AvalonBay Communities Inc, an equity REIT, develops, redevelops, acquires and manages distinctive apartment homes in some of the best locations in the USA.

AvalonBay Communities is the fourth largest owner of apartments in the United States.

Case study summary

To centralize content storage and simplify eDiscovery, AvalonBay Communities were looking to migrate a large volume of content from IBM FileNet P8 to SharePoint Online.

AvalonBay chose Olive + Goose, working in partnership with Proventeq to discover, analyze, transform and migrate their content to SharePoint Online.

We not only met the challenges that the complex migration project presented, but also fully leveraged SharePoint's content management and user productivity potential.

“The migrating from a legacy eDiscovery platform to SharePoint, was not an easy task, but Proventeq made it look easy.

This project is saving us about $100,000 in licensing annual cost, 20TB of storage and countless number of hours performing eDiscovery requests using an 8 year old platform.”

Sorin Badea
Director of IT Security Operations, AvalonBay Communities

The challenges

A large volume of data
More than 120 million emails and documents were archived in the IBM FileNet repository.

Issues converting emails
Technical complexity was encountered while converting emails from the IBM proprietary email (.CSN) format to the Microsoft (.MSG) format.

The source file was unable to handle concurrent requests
The source IBM FileNet and DB2 platform was unable to handle the large number of concurrent requests and a solution was needed.

Split across multiple Site Collections
Migration work had to be split across multiple Site Collections and Libraries to stay within the SharePoint Online technical design recommendations.

Archived emails needed to be restored
Archived Lotus emails, with attachments, needed to be restored within Exchange Online, and emails without, restored to SharePoint Online. A full audit trail of the emails was required to ensure that the emails were successfully migrated.
Best practice strategy

Proventeq’s migration experts worked closely with AvalonBay to design and implement a best practice content migration solution to enable a smooth transition to their new SharePoint Online environment.

Discovery and analysis
After meeting with the client’s team to understand their migration requirements, Proventeq performed a full discovery and analysis of content with Content Analyser to identify and understand the existing content landscape.

Information architecture optimisation
Classification and separation of data was efficiently processed to meet the demands of accessibility and navigation within the new SharePoint architecture.

Pilot migration
Migration Accelerator’s pilot migration feature allowed full mapping of all content and proved the revised content architecture worked according to business expectations prior to live migration; keeping their business operational on their existing ECM system before the go-live of SharePoint Online.

Security and compliance
During the migration, we enriched and restructured their content via classification, security remapping, metadata and taxonomy. We also moved documents from the common object store to customer specific document libraries to ensure security and compliance.

Full fidelity migration
Once the team at AvalonBay were satisfied with the migration design and target system architecture, Migration Accelerator was utilised to execute a full fidelity migration with an item-level audit trail. This ensured that all items were successfully migrated.

The results

Consolidation of content for optimal eDiscovery
Moving their archived content from IBM FileNet, Proventeq and Olive + Goose were able to help reduce the time spent searching for and working with content. By taking advantage of Office 365’s eDiscovery platform, which provides a much better search experience compared to the legacy counterpart.

Significant cost saving
AvalonBay were able to make significant licensing and infrastructure costs savings by decommissioning the IBM FileNet archiving & eDiscovery platform.

High throughput
High throughput migration with more than 1 million items migrated per day throughout the project. Multiple instances of Migration Accelerator were running in parallel to facilitate this outcome.

$100K REDUCTION in annual costs

1.8M EMAILS & DOCUMENTS migrated per day

"O+G and Proventeq are a team of professionals that I would recommend any time for similar projects."

Sorin Badea
Director of IT Security Operations, AvalonBay Communities

Make your content work smarter with Proventeq
Proventeq specialises in migration from non-Microsoft and legacy Microsoft systems to SharePoint. Our AI -powered migration and productivity solutions turn your SharePoint adoption challenges into opportunities.

Find out more at www.proventeq.com