

STRATA | CASE STUDY

Quarter-end back inside business hours

A strata manager running StrataMax across 15 workstations

15	2	Daily
workstations on one image	internet services with failover	backups, tested monthly

Executive summary

A strata manager running StrataMax across 15 workstations was losing admin time to slow quarter-end reporting, backups that had never been test-restored and a run of printer and scanner faults. StrataMax was hosted on hardware specified three years earlier for a smaller firm.

Evolve moved StrataMax onto a cloud platform sized for the firm’s current workload, added a second internet service with automatic failover, and rebuilt the workstations on a standard image. End-of-quarter reporting that used to push the team past 6 pm now finishes inside business hours.

The challenge

- Quarter-end stretched past 6 pm: levy runs and end-of-quarter reports were slow, locked and timed out under the firm’s current load.
- Backups nobody trusted: they were running but had never been fully restored, on top of years of levy history and owner contact data.
- A constant drag of small issues: printers not scanning to folders, inconsistent email signatures and a workstation that kept logging people out.

Key technologies and services

Technology / service	Role in the case study
StrataMax on a cloud platform	Moved from hardware sized for an earlier, smaller firm to a cloud platform sized for the current workload. The firm kept the same StrataMax, just faster and without hardware under someone's desk.
Planned migration window	The move was planned around a quiet window so levy processing wasn't interrupted.
Second internet service	A second link alongside the primary, with automatic failover, so a primary drop no longer interrupts the office.
Standard workstation image	All 15 workstations run the same standard build, so a new hire gets a working machine in an hour rather than a day.
Automated backups and test restores	Automated daily backups of StrataMax data and document stores, with monthly test restores and documented recovery.
Printers, scanners and signatures	Scan-to-folder faults, email signature consistency and a logout issue were cleaned up along the way.



Evolve's approach

1. **Re-platform**
   StrataMax moved to a cloud platform sized for today's workload.
2. **Protect**
   Second internet service with automatic failover.
3. **Standardise**
   Fifteen workstations rebuilt on one standard image.
4. **Prove**
   Daily backups with monthly test restores and documented recovery.

Business outcomes

Quarter-end back in business hours

Reports that used to stretch into the evening now finish in the afternoon, and the admin team gets their evenings back.

Outages stopped being events

Primary-link drops now fail over automatically. The office keeps running and owners keep being served.

Backups that mean something

Daily backups, monthly test restores and documented recovery protect years of levy history and owner data.

Faster onboarding

A new hire gets a working machine in an hour rather than a day, thanks to the standard workstation build.



Why this case study matters

A firm can outgrow its platform without anyone noticing, because late nights at quarter-end start to feel normal. The value here came from sizing StrataMax for the business as it is now, planning the move around a quiet window, and proving the backups by actually restoring them.

Related Evolve services

Cloud & infrastructure	Microsoft 365, Azure, cloud migrations and server management.
Backup & disaster recovery	Automated nightly backups, a monthly restore test and a written continuity plan.
Network & connectivity	Firewalls, Wi-Fi, VPNs and site-to-site links, with 4G failover where a dropped link would stop work.

evolve TECHNOLOGIES

Is quarter-end running late?

Talk to Evolve about moving StrataMax to a platform sized for your firm today. evolvetech.com.au