Section II

New Zealand

The chapters in this section are the results of the discussion with CIOs from New Zealand. The New Zealand population on June 30, 2004, was just over 4 million (Economist Intelligence Unit, 2005). About half the population lives in the four main cities of Auckland, Christchurch, Hamilton, and the national capital, Wellington. Because of New Zealand’s lack of significant natural resources, recent efforts have focused on the development of a knowledge economy through post secondary education. Through government support, emphasis has been placed in general on value added contributions to the economy.

Information technology plays a small, but growing role, in the New Zealand economy (Ein-Dor, Myers, & Raman, 1997). As Sallis (2001) more recently reported:

New Zealand has a small manufacturing industry and builds very few computer components or peripherals. The nation does, however, have a significant reputation as an IT proving ground and high-volume user of products and services. New Zealand’s Internet traffic totals are among the highest in the world. In fact New Zealand has the seventh highest number of Internet hosts per 1,000 inhabitants in the world and the fourth highest number of secure servers per million people.

New Zealand is an early adopter of software development technologies and prolific producer of IT applications. It has a vibrant professional society for individuals ... and an active sales and service industry ... together with several focused professional groups ... Essentially, the IT industry in New Zealand is a value-adding environment, utilizing tools and technologies developed elsewhere. (Sallis, 2001, p. 53)
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