CASE STUDY

Modernising Data Foundations for a New Zealand Financial Institution

Venn Consulting | Data Platform Modernisation

Client	Industry	Engagement	Technologies
New Zealand Financial Institution	Financial Services (Regulated)	Data Platform Modernisation	Snowflake, Azure Data Factory, Azure DevOps, Coalesce

The Challenge

A leading New Zealand financial institution had accumulated a complex landscape of legacy data systems and bespoke integrations that were increasingly difficult to maintain. Critical components were approaching end-of-support, creating material regulatory, security, and operational risk.

Key challenges included:

- Regulatory exposure from out-of-support systems making compliance controls harder to demonstrate
- Security vulnerabilities from constrained patch management on ageing platforms
- Key-person risk from critical processes reliant on tacit knowledge and manual intervention
- Analytics limitations preventing advanced reporting, risk modelling, and insight use cases

The organisation needed a path to a modern platform that could maintain business continuity while reducing risk and enabling richer analytics.

Venn's Approach

Venn Consulting was engaged to stabilise the current state, define a clear upgrade pathway, and establish a future-proof data architecture.

1. ELT Documentation

Venn undertook a structured discovery exercise across all Extract, Load, and Transform processes — cataloguing data flows, capturing end-to-end lineage from core banking and risk systems through to reporting datasets, and documenting ownership and operational dependencies. The output was a single consolidated artefact that replaced scattered tribal knowledge with a shared reference for technology, operations, risk, and business stakeholders.

2. Future-Ready Architecture

A Venn data architect designed a layered star schema architecture separating raw landing zones, conformed datasets, and presentation layers optimised for BI and regulatory reporting. The design was deliberately extensible — supporting new data

Outcomes

Reduced key-person risk	Consolidated ELT documentation replaced fragmented tribal knowledge across teams and stakeholders.
Clear upgrade pathway	Staged migration plan scoped, costed, and aligned to the organisation's risk appetite and regulatory obligations.
Scalable architecture	Star schema and layered design supports current reporting needs and future advanced analytics without re-architecting.
Faster delivery	Standardised patterns in ADF, Snowflake, and Azure DevOps reduced rework and improved pipeline maintainability.
Stronger governance	Repeatable deployment processes and clearer separation of duties improved auditability and regulator-facing narratives.

Key Takeaways

- Consolidated documentation gives business, technology, and risk teams a common reference — reducing uncoordinated changes and misaligned interpretations.
- A clearly defined upgrade path de-risks system replacement and accelerates funding and governance approvals.
- A governed star schema simplifies reporting and regulatory submissions while enabling incremental extension for new requirements.
- Embedding architects and engineers with delivery squads ensures what is built is both technically sound and practically usable.

How Venn Can Help

Venn Consulting specialises in helping New Zealand organisations modernise their data

sources, regulatory feeds, and future AI or advanced analytics workloads without requiring re-architecture.

3. Embedded Delivery and Upskilling

A Venn data engineering lead embedded with the client's delivery squad, implementing repeatable patterns using Azure Data Factory, Snowflake, Coalesce, and Azure DevOps. The team strengthened agile delivery practices, introduced clearer definition-of-done for data features, and ran hands-on coaching sessions to upskill internal engineers and analysts on new tooling and patterns.

platforms in a practical, governed way. Our capabilities include:

- Cloud data platform delivery — Azure, Snowflake, and modern ELT tooling
- Data architecture, governance, and migration strategy
- Embedded engineering leadership to support your delivery squads
- Data science and AI capability uplift when you're ready

Get in touch to discuss your data platform challenges.