

# Delivering intelligent technology solutions with Azure

This two part case study deep dives into Hauora Tairāwhiti's digital transformation journey into the cloud and modern ways of working.



# How Insight helped Hauora Tairāwhiti de-risk its cloud journey

Recognising the benefits of cloud computing for its infrastructure, Hauora Tairāwhiti has taken definitive steps towards the Microsoft Azure platform by engaging Insight for strategic guidance, best practice, and a proven reference architecture ahead of commencing a deployment. As a result of the successful delivery of a Proof of Concept by Insight Enterprises New Zealand, the organisation is prepared for a major shift in the way in which its essential technology services are hosted and delivered, representing a significant de-risking of a sensitive initiative.

Tairāwhiti District Health Board (DHB), branded as Hauora Tairāwhiti is located in Gisborne, New Zealand. The organisation provides health services to a population of nearly 50,000 who live in the area from the East Cape in the north to the Wharerata ranges in the south.

## Situation

Like many local government entities, most of the technology services relied upon by Hauora Tairāwhiti are based on legacy onpremise platforms, confirms Project Manager Natacha Blattes. *“While we recognised the need to look at migrating to the cloud - including services and applications – there are a lot of moving parts. As a DHB, we must be mindful of the necessity for security, the unacceptability of any disruption to business as usual, and the complexity of relying on legacy systems built up over the previous decades.”*

Like every public office, Hauora Tairāwhiti must work within the recommendations of the New Zealand government, which requires agencies to accelerate their adoption of public cloud services — in a balanced way — so they can drive digital transformation. Not only does a move into the cloud represent substantial and ongoing operational improvements, including flexibility, scalability and ease of access, it also represents an opportunity for every department to leave legacy technology in the past while benefiting from the latest advances and continual upgrades.

## Solution

With Insight already engaged for delivery of its Microsoft 365 Foundations, it was further engaged for the delivery of the Azure Proof of Concept. This included conducting an environment discovery for recommendations supporting Hauora Tairāwhiti's transformation strategy, fundamental adoption framework and best approach for a productised Azure environment using best practices.

A well-architected cloud solution allows for greater control of information, system costs and ease of delivery. Through the standardisation of governance and controls surrounding these services, Hauora Tairāwhiti can be certain of achieving the desired benefits, while mitigating attendant risks.



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*“These benefits apply to Azure for our infrastructure services. We can easily meet the challenge of making applications available for an increasingly mobile workforce, and Azure is a preferred platform owing to pre-existing Government arrangements with Microsoft,”*

**Natacha Blattes**

Project Manager  
– Hauora Tairāwhiti

A further consideration, she adds, is that the Hauora Tairāwhiti technology department staff are well versed with Microsoft (if not specifically Azure) and can therefore upskill with ease owing to a familiar environment.

*“However, while moving to Azure is obvious on paper, it's a lot more challenging in practice, particularly as we have to make the move safely and securely. We recognised early on that a successful transition will depend on partnering with the right provider”*

**Natacha Blattes**

Project Manager  
– Hauora Tairāwhiti

and it is worth noting that our digital transformation has multiple components and building blocks, of which Azure is only one. There is also the necessity to deliver that transformation while maintaining daily operations and risk-managing existing systems,” she explains.

## Insight's teams delivered three primary engagements in the delivery of the Azure Proof of Concept, beginning with 'Envision'



### Envision

In this phase, Insight hosted whiteboard-based workshops where Hauora Tairāwhiti staff members learned more about Microsoft Azure and how it provides an underlying platform for current and future initiatives. Cloud Adoption Framework patterns and tools were introduced, while Insight reviewed business motivations, people, processes and technology pillars with Hauora Tairāwhiti, delivering key design decisions informing an Azure Adoption Roadmap document.



### Azure Landing Zones

This fed into the creation of an **'Azure Landing Zones'**, the output of multi-subscription Azure environments accounting for scale, security, governance, networking, and identity. Azure Landing Zones enable application migration and greenfield development at enterprise-scale and encompass all platform resources required for Hauora Tairāwhiti's application portfolio.



### Migration Assessment and Pilot Migration

The final step in the engagement, the **Migration Assessment and Pilot Migration**, addresses a key component of transformation – the creation of a comprehensive strategy and migration plan. The Azure Migration Assessment identifies pilot workloads and action plans, followed by migration activities including infrastructure deployment, application remediation, and phased migration events.

Throughout the delivery, says Blattes, the Insight team distinguished itself by a willingness to transfer knowledge and create appreciation for the advantages available in an appropriately delivered Azure platform. *"The team is forthcoming with information and very clear on the benefits. They are also highly approachable, responding with accuracy and enthusiasm to any issues raised, while demonstrating deep knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, Azure technology."*

### Results

The primary outcome of the engagement is an Azure reference architecture and the Azure Landing Zones, Microsoft's reference architecture and approach for optimising Azure capabilities while respecting existing security and governance policies. Blattes explains: *"Ahead of an actual migration, the work delivered by Insight serves as a solid foundation on which we will build, as various streams are identified and prioritised for a shift into the cloud."*

She adds that the Proof of Concept served as a validation of the decision to move into Azure, which now leaves Hauora Tairāwhiti ready to execute when the time comes. *"With the scope of the engagement taking in the end-to-end Azure adoption experience, we are now in a position where the platform is ready for building and migrating workloads as we expand on our cloud journey."* In addition to lasting artefacts including documentation and workshop outcomes, Blattes says the value delivered is best described as a capability uplift for the DHB's technical staff.

*"We now have skills we didn't previously possess. That means we are ready to go from on premise into the cloud with a high degree of confidence."*

But that move won't be made without support; such is the success of the engagement that Hauora Tairāwhiti has renewed its partnership with Insight.

*"It's apparent that the Insight team is valued by our people. Beyond the enormous knowledge they bring and readily share, there is an alignment of values which is best reflected by their willingness to engage, support and assist. With Azure, we know we've made the right technology choice. And with Insight, we know we have the right partner for our digital journey. It's been a very successful experience."*

**Natacha Blattes**  
Project Manager  
– Hauora Tairāwhiti



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