ContainerCo operates one of New Zealand's leading independent container companies. The company comprises four business units; depot services, a container hire and sales business, a refrigeration service company, and a fledgling empty container transport and logistics operation. ContainerCo has rich heritage originating from NZL Container Services on the one hand, and United Containers on the other. ContainerCo was created from a merger between these two companies in 2015.

ContainerCo has six strategic sites, serving the four largest ports in New Zealand. Depot Services focuses primarily on the storage, cleaning and refurbishment of empty containers for some of the largest shipping lines servicing NZ, and handles approximately 40% of New Zealand's task.

With 18 depots nationwide, Hire and Sales provides containers for a number of applications to a wide range of customers ranging from "Mum and Dad" storage to pop-up shops and cafes to a host of other creative applications. ContainerCo pride themselves on being sharp on price and very accommodating.

The fledgling part of the business is the transport and logistics. This uses a network of 3rd party transportation subcontractors and organic company resources to maximise the efficiency of container stock located around the country.

ContainerCo are using the TLP Transportation Module across the three parts of the business. They are creating and capturing transport jobs, allocating and despatching these jobs (either internally or to the subcontractor network), then tracking the jobs until completion and invoicing. Margaret Harris, (Manager of Strategy and Innovation at ContainerCo) brought on TLP. She says that they are only just doing the basics so far with TLP and there is a lot of functionality that they would like to bring on as they build their transport and logistics business.

ContainerCo have a long history with TLP, running a predecessor to the application at NZL since 2007. In 2017-2018, with the container business blossoming, ContainerCo went to market for software that could grow with the business model. With the experience that the business had with software like TLP, it was a low risk decision to choose TLP. Although they are using just part of the TLP suite, as ContainerCo grow their network of contractors the modularity of TLP, with its open interfaces and customisation capabilities, is considered a need. It supports agility inside the business.   "At the moment we are using TLP for its most fundamental features, like tracking jobs, invoicing, etc. but when we switch on the mobile features that will be when the game will change", adds Margaret.

Covid in 2020 became the "perfect storm" for ContainerCo, which continues into 2021. This was both in positive and negative ways. With fears of a shortage in containers, ContainerCo became "essential service" for the country and the government became "very interested" in their company and how quickly they "could turn around a box".   ContainerCo have been setting records for turn around. On the positive side, as a "second chance employer", many of ContainerCo's staff suddenly became critical workers building mana and self-esteem. A negative impact on the company, however has been the shear pressure of needing to run at overcapacity in some yards over several months.

It seems a lot of people have found a lot of use for a big metal box