RIMS | in association IDS Infrastructure Decision Support

Benefits of Working Collaboratively Co-Lab and Company-X

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Company-X

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Company-X exists to empower visionary leaders who want to use data to run the world better. Company-X focuses on creating custom software that enables change through data-driven insights, automation, and simulation.

For asset managers, defense manufacturing contractors, and CTOs, Company-X integrates complex systems, advances safety through simulation training, and enhances efficiency with AI.

For over a decade, from Waka Kotahi NZTA's Transports Insights to the Asset Management Data Standard (AMDS) migration, Company-X continues to be a leading technical bridge to transport efficiency decision making in New Zealand.

https://companyx.co.nz/

CO-LAB
BETTER TOGETHER

Established in 2005, Co-Lab is a consortium of ten city and regional councils created to promote shared services between local authorities across the Waikato region. Since then, Co-Lab has evolved to drive collaboration between councils to improve performance and reduce costs.

By working together, Co-Lab can achieve effectiveness and efficiency gains, reduce duplication of effort, and eliminate waste through repetition, promote and contribute to the development of best practice, and improve customers' experiences.

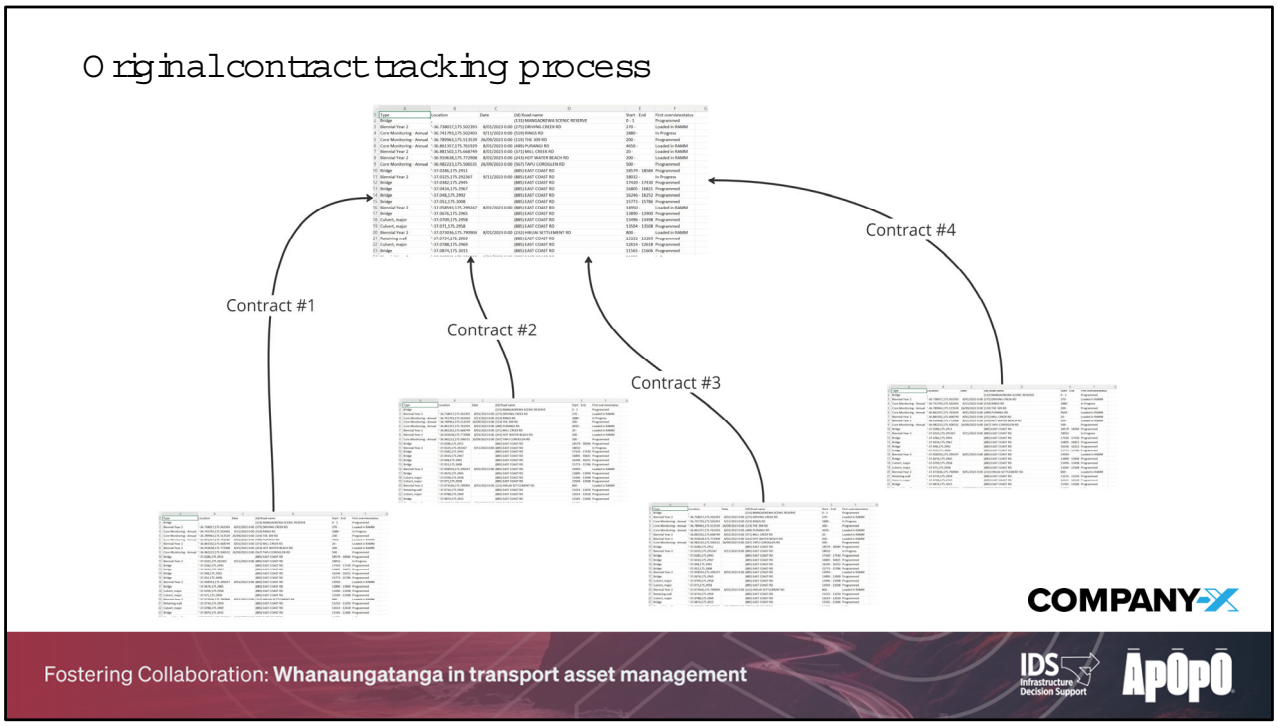
Much of Co-Lab's work is undertaken by working parties or advisory groups made up of staff representatives from the shareholding councils who have expertise and interest in particular services.

https://www.colabsolutions.govt.nz/

Three Key Points of Learning

1. Co-Lab is an excellent example of collaboration, both with 10 Waikato local government Road Controlling Authorities (RCAs) and transport sector subject matter experts, Company-X

2. Swap spreadsheet wrangling for dashboards, systems that work for you rather than forcing you to work for the system.
3. Company-X can spin up minimum viable products (MVPs) quickly through a constant cycle of regular user feedback and iterations.

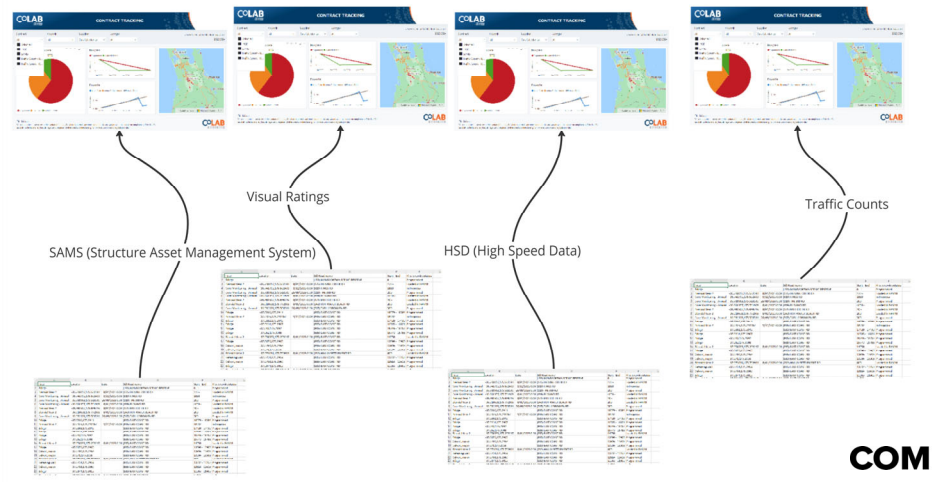


Reminder: The data in this presentation is test data, so the displayed results are not REALISTIC.

One of Co-Lab's primary responsibilities is to monitor the progress of Council's transport-based contracts during the financial year and to ensure that Council money is being spent effectively and completed by the end of the financial year.

The work demands on Co-Lab appeared to be quite challenging and they seemed to struggle with formalised meetings to continue our analysis of the Co-Lab's business process. To work around their demanding work schedule, Company-X proposed that we could sit in their office on Wednesdays, and they could approach us when time allowed. When we weren't needed, we would simply work on other Company-X projects.

Co-Lab asked for each contract type to have its own hardcoded screen in the Contract Tracker



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Co-Lab needed a tool to:

- Visually track the progress of four contracts and answer four basic questions to get a level of confidence that their contracts were progressing at a reasonable rate during the financial year.
- Filter the data to pinpoint the perceived issue(s) with the progress of the contracts during the financial year.
- Convey their contract tracking data to Councils and Suppliers for quick reconciliation.

Co-Lab wanted to track four contract types:

- SAMS (Structure Asset Management System)
- Visual Ratings
- HSD (High Speed Data)
- Traffic counts

There were four basic contract tracking questions that Co-Lab wanted to easily answer:

- What is the overall progress displayed against progress statuses: Programmed (To do), In Progress, Loaded in RAMM (Done)?
- What is the progress of the work during the financial year by week?
- What is the financial expenditure of the work during the financial year by month?
- How do you overlay the visual location on a map with the contracted work and asset work status?

Co-Lab was using traditional spreadsheets to track and report the progress of these transport-based contracts across 10 Waikato district councils. Co-Lab scheduled meetings on a regular basis to the 10 Waikato district councils but it was difficult and time consuming and access was problematic.

Co-Lab gave a lot of thought to the problem before Company-X participated in the Discovery exercise. Co-Lab had a definitive idea of what they needed to solve but, ***not*** possessing data structure experience, Co-Lab to no fault of their own wanted to implement their spreadsheet-based data search approach. Co-Lab **thought** that each contract type required a separate data source. This is where Company-X – a subject matter expert in solving data structure problems, collaborating closely with Co-Lab - were able to see an alternative approach.

Benefit of Company-X & Colab collaboration

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Company-X suggested a data-driven solution. *"Why can't each drop-down first query that specific level of data and display those unique data values in the drop-down selection?"*

When the proposal was suggested, you could see all the lightbulbs turn on in the room and the answer was a resounding "YES". Company-X began to implement the data-driven solution with all filters, dropdowns and user interfaces dynamically

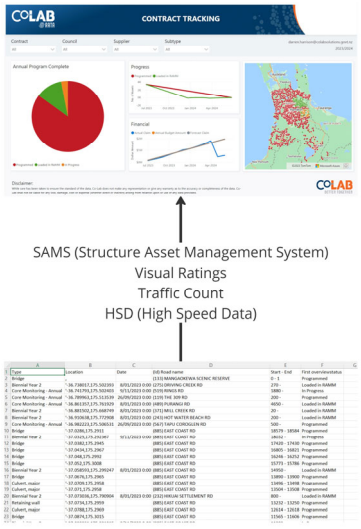
changing based on the data in the project.

From further data analysis, we learned that ***each contract*** used the ***same data structure.*** The eureka moment was each contract had the same four data layers:

- Contract
- Council
- Supplier
- Subtype (Asset type)

Being in the Co-Lab office one day a week, also made it easy to showcase weekly development of the Co-Lab Contract Tracking tool. If there was any feedback or changes, Company-X could quickly relay the feedback to the Developer and, depending on the difficulty of the request, it could be showcased again on the same day.

Company-X proposed a single screen with drop downs



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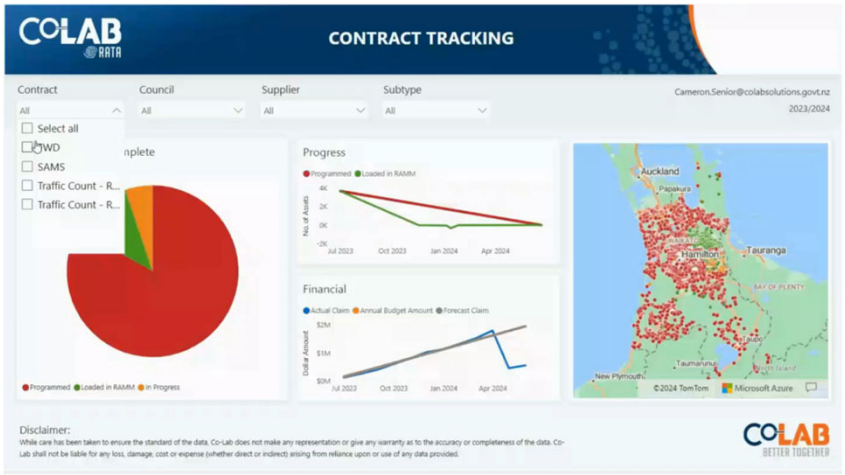
With that eureka moment, we were able to build one solution with clear benefits including…

- One contract tracking screen.
- One data source.
- A data-driven solution that reduced development time (and budget) by 50%.
- Dynamic drop downs where each level of data is queried and places the unique data values for the user to select.

- More contracts that can be added without any further development time if the user adds the new contract in the same data structure. In theory, no further development is needed.

Co-Lab's Contract Tracker in action



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The project tracker allows managers to answer 4 key questions:

- What is the overall progress displayed against progress statuses: Programmed (To do), In Progress, Loaded in RAMM (Done)?
- What is the progress of the work during the financial year by week?
- What is the financial expenditure of the work during the financial year by month?
- How do you overlay the visual location on a map

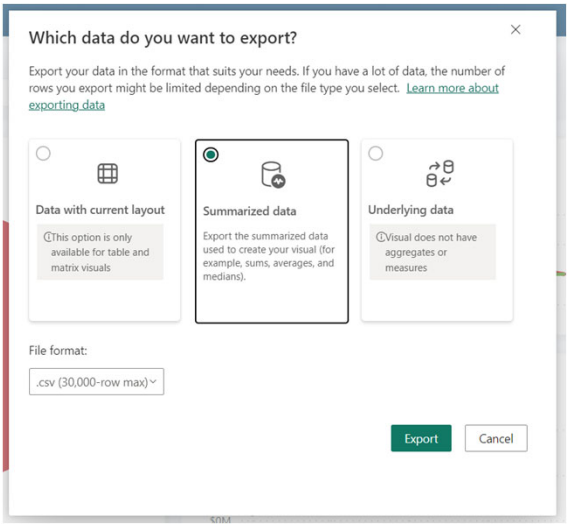
with the contracted work and asset work status?

Once the drop-down filters are selected, the portal displays the results of the filtered data in real time.

Notice the map re-scales to the data points.

You can hover over any of the four graphs to easily view a popup with data.

Co-Lab can easily share data for reconciliation



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The Co-Lab contract tracker is available to collaborating Councils and Suppliers. Via authentication, the Councils and Suppliers can only view **their** respective data. This brings transparency and the ability to quickly reconcile reported differences in progress.

Councils and Suppliers can also download their respective data from Co-Lab for easy reconciliation.

As a closing note: Collaboration does not have to be limited to the duration of the project. Co-Lab has extended an invitation for Company-X to work in the Co-Lab office anytime that we would like to even though we may not be performing billable work for Co-Lab. Our presence and quick availability is appreciated on-site.

Company-X Giveaway

Submit your business card at the Company-X booth to WIN a slate Cheeseboard set complete with coasters, napkins, and cheese knives

If you're reading this after the conference, we still have Cheese boards to giveaway. Just phone us on 0800 552 551 and let us know you're on this page in the presentation.

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