



VERSION 1

A Modern Data Platform for The Department of Education



Overview

Client Since
2016



Established
1921



Employees
112,000



Industry
Public Sector



The Department of Education in Ireland is a government department responsible for providing education to the post-primary level. Its goal is to facilitate children and young people to achieve their full potential and contribute to Ireland's social, economic and cultural development.

Education Shared Business Services (ESBS) is a unit in the Department of Education in Ireland. The ESBS is responsible for providing high-quality shared business services to the education and training sector. This includes delivering payroll services for all education and training boards (ETBs).

The Payroll Shared Service reporting solution had been identified as no longer viable as the platform was no longer supported. In this project, we explore the initial challenge presented by this project, the solution provided by Version 1 and the difference we delivered to the customer.

Challenge

The Payroll Shared Service legacy reporting solution at ESBS database contained extremely sensitive and valuable information and there was a risk of losing access to that data entirely. The previous reporting tool was becoming expensive to run and lacked features and functionality that users required to meet their current and future needs. Naturally, payroll reporting is a statutory requirement for all government departments and several hundred complex reports are required for correct reporting. With all these factors in mind, the Department of Education required a strategic data platform to enable it to provide a modern data service for the Department and all its customers.

Why Version 1?



Version 1 specialises in application modernisation with clients that include some of the world's largest Financial Services organisations.



We use established Agile methodologies to help modernise data services by making them more agile and responsive to user needs

Solution

Version 1 brought their market-leading expertise to bear on the challenge, bringing experts from digital, data and cloud together. In partnership with the Department of Education, we discussed the key business objectives of the product and how we could ensure that we covered all aspects, from tech stack to training and onboarding as part of the digital transformation.

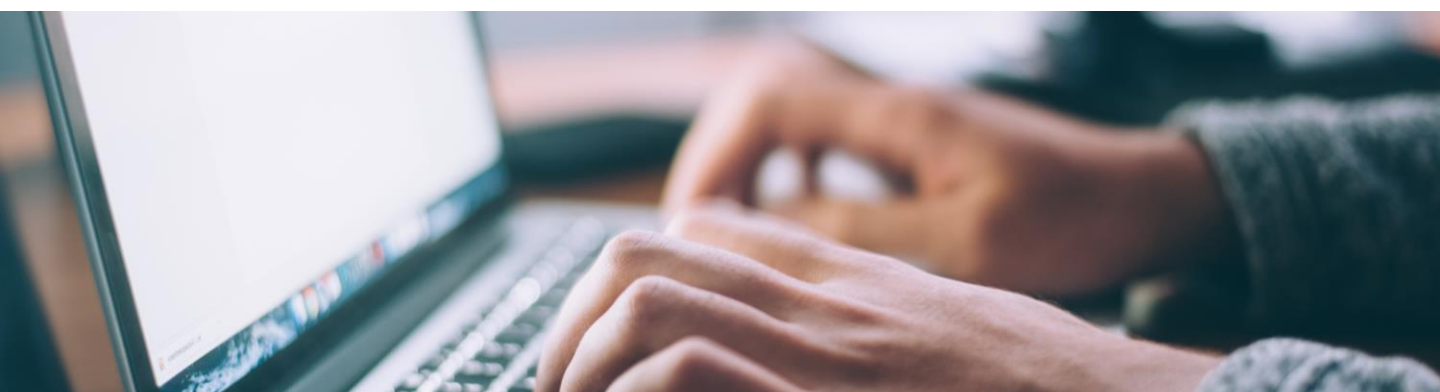
The initial appraisal was completed by the Version 1 technical team to get a view of the current reporting landscape, their function and overall value to the business.

The customer base is quite large as the Department serves both education and training boards (ETBs) and higher education Institutes institutions (HEIs). Each of these bodies uses different systems with alternative configurations. We wanted to ensure that the end user had the same quality of experience across the board. To ensure this, a Proof of Value exercise was completed with a subset of ETBs and HEIs, which included assessing the look and feel of reports.

The project was delivered in an Agile manner. This allowed the team to respond to the many edge cases across Payroll, HR and Pensions efficiently, which saved time for the customer.

For this modern data platform, the team designed and deployed a solution for the Dept of Education. The technology used included, Azure DevOps for project delivery management and CI/CD deployment of resources, Azure Synapse for data lake storage and computation and PowerBI was used to deliver reporting and insights. In addition, Data Engineers and Visualisation Consultants were engaged to ensure that the reporting solution was to a high standard.

This work provides invaluable data for the Department at every step and also lays a strong foundation for future analytics projects.



Real Differences, Delivered.

Improved Data Visualisation

Utilising Microsoft's technology stack, Version 1's data visualisation and reporting layer approach helped bring the data to life, so users can easily understand and interpret the data and insights.

Secure Data Architecture

We created a high-performance and scalable architecture design to achieve their specific data management goals. We designed and deployed a cloud-based solution that covers the whole data platform lifecycle, ensuring the delivery of real-time, accurate results that informs business decisions.

Better Decisions with Data

This modern platform is used for more accurate reporting and better, faster decisions. For example, Gender Pay Gap Reporting is now required in Ireland. The Dept of Education's aim is to provide a professional, inclusive and supportive environment, where all staff members are valued for the work that they do and who they are.

“ It's been a really good process with Version 1 to get the data platform up and running. We needed the skills and expertise to create the data platform from scratch and it needs to be a really secure and multi-tenant environment for our clients. Having the Version 1 expertise on board has enabled us to get it done much quicker and to meet those objectives. ”

Deirdre McDonnell, Assistant Secretary General, Dept of Education



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