programs, IHA supports its members in navigating the complex healthcare landscape.

Industry: Healthcare

Headquarters: Illinois

[www.team-ih.org](http://www.team-ih.org)



Illinois Health and Hospital Association

## The Challenge

IHA was experiencing significant challenges with its on-premises infrastructure, including:

- Legacy systems that present multiple points of failure including power, cooling, and backup
- Difficulty reducing reliance on on-premises solutions
- Lack of established cloud direction with uncertainty around a proposed private cloud solution

*“The existing infrastructure created performance bottlenecks, cost inefficiencies, and concerns about future scalability, particularly in addressing healthcare compliance needs like HIPAA and HITRUST,”* states Dean Comber, Vice President of Information Technology at IHA.

## The Solution

VAST, already a trusted partner on previous projects, proved to be the ideal choice to assist IHA in modernizing its environment. VAST provided a comprehensive roadmap to migrate IHA's infrastructure to Amazon Web Services (AWS), offering a tailored and scalable solution.

*“From our initial discussion with VAST, and particularly the lead Cloud Solutions Architect, it was immediately clear that VAST had a deep understanding of the cloud landscape, especially when it comes to Amazon Web Services, even without needing an extensive assessment or discovery,”* said Dean.

**Key solutions implemented include:**

**1. AWS Assessment & Rightsizing:**

Leveraging a no-cost assessment tool in partnership with AWS, VAST identified optimal sizing and cost-effective migration strategies.

**2. Managed Cloud Services:**

Seamless migration from on-premises to AWS with real-time performance monitoring.

**3. Licensing Management:**

Resolved SQL licensing and core provisioning challenges by proactively working with AWS and collaborating closely to find the optimal solution.

**4. Fortinet FortiGate Security:**

Deployed Fortinet FortiGate for enhanced security and will be implementing future VPN client replacement.

**5. Advanced Analytics:**

Integration of VAST View (powered by VMware Tanzu CloudHealth) for better cost and performance insights.

*"VAST was with us every step of the way, guiding us through the process in real time without ever suggesting we pause for training,"* comments Dean.

## The Results

The AWS migration project was successfully completed ahead of the customer's timeline, delivering numerous measurable benefits for IHA.

*"VAST was with us every step of the way, guiding us through the process in real time without ever suggesting we pause for training,"* mentions Mr. Comber. *"They walked us through every detail, explaining nuances, weighing pros and cons, outlining cost impacts, and providing clear, actionable recommendations. Their support made the entire process seamless and incredibly effective."*

**Improved Performance:**

- 5-8x increase in systems performance when compared to legacy on-premise infrastructure.
- Legacy applications supporting critical services migrated seamlessly without interruption to production.

**Cost Savings & Operational Efficiency:**

- Lower overall infrastructure costs compared to on-prem solutions.
- Real-time visibility into infrastructure performance.
- Simplified scaling up/down for cost optimization.

**Security:**

- Enhanced security with FortiGate Web Application Firewall implementation.

**Seamless Migration:**

- Migration completed without disruption to business operations. IHA reported it as *"the most seamless migration"* they had ever experienced.



# Why VAST?

## Expertise & Partnership:

VAST's deep knowledge of AWS solutions, combined with a hands-on approach, set them apart. From advisory services to project management, VAST prioritized solving IHA's problems without pushing unnecessary costs or solutions.

*"By far, VAST is the best IT partner I have worked with in my career. Their knowledge, recommendations, and ability to solve problems for us have been absolutely pivotal," says Mr. Comber.*

## Exceptional Support:

*"VAST provided unmatched technical guidance and project management," comments Dean. "Additionally, direct Executive involvement from VAST really showcased their commitment to our success."*

## Long-Term Vision:

IHA views VAST as a long-term, strategic managed service provider, supporting ongoing cloud optimizations and future initiatives including:

- Expanding FortiGate solutions for enhanced security and VPN connectivity
- Exploring additional AWS tools to support compliance, scalability, and cost efficiency
- Modernizing additional legacy applications

*"I look at VAST as our future long-term managed service provider exclusively going forward. This is going to be a critical partnership for us going forward."*

## About VAST

VAST provides IT solutions that simplify operations, improve security, and drive digital transformation. As an AWS partner, VAST delivers expert cloud migrations, managed services, and ongoing support to help businesses achieve their goals. Learn more: [vastitservices.com](http://vastitservices.com)

