



Case Study

Power BI Operational Framework and a comprehensive tenancy move to Australia

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)

Design and Implementation of a Power BI
Operational Framework for RMIT to ensure the
governed adoption of this new BI platform in a
domain of thousands of users.

And moving RMIT's Power BI tenancy to Australia.



Case Study

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) // Design and Implementation of a Power BI Operational Framework and a comprehensive tenancy move to Australia

Design and Implementation of RMIT focussed Power BI Operational Framework to ensure a governed BI platform across thousands of users

Problem.

RMIT's adoption of the Office 365 suite included Power BI Pro licences for its thousands of users. Large cohorts of persons suddenly became much more empowered to create and share Business Intelligence (BI) solutions across the organisation and with their various teams. Organisations faring best in leveraging data, and insights from it, as a strategic asset, are the ones who embrace empowering their data workers — but with "great power, comes great responsibility". It is important to ensure self-service and empowered BI solutions are brought into a pragmatic and effective governance regime.

Over the past 12 months, RMIT staff embraced Power BI and created hundreds of useful models, datasets and a plethora of reports and dashboards from it, all before Power BI was formally adopted and supported by ITS. There was no access from Power BI to the on-premises enterprise data warehouse and, compounding the governance problem, the Power BI tenancy had been established in Singapore while Office 365 was homed in Sydney. It became imperative to migrate the tenancy to Sydney and establish Power BI as a supported enterprise RMIT service, with the appropriate levels of training and governance, and guardrails in place to ensure security and consistency in respect of corporate data access and sharing.

Solved.

Exposé has been very close to the evolution of Power BI and have, from its inception, been of a strong view that its adoption and use should be under the auspices of an Operational Framework (ensuring appropriate platform configurations, pragmatic adoption and governance regimes, data and collateral remains secure, and data worker personas are embedded on the platform). Our resulting Operational Framework work package was tailored to around the realities and aspirations of RMIT. This ensured:

- Consumers only had access to content appropriate to them.
- Data worker personas were embedded into the organisation and reflected within the platform (BI Developers, Model Creators, Visual Creators, Licenced Consumers, Public Consumers, and Administrators).
- Deployment was aligned to the RMIT SDLC process and personas – develop, test, share and consume.
- Unvalidated and personal BI was distinguished from validated corporate collateral.
- The platform was sufficiently locked down, yet open enough where appropriate.
- It supported the empowered use of data and BI by thousands of users and consumers yet avoided sprawl and decision making based on unvalidated content.

The Operational Framework was designed and launched in collaboration with RMIT's BI team, with tailored training held across June and July. As a part of the process, the Power BI tenancy was also migrated from Singapore to Sydney. Exposé worked closely with RMIT and Microsoft to ensure this migration, which involved re-creation of most workspaces and their content, with .NET and Python routines leveraging cutting edge Power BI APIs to automate over 90% of the process.

Business Benefits.

Having established its Operational Framework, migrated the tenancy and engaged and empowered users with tailored training, Power BI at RMIT has a bright future.

RMIT can now see their data workers empowered in adopting a culture where data is seen as a valued asset to be used and shared by all, while ensuring that this adoption and collaboration remains secure and pragmatically governed – users feel truly empowered rather than constrained.

Applicable users (such as BI Developers, Model Creators, and Visual Creators) start their journeys with relatable training and experience under their belts. The platform is future-proofed and can support aspirational workloads as and when they become requirements, for example, public sharing of data and collateral or real time data streaming.

Data sovereignty is re-established, with all data at rest remaining onshore. The platform is ready to integrate seamlessly into the broader and aspirational Data Analytics Platform and its various services and data flow regimes.

A very large user base (thousands) are now supported and RMIT can rest assured that Power BI will be adopted sensibly, unnecessary sprawl is avoided the collateral will remain secure where appropriate and open where applicable and governance is pragmatically applied and adhered to.

Kelly Drewett
General Manager

Etienne Oosthuysen
National Manager Technology,
Systems & Quality



Do you have any additional questions, or
want to know more?

We would love to hear from you.

#exposedata

www.exposedata.com.au



1300 857 348



info@exposedata.com.au



Margaret Graham Building,
Frome Road, Adelaide SA 5000



Level 17, 303 Collins St,
Melbourne VIC 3000