Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru
Auditor General for Wales

WALES AUDIT OFFICE
SWYDDFA ARCHWILIO CYMRU

Cutting Edge Audit Office

Transforming our
use of data and tech

Presentation to EURORAI

1 **Background**

What was the project and why did we need it?

2 **Aims of the project**

What were we hoping to achieve?

3 **Outcomes from the project**

What did we do and what did we achieve?

BACKGROUND

- **What was the project?**
  - The Cutting Edge Audit Office was a 9 month project.
  - Aimed at transforming the way we use data and technology.
  - It was the start of our journey.

- **Where did it come from?**
  - It was the Auditor General's idea.
  - Needed a new approach to innovation.
  - Focused on data/tech but will soon focus on other areas.

- **Why focus on data/tech?**
  - Data and technology are moving fast – risk of being left behind.
  - Audit is data rich – but we can do so much more!

- **Who?**
  - Team of 6 junior staff. Not usual suspects!
  - Reporting directly to the Auditor General.

Outcome (long term):

– Cutting edge audit through cutting edge technology and cutting edge people.

Output (short term):

– A report to our Board that challenges the existing ways of working and makes recommendations for the future.
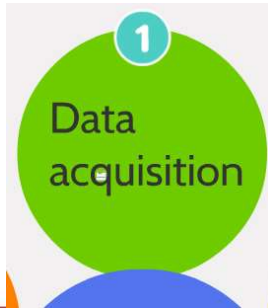
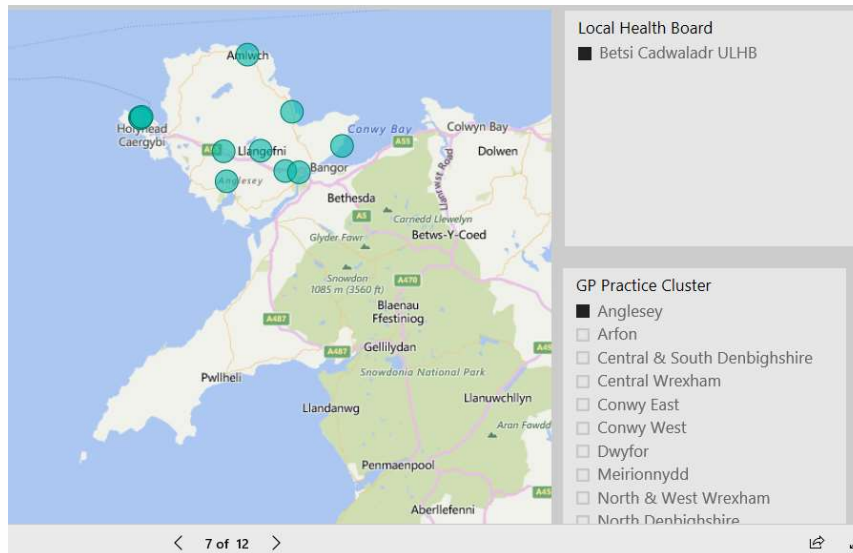# What did we do?

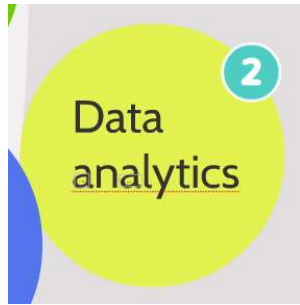# We defined 'cutting edge' through 5 slices

Ensuring we have better access to the right financial and performance data to inform our work.

Prototypes: Data acquisition

- Data portal for our health team
- Harvesting social media
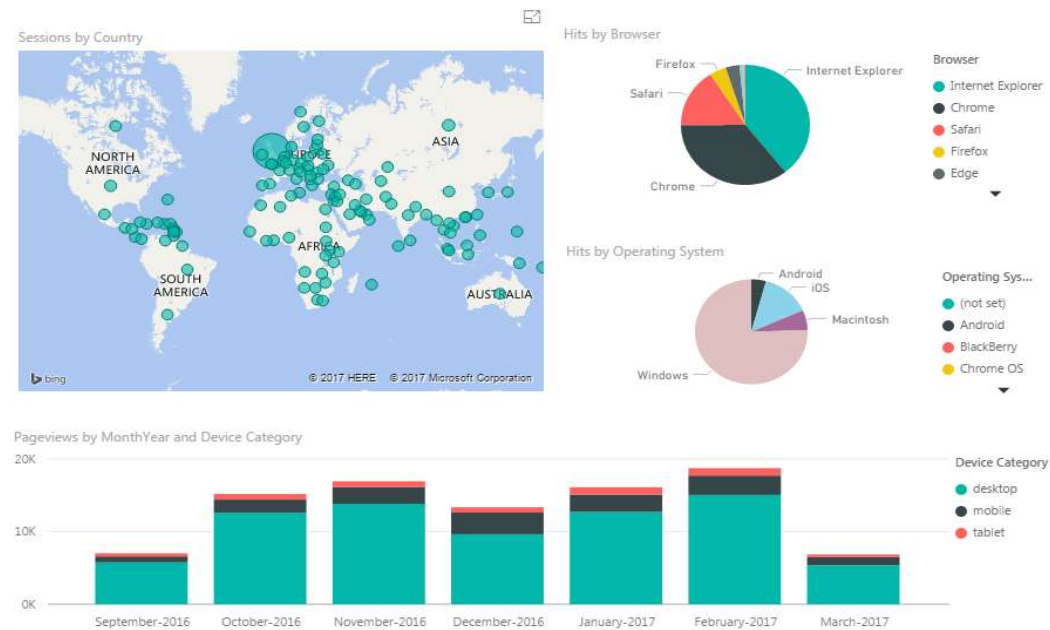- Trial of open data

Data
analytics
2

Using technology to automate and enhance our analysis and use of data.

Prototypes: Data analytics

- Automated analysis: who uses our website?
- Automated analysis: Survey responses
- Webscraping and text mining
- Workshop to develop 3 year data analytics plan

What was slice 3 about?

Exploiting technology to transform the way we deliver our day-to-day work. It covers the tools we use, as well as the facilities and locations where we work.

Prototypes: Online collaboration

- Using Sococo and Skype for Business to help teams collaborate
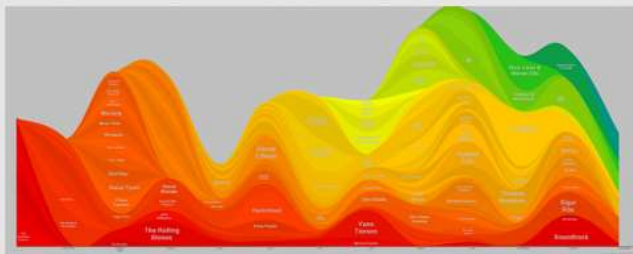
Prototypes: Menu of apps, handwriting recognition

What was slice 4 about?

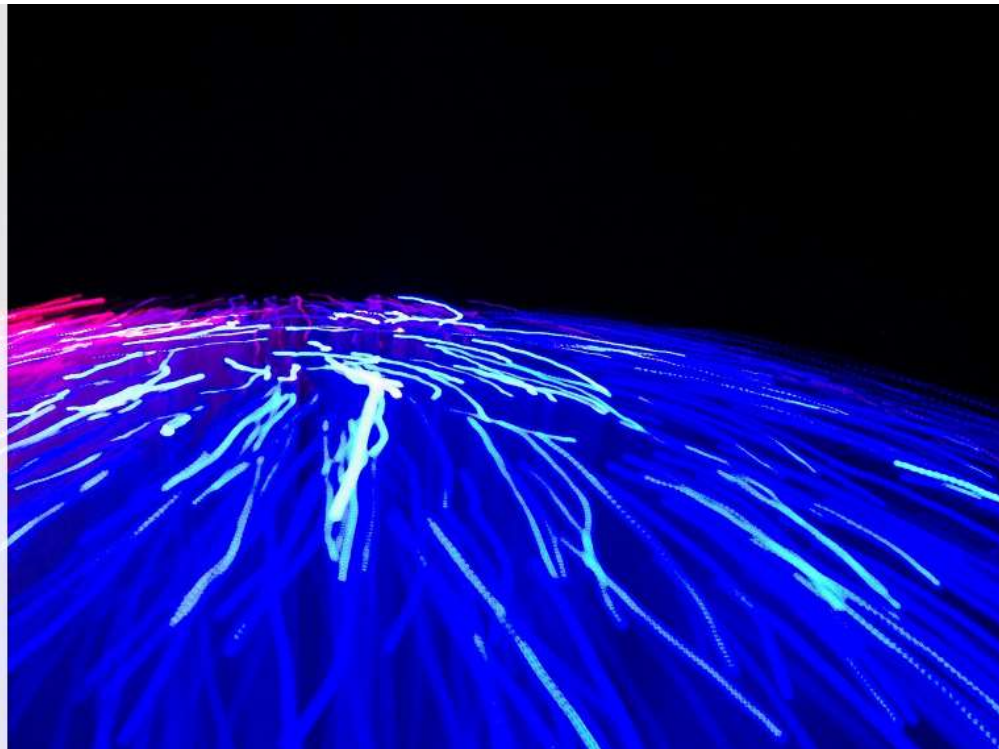Using technology to modernise the way we report our findings.

Prototypes: Reporting

- Use of Adobe Spark

Prototypes: Reporting

- Trial of microsite reporting (Muse)

What was slice 5 about?

Ensuring the Cutting Edge Audit Office project has a legacy.

Skills and strategy

1. Learned about digital strategies and digital leadership.

2. Researched approaches to encouraging innovation.

3. Identified some skills we need to develop.

4. Found agencies we would like to work with.

Our prototypes

NEW HEALTH DATA PORTAL —	OPENING UP OUR DATA —	DATA WAREHOUSING —
AUTOMATING COMMS DATA —	ENHANCED ANALYSIS IN A NATIONAL STUDY	AUTOMATED ANALYSIS IN EDITING
TOOLS FOR ANALYSING SURVEYS	HARVESTING SOCIAL MEDIA —	WEB SCRAPING —
HELPING DISPERSED TEAMS TO COLLABORATE	HANDWRITING RECOGNITION —	MENU OF APPS
LIGHTING UP OUR REPORTS USING ADOBE SPARK AND MUSE —	CREATING TEMPLATES USING DRUPAL —	
SHOWING OFF OUR SKILLS	MAKING FRIENDS WITH PARTNERS	GROWING OUR STAFF

Our recommendations

1. Launch a 3-year data analytics project.
2. Assign a Director to be an interim figurehead for digital.
3. Develop a Digital Strategy and Digital Strategy Group.
4. Launch a six-month Business Intelligence project.
5. Approve a set of actions to strengthen our digital skills.
6. Refocus the role of the IT team and consider new ways of solving IT problems.
7. Consider actions to nurture innovation and empowerment.
8. Use the next transformation project to further modernise our reports.

Please keep in touch

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