

Sybase to SQL Migration

Client: Anonymous

Business Size: Corporation

Industry: Financial

Country: UK

Technology: PowerBuilder, Sybase ASA, SQL Server, Python

Objective: Upgrade Software

The Brief

Late in November 2024 OCS Consulting started the service establishment process for the customer's PowerBuilder application and Sybase ASA database, with the view to document and gain an understanding of this system in order to potentially support them in the future. The result of this was that OCS was contracted to upgrade the application to the latest version of PowerBuilder, as the version utilised is out of support and to migrate Sybase ASA to SQL Server.

Background

This Case study refers to the DB Migration.

Methodology

There is no existing tool to migrate Sybase ASA to MS SQL Server. My initial thought was to build a Sybase ASA model in SQLGlott, a python library, and use that to parse the reload.sql file provided and then use the in-built SQL Server Model to provide the SQL Server version. However, SQLGlott had issues parsing the Reload.sql file. As time was limited, I opted for a pure python solution. This would allow me to handle multiple upgrades as the Sybase DB was still active and being changed.

Solution and implementation

The technologies used on this assignment were:

- Migration Tool: Python, Windows cmd script
- Databases: Sybase ASA & MS SQL Server

All database issue tracking was done on bugnet synched to the customer's bug tracking system. Which issues were prioritised was decided by discussing with the team. Various tools such as Visual Studio Code, MS SQL Server Management Studio and MS Teams were used.

Consultant Contribution

As a database developer, I was responsible for contributing to the migration of the ASA database to MS SQL Server. This included analysis, development, testing, and deployment phases.