Going super modern

One of Australia’s largest super funds turns to HashiCorp Terraform Cloud for standardization, speedy delivery, and scalable success.
About UniSuper

Winner of Money magazine’s Best Pension Fund 2023 and Best Shares ESG Super Product 2023, UniSuper began with a single, compelling idea: to deliver better value. It’s now one of Australia’s largest super funds, with more than 620,000 members and over $115 billion in funds under management. The fund focuses on securing the future of its members, sharing in a wealth of wisdom and collective know-how to empower members to be confident about their future and make better financial decisions.

UniSuper FAST FACTS

 Platform team leads infrastructure modernization efforts

 HashiCorp reduces infrastructure deployment time

 Terraform provides framework for safely extending cloud functionality

 Engineers earn and innovate

 Enabled developer self-service underpinned by Terraform

 Enhanced to cloud infrastructure standardization
Unique approach, super strategy

UniSuper has a long track record of delivering value to customers via strong investment performance and member services. Behind the scenes of its market-leading offerings is a hardworking cloud infrastructure. When Projects and Strategic Engineering Manager Benny Goh arrived, UniSuper’s engineering team provisioned infrastructure with HashiCorp Terraform OSS. Goh endeavored to extend Terraform’s value by enabling a wider group of developers to fortify developers’ ability to deliver value to customers.

Enhancing cloud resource delivery

UniSuper is for the “thinkers, creators, and investigators,” a mantra Goh has tried to emulate with behind-the-scenes changes. Using various internal milestones as learning opportunities, his team has focused on creating a self-service model for cloud resources. The goal of Goh’s cloud platform team was to provide internal developer with a more automated and standardized approach to infrastructure. This approach would enable efficient and scalable operations so engineers could focus on thinking, creating, and investigating.

Terraforming cloud infrastructure

To achieve his vision, Goh formed a cloud platform team that worked to align cloud modernization with cost-saving activities. The team began executing a plan culminating in the development and deployment of a self-service portal for UniSuper internal customers.

Team members would train on Terraform through real-world projects. The goal of training would be to “encourage developers to become champions in automation,” said Goh. The platform team will also establish guardrails and transition to an operations team, after learning Terraform. It will leverage those skills to build CI/CD pipelines with standardized modules. The platform team will also work to scale Terraform and look for new avenues for innovation. “The goal is to have engineers learn and help everyone work effectively in a continuous manner to improve that environment.”
A gateway for ongoing success

UniSuper is a place where future-minded Australians can come together. It’s a community as much as it is a pension fund. Goh and his team have maintained that ethos in collaborating with both HashiCorp. “Now, the team can answer the question, ‘How can I make what I’m doing repeatable?’ because HashiCorp is easy to learn and implement.”

Tight collaboration has been a hallmark of the ongoing partnership. “Our relationship with HashiCorp is not just a business transaction. The team has always been attentive to our needs and helps us determine how we can deliver our projects.”

Terraform Cloud also offers another valuable benefit to UniSuper. The engineering team will need additional skills as it scales its operations and prospective candidates are intrigued by the cutting-edge solution. “We see a spark or excitement when candidates learn we’re using Terraform,” Goh says. “HashiCorp helps reduce turnover because employees feel as though they are progressing alongside UniSuper’s cloud journey as they tackle exciting problems.”

Solution

UniSuper leverages Terraform Cloud to standardize infrastructure deployment and speed app and services delivery — all while meeting customer needs around collaboration, governance, security, and compliance.

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– Benny Goh, Projects and Strategic Engineering Manager, UniSuper
UniSuper Partner

For the last 3 years, Benny has been focused on spearheading infrastructure and cloud automation for UniSuper and has done so successfully. He is currently leading the engineering team supporting solutions to consume HashiCorp Terraform at an enterprise scale.

Benny Goh,
Projects and Strategic Engineering Manager, UniSuper