

Case Study

Glen Eira City Council – Preparing an enterprise BI platform

Enabling a local council to bolster their analytics efforts, increasing data velocity, and empowering information consumers.



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Putting the correct reference architecture in place and establishing an operational framework allows Glen Eira City Council to approach a cloud platform securely and process data much faster.

Problem.

The council's information consumers operate across multiple systems which may, or may not, have built-in reporting. They rely on Excel to analyse the separate data sets, and on the BI team to make new data extracts available for each use case.

The preparation of the data from the separate systems requires technical skills and can be time consuming which leads to an unnecessary backlog and delay in data availability.

The BI team wants to move to an interactive, self-service BI platform but is not sure of the best way to approach this in a secure and governed manner. They are aware of advanced use cases like machine learning, AI and IoT and requires the platform to accommodate for those workloads.

Exposé was engaged to assist the council in starting this journey to a governed, yet modern, enterprise BI platform.

Solved.

In collaboration with the council, Exposé have designed a bespoke Reference Architecture which goes beyond conventional BI to also include their modern and aspirational workloads.

Guardrails for Power BI are now governed and outlined in an Operational Framework which accounts for the different roles that individuals may fill within the analytics platform.

By linking the council's own Azure Data Lake to the Power BI Dataflows they now have authoritative, governed data entities that can be leveraged by other platforms outside of Power BI, as well as by authoritative Power BI models.

The project culminated in Exposé developing a sample end to end solution and facilitating masterclasses from this solution for data preparation, data modelling, report creation, and governance.

All within this new enterprise data platform.

Business Benefits

- Authoritative data assets, maintained in the cloud, which can be used by any platform.
- An increase in data velocity from sourcing the data to visualisation and analysis.
- · Cost effective storage and processing of data.
- The platform is easily scalable, allowing for future growth and temporarily handling large processes (scaling back down afterwards).
- A reference architecture that is ready for data from IoT devices, real-time analytics, and advanced workloads like machine learning and AI.
- Empowered users who feel comfortable exploring the governed data assets whenever they want to, without needing the assistance of technical developers.

