



## Transitioning to Cloud - The Pragmatic plan

### THE CLIENT

**Harrison Grierson**  
300+ staff  
6 branch offices throughout NZ

### INDUSTRY

Civil Engineering and Design

### THE BUSINESS NEED

- Significant business growth resulted in increased demand and requirements on Harrison Grierson's existing IT environment which was unable to provide the necessary level of service.
- Substantial hardware refresh imminent.
- Increasing need for better internal and external communication and collaboration.

### THE SOLUTION

A complete Hybrid cloud solution, including Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IAAS), backup technologies, disaster recovery, Managed Services and Office 365 delivered by Softsource, through the entrada and Microsoft Clouds at a fixed monthly cost.

### BUSINESS BENEFITS

- **SCALABLE RESOURCES** - Pay for the computing capacity as and when required - Scale up and down.
- **REDUCED COSTS** no over provisioning or CAPEX of servers and storage. Pay as you grow.
- **IMPROVED PERFORMANCE** - tapping in to a leading edge, dedicated, award-winning enterprise solution. Automated services and latest technologies. Always latest/current software versions.
- **PEACE OF MIND** - Leverage the experience and knowledge of IT professionals backed by 99.9% uptime SLA guarantee for confidence and performance.
- **KNOW YOUR COSTS** - No hidden surprises or unexpected bills.

### Harrison Grierson

Harrison Grierson Consultants Limited is one of New Zealand's leading advisory and design organisations offering strategic advice and providing multi-disciplinary professional services on projects throughout New Zealand, Australia, and the South Pacific.

The Company has grown into a substantial organisation with an enviable reputation for creating landmark projects and adding value to client organisations, providing a variety of professional skills in engineering, surveying, planning, urban design and landscape architecture. As a result of significant growth, Harrison Grierson's existing IT environment was unable to provide the level of service demanded by the business.

#### Where to begin?

Harrison Grierson went to market to seek information, explore options and achieve a long term strategy for their 5 year IT plan. Ultimately Harrison Grierson required a more robust and reliable platform that was also scalable to meet future growth requirements, in a cost effective manner. A priority included Harrison Grierson's desire to leverage IP video conferencing as part of their collaboration strategy.

#### Stepping back to go forward

Harrison Grierson were quick to appreciate the value of cloud services to achieve increased efficiency, greater business agility and lower operational costs. However, it was identified that several phases were required in preparation for a smooth efficient transition not only in terms of technical deployment but internal systems, 3rd party legacy software and staff on-boarding.

A pragmatic, phased approach based on professionally architected solutions and services deployed in a structured, consistent manner was designed to accommodate Harrison Grierson's specific requirements.

# The Progressive Journey



## Audit and Discovery

Softsource entrada management platform deployed into the Harrison Grierson environment to enable discovery of hardware and software assets as well as capturing the configuration of the environment.

### Benefits

- Complete understanding of existing environment
- Finite position for foundation building block
- Identify issues eg Licensing, warranties
- Business risks and compliance, Best practice

## Active Directory Upgrade

Design, build, test and implement new Windows Active Directory under a single domain. Decommission legacy domains and migration of branch file and print data from Windows 2003 virtual machines to Windows Server 2012 R2 servers. Risk managed approach.

### Benefits

- Improved AD features
- Simplified business processes
- Reduced support complexities
- Preparation for Data Centre, Office 365 move

## Branch Server Refresh and Configuration

Several branch server replacements identified for upgrade and subsequently deployed. On-going Managed Backups to all branch servers activated.

### Benefits

- Improved performance
- Reduced support maintenance costs
- Peace of mind - reliability and security of data

## Network Upgrade

Wi-Fi previously deployed in ad-hoc manner with limited functionality and cross site capability, downtime and slow responses across the network resulting in users being unable to access business critical apps. Softsource delivered a seamless, secure Ruckus Wi-Fi deployment across the Harrison Grierson environment. This was also a Preparatory step for the future Data Centre move.

### Benefits

- Increased performance
- Increased redundancy
- Simplified network management
- preparatory stage for the IaaS project

## Video Conferencing

A unified communications solution was deployed based on Microsoft Lync 2010/then later Skype for Business, and Polycom Video conferencing devices to enable live video communications between the branch offices throughout NZ and Australia. VC was a high priority for Harrison Grierson's business requirements enabling staff state-of-the-art business tools and efficiencies.

### Benefits

- Reduced Mobile Phone costs
- Improved communications and speed to resolution
- Requirement for numerous planning/ project meetings

## On-line Backup

A complete back-up solution of 18 servers at a fixed monthly cost

### Benefits

- Simplified/removed site BU management
- Ease of granular data recovery
- Simplified network management

## Office 365 Migration

Deployment of Office 365 for Exchange online email, including mailbox migration and cut-over for 300+ users. This allows Harrison Grierson access to mail from anywhere. This phase was also a preparatory stage for the move to IP Telephony scheduled for a later date within the plan.

### Benefits

- Emails in the cloud - access anywhere from any device (Plus contacts, shared calendars)
- Document and Desktop sharing
- Presence and Instant Messaging - time saving
- Hold effective online meetings with HD video conferencing, and real-time note taking.
- Improved communications internally/externally.

## IaaS

The entrada Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) enables Harrison Grierson to access leading edge computing infrastructure as a service. Softsource took a phased approach to the IaaS deployment to accommodate Harrison Grierson's rate to change. This ensured smooth transitions and enabled training for end-users as Software versions were upgraded.

### Benefits

- Reduced cost - no CAPEX
- Increased reliability
- Rapid scalability

*"We required more diversity and scalability than what our conventional ICT solution offered and the Softsource Hybrid Cloud offering suited our needs perfectly. Softsource helped us identify the best solution for current and future growth and helped progress our journey in a phased approach. We are now enjoying far better efficiencies, improved performance and greater flexibility. "We're thrilled to partner with Softsource to let them innovate and bring the latest technologies to the table so that we can focus on growing our business."*

Shabiya Jahan, Team Leader - IT, Harrison Grierson



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