

Case Study: New Zealand Superannuation Fund

Building New Zealand’s future together

The Guardians of New Zealand Superannuation is a Crown entity charged with managing the New Zealand Superannuation Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to reduce the tax burden on future New Zealanders, arising from the increasing cost of New Zealand Superannuation – the retirement benefit paid to all eligible New Zealanders. This is a long-term responsibility important to all New Zealanders. Having a top-quality information system is one of the building blocks that the Guardians need to assist them to fulfil their important, multi-generational job. They chose to collaborate with ClearPoint.

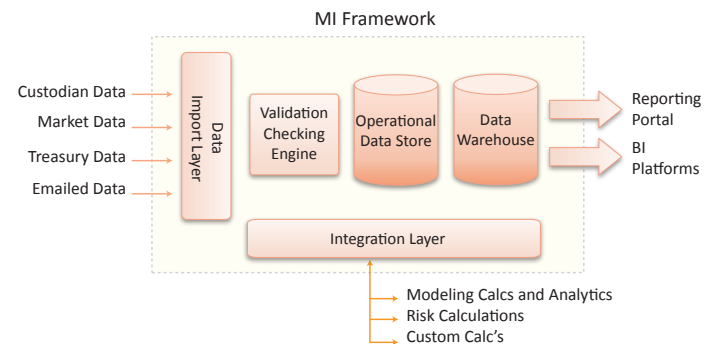
Greg was not happy with the system that The Fund analysts were using. “It was more of a desktop environment, with three or four different operating systems, functioning in silos, and the infrastructure was not going to be able to scale to support the growth of the business”. So Greg approached ClearPoint to help him to create a strategy to deliver a world-class information management platform.

The solution:

ClearPoint’s first task was to understand what the business needed in order to grow. “Their initial role was to talk to

“The quality of the people they brought on to do the build, and the advantage of having people who helped write the information management strategy meant they already had an in-depth understanding of what we needed.”

**Greg McHugh, Head of IT,
New Zealand Superannuation Fund**



The problem:

When Greg McHugh joined The Fund as head of IT in 2008, he was looking at an IT environment with a small-range focus that was being outpaced by the growth and requirements of the Guardians and Fund. The fund is a \$19 billion dollar fund which will grow significantly over decades of investment activity. The financial analysts working at The Fund therefore need the most accurate information at their fingertips to help make the best long-term investment and financial management decisions for New Zealand.

the heads of business and other key people to find out what they wanted to do over the next three years” says Greg. As an independent organisation, ClearPoint was able to provide an environment where the management team articulated what they wanted without being concerned about the solution at this early stage. “They weren’t constrained by what our systems currently could or could not do. They could be completely open with the ClearPoint team about what they wanted”.



“One of The Fund’s goals is to manage and load data with One Touch” says Phil Pietersen, “which means automating the load of multiple data sources into a secure central environment and removing double-handling”. The vision was to use modern Business Intelligence methods and information management technology, in the process delivering the Fund’s goal of being “powerful users of technology”.

Ever mindful of getting the best value for taxpayers, Greg looked around for the best provider to create the platform, and came back to ClearPoint. “The quality of the people they brought on to do the build, and the advantage of having people who helped write the information management strategy meant they already had an in-depth understanding of what we needed,” says Greg.

The initial core data platform was built in just over 60 days using the latest Microsoft technology for the data repository, development language and reporting. ClearPoint followed an Agile Software Development approach called Feature Driven Development (FDD) that delivers tangible, working software repeatedly in a timely manner.

As of now, the end result is a flexible data platform that enables a significant amount of automated processing which provides great operational efficiencies. Most data is now being centralised and once the move to centralised data has been completed the Fund will have one ‘verified source of the truth’ This will enable slice and dice tools to work off one centralised data source and enable investment analysts to focus on what they do best,” says Greg.

The result:

- Rapid loading of multiple data streams into a secure central environment.
- A scalable management information platform to support the Fund’s exciting growth plans.
- The ability to deliver consistent slice and dice information data from the central “source of truth”.

“We’re now working with The Fund to train the analysts on how to leverage the data in new ways to extract the information they need” says Phil. “At ClearPoint we relish building platforms that are deeply technical, but engaging for the end-user that deliver great results for their business.”

Greg is already looking at the next stages of development and sees ClearPoint playing a role. “ClearPoint came in with fresh ideas, and with their industry experience, they can listen to the business and make great recommendations.”

About ClearPoint

ClearPoint is an independent, highly trusted international IT services company. Recognised in the 2010 Deloitte Fast 50 and Asia Pacific Technology Fast 500, ClearPoint combines thought leadership in IT architecture with world-class software integration and development to construct high quality IT systems.

Auckland Branch : Level 3, 7-9 Fanshawe St, Auckland, 1010, PO Box 90124, Auckland, New Zealand
Phone +64 (0)9 373 4626, Email auckland_office@clearpoint.co.nz

Wellington Branch : Level 16, Vodafone on the Quay, 157 Lambton Quay, Wellington,
PO Box 5886, Wellington, New Zealand, Phone +64 (0)4 462 4063, Email wellington_office@clearpoint.co.nz

Melbourne Branch : Level 27, 101 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000, Australia
Phone +61 (0)3 9221 6212, Email melbourne_office@clearpoint.co.nz

