PHILLIP GESTRO

Contractor & Senior Consultant | Microsoft Infrastructure | Cloud | Cybersecurity

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LinkedIn | Professional portfolio

Professional Profile

Senior ICT contractor and consultant with more than 20 years of experience spanning enterprise Microsoft infrastructure, cloud migrations, security, operational networks and client-facing delivery. My background includes nine years as an ECLOUD Senior Technical Consultant, recurring enterprise contract assignments and seven years leading critical ICT infrastructure at CentrePort.

The value I bring is the breadth and judgement built over decades across many clients, technologies and operating environments. Deep technical expertise takes years to develop. This depth helps me recognise risks early, challenge supplier and migration options, and align technology decisions with business strategy. I back that judgement with hands-on engineering across Microsoft, cloud, networks and security, taking solutions from design and build through troubleshooting, cutover and operational handover.

Consulting & Hands-On Engineering

- **Technical depth and delivery.** Personally design, build and troubleshoot Microsoft 365, Windows Server, Active Directory, hybrid identity, virtualization, enterprise networks and application infrastructure.
- **Client-facing consulting.** Advise executives and technical teams on strategy, solution options, risk, investment and practical implementation across government, regulated and commercial environments.
- **End-to-end ownership.** Lead discovery, technical design, supplier coordination, hands-on implementation, migrations, complex fault resolution, testing, cutover and operational handover.
- **Security and commercial judgement.** Translate cybersecurity and resilience requirements into deliverable improvements while assessing vendor proposals, costs, licensing and ongoing support responsibilities.

Professional Experience

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

Led technical delivery across a live, business-critical port environment, combining infrastructure and security design with hands-on engineering, complex troubleshooting, contractor coordination and operational continuity across enterprise and field systems.

- **Led the Shed 39 relocation and established CentrePort's digital infrastructure foundation.** Designed the four-rack server-room environment and led the complex relocation of staff and ICT services from two existing sites into Shed 39. Directed infrastructure deployment, specialist suppliers, migration, cutover and commissioning while maintaining business continuity and decommissioning the former locations. The new environment became the foundation for subsequent Private 5G, field-network and workplace improvements.
- **Led CentrePort-side integration of New Zealand's first commercial Private 5G network.** Turned Tū Ātea's network design into a supportable CentrePort environment, leading hands-on integration across existing network and security infrastructure, server-room and fibre readiness, radio-access sites and field connectivity. Coordinated design interpretation, specialist suppliers, testing and commissioning to connect the vendor-delivered platform to the port's operational systems.
- **Converted Private 5G infrastructure into operational services.** Took the vehicle-fleet service from bench build and controlled pilot into production rollout; led the reusable Reefer Tower delivery model and CCTV cabinet and pole deployment standard; and delivered Gallagher-controlled vehicle gate and intercom connectivity. Further CCTV and crane work remained staged within the programme.
- **Completed CentrePort's Microsoft 365 and Exchange hybrid transition.** Following the initial vendor phase, personally completed the remaining Exchange Online mailbox migration, configured Azure AD Connect and Exchange hybrid services, deployed the replacement hybrid server and retired legacy Exchange infrastructure. Implemented MFA, Conditional Access and Defender security controls. Strengthened privileged access and account-lockout protection, helping identify and block a brute-force attack; investigated and restored a failed MFA control for Remote Desktop Services.

- **Shaped hosting decisions and led migration delivery.** Assessed cloud, private hosting and infrastructure renewal options against cost, security, resilience and recovery. Recommended the ASI hosting direction and led CentrePort-side technical planning, service-provider dependencies, implementation, cutover and validation.
- **Turned security risks into architecture decisions, testing and management actions.** Developed CentrePort's cybersecurity strategy and maturity reviews, translated identity and network risks into practical hardening and remediation, and led CentrePort-side Arctic Wolf managed detection onboarding across six locations. Coordinated independent penetration-testing and network-segmentation readiness, separating delivered controls from proposed work and outstanding decisions.
- **Modernised operational networks and engineering standards.** Delivered workplace, tenancy and marine-network improvements, including a dedicated network for Rail Isolation. Established field-cabinet, fibre acceptance and testing standards, alongside a dual-contractor model to improve traceability, reliability and delivery assurance.
- **Directed suppliers while retaining technical ownership.** Challenged designs and scope, defined technical work packages and acceptance criteria, coordinated specialist engineers and contractors, and produced clear implementation, troubleshooting and operational handover documentation.

Consulting and Enterprise Assignments

Senior Technical Consultant | ECLOUD | May 2010 - Jun 2019

Held responsibility for client technology strategy, infrastructure, cybersecurity and operational support across government, health regulatory, industrial, education and commercial organizations. Worked directly with senior leaders while remaining closely involved in technical design, implementation, escalation and recovery.

- **Advised a broad client portfolio.** Supported an All-of-Government agency, health professional regulators and industrial and education clients, alongside a portfolio exceeding 300 private-sector organizations. Developed technology roadmaps, risk-based priorities and practical investment and delivery recommendations.
- **Combined consulting with hands-on engineering.** Designed, built, migrated and supported Microsoft server and collaboration platforms, Active Directory, Exchange/Microsoft 365, virtualization, hybrid hosting and enterprise networking. Troubleshot complex identity, application, platform and operational dependencies for clients.
- **Designed and validated regulated cloud solutions.** Led government and regulatory cloud design work, built off-network proofs of concept, resolved architecture and integration issues and progressed solutions through security-risk, governance and design-authority review.
- **Connected security advice with service recovery.** Prepared cybersecurity strategies, security-risk and privacy assessments, cloud-readiness reviews and business-continuity plans. Supported practical security improvements and commercial-client ransomware response and recovery.
- **Managed commercial and supplier decisions.** Worked with executives, finance teams and providers on business cases, RFI/RFP inputs, procurement, contracts, licensing, hosting and support choices, identifying delivery risks and challenging unclear costs or ownership.
- **Explained decisions and transferred knowledge.** Translated technical and regulatory requirements into clear recommendations, implementation plans and operational guidance; coached engineers and users, drawing on earlier Microsoft Certified Trainer experience.

Enterprise Contract Assignments | Comsmart via ECLOUD | Dec 2014 - Jun 2019

Recurring assignments undertaken while employed by ECLOUD, totaling approximately three years across Revera, NZX, CTAS and CentrePort, alongside work for Comsmart direct clients.

- **Delivered enterprise infrastructure projects.** Worked with architects and application vendors to implement secure data-centre, virtualization, Microsoft server and Revera Apollo local-cloud platforms, taking designs through build, integration and technical validation.
- **Built and integrated Microsoft application services.** Hands-on builds and troubleshooting across Active Directory, Windows Server, IIS, SQL Server, Certificate Services and Remote Desktop Services; resolved identity, network, vendor and application dependencies.
- **Improved operational security and supportability.** Reviewed technical builds, implemented Group Policy and privileged-access hardening, investigated complex infrastructure faults and contributed clear delivery and handover records.

Earlier Career

- **Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand | IT Administrator (2007 - 2010).** Led public-facing practitioner-registration platform infrastructure and managed technical support, planning and suppliers for health regulatory operations.
- **TelstraClear | Microsoft Windows Systems Engineer (2006 - 2007).** Delivered enterprise Active Directory recovery and migration work and supported Microsoft, Citrix and communications platforms.
- **BOSIT | Network Engineer (2004 - 2006).** Designed, implemented and supported Microsoft systems, networks, wireless and backup services for Wellington clients.
- **Avonmore Tertiary Institute | Microsoft Certified Trainer (2004).** Delivered Level 5 and Level 6 computing-support training, preparing adult learners for Microsoft, CompTIA A+ and Network+ qualifications. Held Microsoft Certified Trainer status for three consecutive years and taught MCSA material to people already working in the IT industry.

Technical Skills and Delivery Expertise

Hands-on platforms: Microsoft 365, Exchange hybrid, Windows Server, Active Directory / Entra ID, VMware and Hyper-V, IIS, SQL Server, Remote Desktop Services, enterprise networks and Microsoft security technologies.
Architecture and delivery: Cloud and data-centre migration, Azure-enabled and private hosting, identity and network security, Private 5G integration, backup and disaster recovery, managed detection and multi-vendor technical delivery.

Qualifications and Professional Development

National Diploma in Computing Engineering (Level 6). Historical certifications include MCSE, MCSA | Messaging, MCP, Microsoft Certified Trainer, CompTIA A+, Network+ and Linux+. Passed Microsoft exams SC-100 (Cybersecurity Architecture) and MS-500 (Microsoft 365 Security Administration). Technical Writing and Train the Trainer certification through Auldhouse.