

Nimble analytics at Victoria University of New Zealand

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Change can occur quickly and in unexpected ways and the university has to always be prepared. When we need support around modelling or data, CDP are very quick to respond and are very effective. To be honest, the thing I value most about CDP is their reliability. They are all very capable and talented people. But you can't do without reliability.

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- Gina Sarten

Finance Cognos TM1 Specialist, Victoria University of New Zealand



With more than 2000 staff and 21,000 students, Victoria University is one of New Zealand's largest and most complex enterprises. CDP provides advanced data analytics essential to the University's strategic planning and day-to-day management.

CDP has been a trusted supplier to Victoria University for ten years. Victoria outsources to CDP a range of services including data extraction, transformation and loading; creation of reports and dashboards; and support for software applications.

Of particular strategic importance is CDP's work in developing and supporting data models vital to funding and staffing – two critical data areas for education providers.

Victoria University's data needs are complex, especially in the area of human resources and financials. The two are closely intertwined. Victoria has more than 2100 full time equivalent staff. Some staff work multiple roles, and staff can also have higher functions that require them to be paid at a different rate while performing certain duties. Data-wise it's a difficult area to manage, says Gina Sarten, Finance Cognos TM1 Specialist, Victoria University of New Zealand.

+21,000

students and 2000 staff, Victoria University is one of New Zealand's largest and most complex enterprises

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We have thousands of staff members delivering thousands of courses to more than 20,000 students – and we need to analyse all of that data in a detailed way and understand it very closely.

To accurately forecast and budget for staffing, we have to be able to drill down to a per-person level across more than 2000 people. On the student side, we offer thousands of courses and we drill down into this data to a detailed course level. We have more than 21,000 students and we analyse Equivalent Full Time Student numbers in a very detailed way because that is how we're funded.

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CDP used a TM1 planning environment to design and build two data marts for Victoria University - one for human resources, the other for financials. The two data marts form a focused subset of the information held in the University's data lake. Together the data marts have hundreds of users. CDP applies complex business rules to the data to ensure figures are correct.

CDP also develops the Cognos reports that flow from the two data marts. Victoria University's managers receive reports that allow them to drill down into the data to analyse budget variances; look at salaries and leave liabilities; and see costings per group or per person.

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I just state my reporting needs and do the testing.

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The reports are stable and run well even though the data is highly complex.

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CDP delivers support for servers and applications through its Tech Support Group.

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CDP are always available if I need an instant response. They drop everything to do what I need to get done.

You can rely on them. They are very quick to get involved, getting their attention is never an issue.

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Victoria University's data strategy is to stay nimble and responsive, Gina Sarten says.

Summary

Victoria University has used CDP to select data from its extensive information landscape and model two data marts – one for financials and one for human resources. The two data marts form a focused data lake subset, out of which flows complex reports for hundreds of users. CDP has developed KPI reporting that helps Victoria understand its funding, expenses and liabilities. It uses this to drive forecasting and strategic planning.

Business Benefits

- Data modelling on demand
- Responsive report development
- Server and application support
- Stable, accurate reporting

Key outcomes

- Nimble & responsive to changing education landscape
- Detailed understanding of funding, expenses & liabilities

About the customer

Victoria University is one of New Zealand's oldest and most prestigious tertiary institutions. It is in the top two percent of the world's 18,000 universities and is New Zealand's top ranked university for research quality. Victoria has more than 21,000 students and over 2,100 full-time equivalent staff. In 2016 it awarded 5,869 qualifications at graduation ceremonies. Victoria has three main campuses in Wellington. It also has premises in Auckland and teaches a joint programme from premises at a partner university in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.

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- **Gina Sarten**, Finance Cognos TM1 Specialist, Victoria University of New Zealand



For more information please visit www.cdp.co.nz or email info@cdp.co.nz.

Contact us if you would like to know more about how our analytics, planning and data integration solutions can drive insight for your business.