



PHILLIP GESTRO

Senior IT Consultant | Infrastructure, Microsoft and Security Delivery

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Professional Profile

Technical leader and senior IT consultant with more than 20 years of experience across infrastructure, Microsoft platforms, cloud services, cybersecurity and complex delivery. Most recently spent seven years as CentrePort's ICT Technical Lead, leading infrastructure and security work in a live maritime and industrial environment while coordinating specialist suppliers, project managers, operational teams and business owners. My work spans the full delivery lifecycle: discovery, architecture and design, commercial engagement, implementation, testing, cutover, acceptance, operational handover and continued improvement.

I bring particular value where a business needs someone who can understand the whole service rather than one technology in isolation. I connect business requirements, network and server dependencies, identity and security, field infrastructure, recovery, vendor responsibilities and support ownership into a practical delivery path. Earlier consulting work across government, health regulation, manufacturing, education and commercial organizations developed strong business judgement, client communication and technology-roadmap skills, supported by a Microsoft Certified Trainer background and formal technical-writing training.

Core Capabilities

- **Infrastructure leadership.** End-to-end design and delivery across server rooms, communications rooms, operational and field networks, structured fibre, resilient power, Aruba wired and wireless, Private 5G, hosting platforms and operational handover.
- **Microsoft, cloud and identity.** Microsoft 365, Exchange Online and hybrid Exchange, Entra ID \ Azure AD Connect, Active Directory, Azure direction, Windows Server, VMware, Hyper-V, Nutanix\AHV, migration planning and support ownership.

- **Cybersecurity and resilience.** MFA, Conditional Access, Defender for Office 365, Defender for Identity, privileged-access reduction, Palo Alto segmentation, Arctic Wolf MDR, security testing, incident readiness, backup, DR and continuity.
- **Delivery and vendor leadership.** Work-package definition, supplier scope review, procurement support, sequencing, risk reporting, acceptance criteria, change and cutover, technical escalation, handover and management communication.
- **Consulting and commercial judgement.** Technology roadmaps, cloud and hosting options, vendor selection, service agreements, budgeting, licensing, asset lifecycle, risk assessments and business-continuity advice for clients ranging from government agencies to private businesses.

Career Summary

CentrePort | **ICT Technical Lead** | Jun 2019 - Aug 2026

ECLOUD | **Senior Technical Consultant** | May 2010 - Jun 2019

Comsmart | **Enterprise Contract Assignments** | Dec 2013 - Sep 2014

Earlier: Occupational Therapy Board of NZ, TelstraClear, BOSIT and Avonmore Tertiary Institute.

CentrePort - Infrastructure and Project Delivery

Technical Lead - CentrePort Limited

Jun 2019 – Aug 2026

Provided technical leadership across CentrePort's critical network, server, cloud, Microsoft 365, cybersecurity and operational field infrastructure. Balanced architecture and project leadership with hands-on delivery, vendor coordination, problem escalation and support continuity across a live port environment.

- **Shed 39 relocation and server-room foundation.** Led ICT delivery for the move from Portacom Village and CPL House into Shed 39. Designed and coordinated a four-rack server-room environment covering structured inter-rack fibre, core switching and Palo Alto connectivity, WAN\LAN service paths, high-speed uplinks, UPS\ATS\PDU resilience, labelling, contractor sequencing, cutover, acceptance and operational handover. The environment became the foundation for later Private 5G, field-network and workplace infrastructure improvements.
- **Operational technology and network segmentation.** Led the Rail Isolation network delivery from Cornwall Gate at Pole 38 through Pole 21 and the PSC\Security Hutt, with service paths returning through Straddle House to Shed 39. Integrated managed switching, VLAN and firewall policy, resilient power, vendor PLC interfaces and a dedicated engineering workstation for controlled monitoring and diagnostics. Also moved the Custom House BMS away from a failing modem and legacy copper dependency to a fibre-backed managed network path.
- **New Zealand's first commercial Private 5G network.** Led the CentrePort-side infrastructure integration for the CentrePort and Tū Ātea Private 5G platform, publicly launched as New Zealand's first commercial private 5G network. Converted the provider design into a supportable operating environment across APNs, VLANs, routing, Palo Alto zones and firewall policy, structured fibre, rack power, RAN locations, field cabinets, CPE, antennas, Peplink InControl2 telemetry, testing and operational documentation.
- **Private 5G production services.** Converted the platform into live operational outcomes. Led the vehicle-fleet use case from bench build and controlled pilot through installation, KPI validation and production readiness; established the reusable reefer-tower delivery model across CPE, switching, DNS, TLS, ASI-hosted services and Azure integration; established the CCTV pole\cabinet standard; and delivered South Road Gate Gallagher and intercom connectivity into production. Crane TPS and further CCTV transition work remained active as part of the wider programme.
- **Marine and field-network engineering standards.** Created a staged corrective programme for inherited cabinet, fibre, switching, power and documentation weaknesses in the marine environment. Defined port-grade cabinet and power standards, route traceability, controlled outages, labelling, as-built requirements and evidence-based close-out. Introduced mandatory fibre inspection, cleaning, OTDR testing and end-to-end loss validation and established a dual-contractor delivery model.
- **Hosting, cloud and platform transition.** Led the infrastructure workstream for CentrePort's transition into ASI Auckland hosting: migration and network checklists, pre-migration actions, workload preparation, service-provider dependencies, after-hours validation, stretched-VLAN and operational-system considerations and the Tawa decommissioning path. Authored hosting and cloud options across ASI, Nutanix\AHV, Azure, Plan B, OneNet, CCL and Catalyst Cloud, connecting cost, resilience, backup, DR, data sovereignty and future cloud adoption.
- **Microsoft 365, hybrid identity and security uplift.** Completed remaining Exchange Online migration and hybrid work, configured Azure AD Connect and replacement hybrid infrastructure, implemented MFA and Conditional Access, advanced Defender for Office 365 and Defender for Identity, delivered RD Gateway MFA, reduced excessive Domain Admin privileges and strengthened remote-access controls. Linked configuration changes to operational evidence, control ownership and supportability.
- **Managed detection, testing and security maturity.** Led CentrePort-side Arctic Wolf MDR onboarding across sensors, logging, telemetry, supplier dependencies and escalation. Coordinated readiness for independent penetration testing, endpoint review and network segmentation testing, and produced security maturity and architecture records separating completed controls from remaining ownership, resilience and operating-model decisions.

Workplace, Tenancy and Operational Support

Extended and modernized workplace and site connectivity across Shed 39 Level 1, Ferry Holdings, Brian Perry Civil and Marine Base using structured patching, fibre, Aruba switching, Aruba Central and corporate wireless. Defined logical separation, practical support arrangements and fit-out dependencies so new spaces could enter service cleanly rather than inherit ad-hoc network arrangements.

Delivery Approach

Established clear scopes and implementation steps, challenged gaps in supplier designs, aligned physical and logical dependencies, involved service owners in testing and required usable handover records. I am most effective when technical ambiguity needs to become a sequenced plan with named owners, evidence, acceptance criteria and a support model that remains workable after the project team steps away.

Consulting and Enterprise Assignments

Senior Technical Consultant - ECLOUD

May 2010 - Jun 2019

Held broad responsibility for client technology environments and worked directly with chief executives, boards, finance teams, software providers and operational users. Managed the relationship between business priorities, risk, budget and technology delivery rather than treating infrastructure as a stand-alone technical function.

- **Client technology leadership.** Advised an All-of-Government agency, health regulatory authorities, industrial and manufacturing organizations, education, non-profits and a large private-sector portfolio across Wellington and the Hutt Valley. Developed technology roadmaps, supplier choices, security improvements, lifecycle plans and practical delivery priorities.
- **Cloud and Microsoft delivery.** Designed and delivered Microsoft infrastructure and cloud transitions using Microsoft 365, OneNet and Revera Apollo services. Work covered Active Directory, Exchange, SharePoint, virtualization, hosted email, desktop services, backup and recovery, network dependencies, proofs of concept and operational migration planning.
- **Cybersecurity, risk and continuity.** Prepared security recommendations, risk and privacy assessments, business-continuity plans and penetration-testing programme advice for executive and board consideration. Helped clients translate technical weaknesses into prioritized remediation that reflected service continuity, regulatory obligations and available budget.
- **Commercial and supplier management.** Worked with finance teams, vendors and clients on technology budgets, service agreements, licensing, procurement, hosting choices and asset lifecycles. Compared alternatives and challenged proposals where cost, support responsibility or technical dependencies were unclear.
- **Incident response and recovery.** Responded to ransomware and major service incidents for commercial clients, supporting containment, restoration and recovery decisions. That practical experience later informed backup, recovery, security monitoring and resilience planning.
- **Communication and knowledge transfer.** Explained complex decisions to non-technical stakeholders, documented agreed approaches and supported users through change. Earlier MCT experience remains useful when mentoring engineers, briefing managers and turning technical work into clear operational guidance.

IT Contractor - Comsmart

Dec 2013 - Sep 2014

Completed enterprise assignments for Revera, NZX and CTAS while continuing the wider ECLOUD period. Worked with architects, developers and technical teams on virtual infrastructure, Active Directory, Windows Server, IIS, SQL Server, Remote Desktop Services, application dependencies and cloud platform delivery.

Earlier Career

- **Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand | IT \ Administrator | Aug 2007 - May 2010.** Managed the Board's technology environment and supported several health regulatory authorities. Responsibilities included infrastructure, security, suppliers, business continuity, planning and the Microsoft-based website and practitioner-system environment.
- **TelstraClear | Microsoft Windows Systems Engineer | Nov 2006 - Aug 2007.** Delivered significant Microsoft infrastructure work for NZ Oil and supported BNZ's multi-site VoIP infrastructure. The NZ Oil work included an offline Active Directory \ swing-migration approach designed to reduce production interruption.
- **BOSIT | Network Engineer | Oct 2004 - Nov 2006.** Supported business, school and community environments across network, Microsoft server, desktop, wireless, cabling and backup technologies. This broad service-provider experience developed the whole-environment troubleshooting approach carried into later consulting roles.
- **Avonmore Tertiary Institute | Microsoft Certified Trainer | 2004 and MCT held for three consecutive years.** Delivered computing-support and Microsoft certification material to adult learners and developed the teaching and communication skills used throughout later consulting and leadership work.

Technology and Professional Development

- **Microsoft and cloud:** Microsoft 365, Azure, Entra ID, Exchange Online and hybrid Exchange, Azure AD Connect, Active Directory, Group Policy, DNS\DHCP, AD CS, AD FS, Windows Server, SharePoint Online, OneDrive, VMware, Hyper-V, Nutanix\AHV and Azure Migrate.
- **Network and infrastructure:** Palo Alto and Panorama, Aruba CX \ Aruba Central, structured fibre and cabling, server and communications rooms, resilient rack power, operational networks, Private 5G, Peplink \ InControl2, field cabinets and industrial connectivity.

- **Security and delivery:** Microsoft Certified: Cybersecurity Architect Expert (SC-100), Microsoft 365 Security Administrator Associate (MS-500), MFA, Conditional Access, Microsoft Defender, Arctic Wolf MDR, segmentation, testing coordination, incident readiness, disaster recovery, business continuity, vendor management and technical writing.

Earlier credentials include MCSE, MCSA \ Messaging, MCP, Microsoft Certified Trainer, CompTIA A+, Network+ and Linux+, National Diploma in Computer Engineering and Auldhuse technical-writing \ Train the Trainer study.

Professional references available on request.