

# Accelerating Public Cloud Stats NZ

## What Stats NZ did

Stats NZ had a two-year plan to move from a legacy, on-premises IT environment to a mix of ICT common capabilities and public cloud services. The November 2016 Kaikoura earthquake acted as a catalyst to accelerate the delivery of this plan in response to urgent business continuity challenges.

Stats NZ now uses an integrated mix of ICT common capabilities for telecommunications (TaaS), infrastructure (IaaS), and content management (ECMaaS). Public cloud services are used or planned for office productivity, identity management, infrastructure, and big data.

## The case for change

Chris Buxton, Chief Digital Officer at Stats NZ, identified that Stats NZ needed to modernise its IT environment to support their business transformation and evolving stakeholder needs.

## Where to next...

ICT common capabilities and public cloud services provided Stats NZ with a stable foundation that will allow it to access innovative technologies.

In particular, public cloud services will provide Stats NZ with ready access to advanced analytics, big data, and machine learning that will enable it to transform its core business.

## Agency snapshot

As a small to medium sized agency, Stats NZ was well placed to adopt ICT common capabilities and public cloud services. Stats NZ makes data and statistics available to decision makers, policy writers, Māori and iwi, businesses, community groups, and individuals.

## Key benefits of the cloud



Improved agility: “Public cloud services underpin our move to being a more agile and digitally responsive organization,” Chris says.



Greater resilience: Using ICT common capabilities and public cloud services means Stats NZ can better manage their risks, reducing the impact of any single event. “This removes the ‘eggs in one basket’ issue associated with legacy systems.”



Value for money: Public cloud services have inbuilt resilience (including geographic diversity) as part of the service cost, which provides value for money for government.



Quick transition: “One of the keys was to recover forward, not recover backwards,” Chris says, By choosing to recover forward, Stats NZ did not have to grapple with legacy systems and this sped up their transition considerably

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For Stats NZ the keys were:



## Four keys to success

Not waiting. While the earthquake was a catalyst for Stats NZ, Chris Buxton says work was already underway. “There is no perfect time to transition from a legacy environment, so we just got on with it”

Engaging with senior leadership and the business to get buy-in -- working collaboratively with the business so it understood the benefits and co-designed the outcome

Recovering forward. Legacy systems will always be challenging to manage. Instead, Stats NZ took the opportunity to modernise by transitioning away from legacy systems

Doing it in one hit. The challenges of transition were complex. Modernising all legacy systems together simplified things

## A more resilient government ICT landscape

The shift to ICT common capabilities has simplified the government ICT landscape and increased its resilience. These common capabilities proved invaluable in getting Stats NZ back operating again quickly.

“After supporting our initial recovery, the GCIO and team provided us with guidance and other collateral to support our adoption of public cloud services, and connected us with other early adopters to share lessons learnt,” Chris Buxton says.

continuity  
**CONTINGENCY**  
**RESILIENCY**  
simplify **RISK** CRISIS  
continuity

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### Learn more

Agencies can find the latest cloud guidance and tools on [www.ict.govt.nz](http://www.ict.govt.nz), or talk to their DIA relationship manager. This case study is part of the programme led by the Department of Internal Affairs to accelerate the adoption of public cloud services.