

AZURE MIGRATION CASE STUDY

TRANSFORMING IT REPORTING SERVICE WITH AZURE CLOUD AND POWER BI



SUMMARY

CIPD relied on a large and costly on-premise data analytics infrastructure which had evolved over many years. This had key points of failure and was unable to leverage the future opportunities afforded by "Big Data" and cloud analytics. INFuse Data provided a complete migration of this infrastructure to the Microsoft Azure platform and enabled new analytics possibilities via Microsoft 365 and Power BI. INFuse has protected and enhanced CIPD's data platform, guaranteed future-proofing enhancements and dramatically reduced their costs.



ABOUT CIPD

CIPD (The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development) were founded in 1913 and are the professional body for HR and people development.

CIPD champion better work and working lives for all and help organisations thrive by focusing on their people, supporting our economies and societies. They are the professional body for human resources (HR), learning and development (L&D), organisation development (OD) and all people professionals – experts in people, work and change. With more than 160,000 members globally – and a growing community using their research, insights and learning – CIPD give trusted advice and offer independent thought leadership. They are a leading voice in the call for good work that creates value for everyone.



THE CHALLENGE

Successfully migrate the existing on-prem' CIPD data portfolio and legacy loading procedures into the cloud - without impact to the smooth running of the CIPD operation, exceeding performance whilst reducing costs and providing enhanced analytics functionality and scope.



DRIVERS

- High platform on-premise license and maintenance costs.
- High support overheads.
- Platform unfit to leverage exponential future growth of data volumes and value.
- Platform out of alignment with CIPD's 365 modern workplace cloud strategy.
- End of life on-prem' platform concerns.

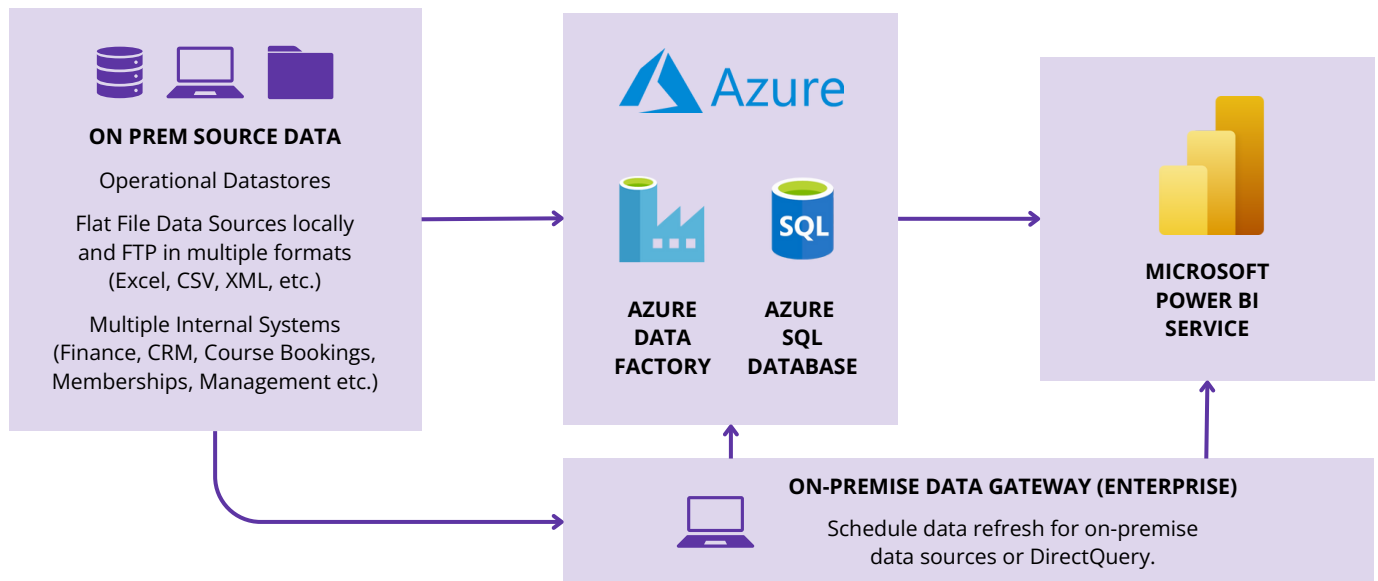
EXISTING SETUP

- On Premise Microsoft SQL Server (multiple versions)
- Microsoft SQL Server Integration Services for ETL
- Multiple Flat file feeds from across the business
- Multiple flat file outputs
- IBM Cognos Analytics for reporting utilising Framework Manager for Metadata and Transformer for OLAP capability
- 150 Report Consumers
- 500+ Reports (100+ scheduled)
- Data Volumes 500m+ rows



THE SOLUTION

INFuse set up a managed hosted environment for CIPD in Microsoft Azure and undertook an initial proof of concept by migrating a subset of CIPD's key fact/dimensional data. The ETL was reproduced for these in Data Factory and performance, costs and functionality was assessed and CIPD gave approval to proceed. The remaining data portfolio was then migrated into Azure via Data Factory and the two environments were run in parallel to ensure reconciliation, performance and hosting success criteria were achieved. The legacy data platform was then scheduled for decommission and CIPD analysts were provided access to platform using Microsoft Power BI via their 365 tenancy - INFuse supported this rollout by developing Power BI data models, concept dashboards, reports, and training.



BUSINESS BENEFITS

Cost Savings

Infrastructure, licensing and support costs savings.

Future Proof

Alignment to Microsoft 365 Cloud modern workplace roadmap.

Company Wide Distribution and Collaboration

Collaborative analytics anywhere via Microsoft 365 and Teams.

Scalability

Ability to upscale performance and volumes "on-demand".

Robustness

No upgrades, security or fix patches required, up to 5 nines uptime (99.999%).

Rich Visualisation Engines

Access to best-of-breed agile analytics functionality: Microsoft Power BI.

OUTCOME AT A GLANCE

New Azure Setup

- Azure SQL Database
- Azure Data Factory for ETL
- Azure VPN
- Azure Logic Apps
- Power BI Premium
- Power Query
- 1 x Lightweight Virtual Machine for some specific unsupported flat file operations

Delivery Timescales

- SQL Server Database and ETL migration - 3 Months (85 SSIS Packages, 500+ tables)
- Power BI setup, data model and creation, report/dashboard development and user empowerment training - 2.5 months