

## How to detect fraud and corruption

# Kelvin Kenney Forensic Consultant

### Agenda



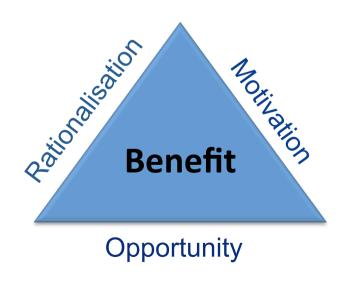
- Can we mitigate all fraud and corruption?
- How to mitigate fraud and corruption
- How to detect unmitigated fraud and corruption
- Summary and questions



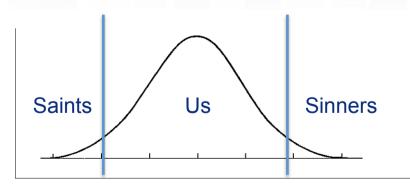
#### We allow fraud to occur!



- Survey data tells us...
- Bell curve of intent
- Fraud triangle
- Culture



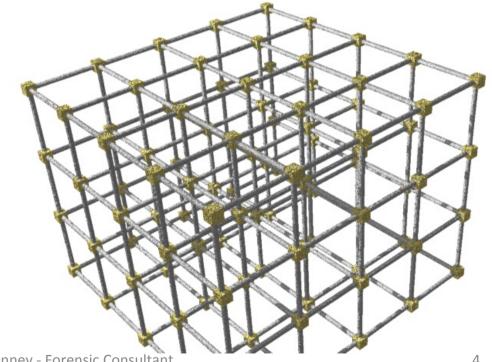




### A fraud and corruption framework



- A planned approach to preventing, detecting and responding to fraud and corruption to mitigate the risks to an acceptable level
- Planning
- Prevention
- Detection
- Response



#### The importance of detection



How important is **Detection** in a planned approach to fraud and corruption mitigation?

# *Important*

But not as important as proper **Planning** and **Prevention** 

#### Detection techniques



- Watching
  - Only useful if people report suspicious activity
- Listening
  - Only useful if the correct person hears what is said
- Doing
  - Can be reactive or proactive
  - Manual, project, and automated review of business activity



#### Detection program



- Internal and external auditor's role
- Avenues for reporting suspicions
  - Internal reporting
  - Alternate reporting
- Whistleblower program
- Transactional review
  - Post transaction review
  - Data analytics



#### Auditor's role



#### Internal auditors

- Objective and independent to management
- Professional skepticism
- Forensic accounting skills
- Beyond reproach

#### **External auditors**

- As above, plus...
- Adequate experienced staff
- Relevant industry skill set



#### Red flags - General



- Circumstance or behavioural changes
- Employee lifestyle changes or living beyond means
- Significant personal debt and/or credit problems
- Large leave balances and reluctance to take leave
- Poor attitude towards controls, policies, external parties (autocratic style), overly generous
- Lack of, or delays in providing documentation
- Lack of segregation of duties

### Red flags - Finance



- Unusual transactions (date, time, amount, party)
- Unsupported or unauthorised transactions
- Reversals
- Suspense and transit accounts
- Significantly under or over stated account balances
- Transactions not recorded in a timely manner
- Vague or missing descriptions
- Alterations, corrections, handwriting
- Delayed or qualified audit reports



### Reporting channels



Line management reporting



Alternate internal reporting (eg. IA and HR)





Regulators and law enforcement ??



Traditional and social media



- Whistleblower Protection Program
  - Policy
  - Protection Officer and resources
  - Investigation Officer



#### Transactional review



- Source documents and other records
- Segregation of duties
- Significance of roles
- Authority to speak up
- Culture



### Data analytics



- Data analytics is a process of:
  - Obtaining
  - Inspecting
  - Cleaning
  - Transforming
  - Modelling data

...with the goal of highlighting useful information, suggesting conclusions, and supporting decision making.

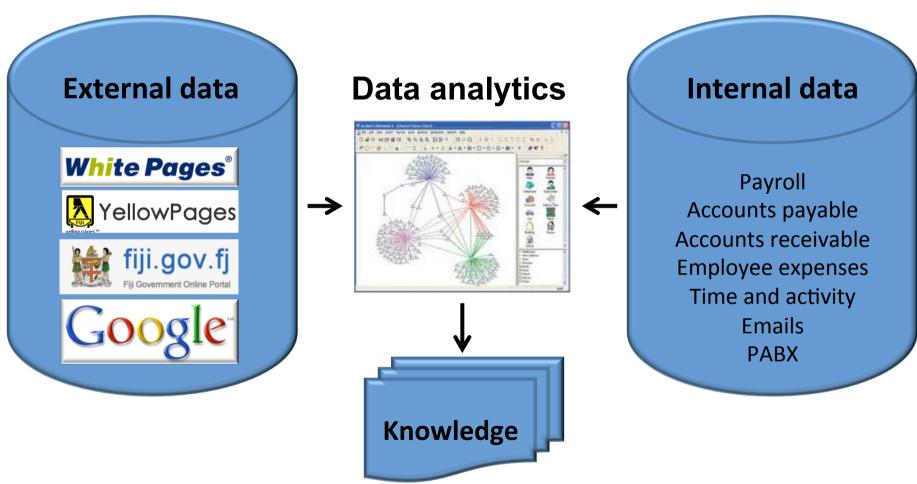
#### How data analytics assists



- Many Internal Audit tasks can be performed more efficiently and with greater rigour through the use of data analytics
- For example:
  - Selecting high risk transactions for manual auditing
  - Creating a system of 'Continuous Monitoring' and sending automated alerts for follow up investigation
  - Identifying anomalies that could not be found using traditional auditing or investigative techniques

## Examples of data inputs

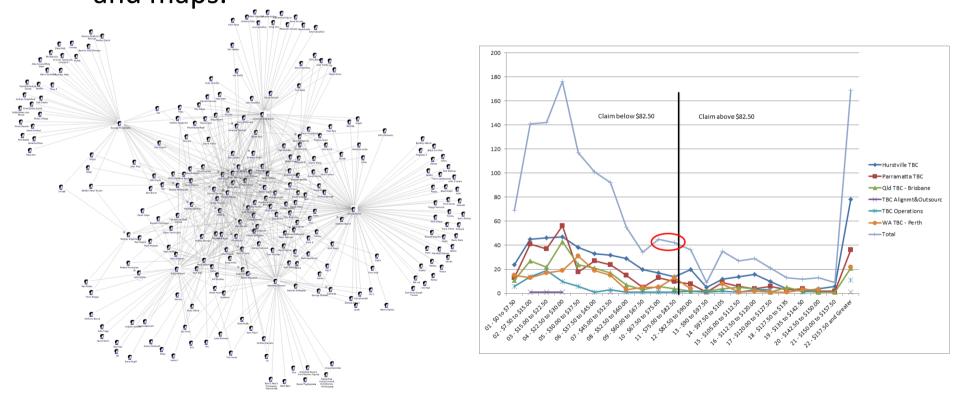




# Types of outputs



 Norms, patterns, outliers, and anomalies, which are then reported through timelines, lists, tables, charts, relationships, and maps.



#### Summary



- Detection is a backstop when prevention has failed
- No one detection technique will uncover all fraud
- Your people are your best detection technique
- Empower your people to speak up
- Your organisation's culture will largely determine your success



#### Questions



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