



Collaboration empowers ICD with SWIFT capabilities

Institutional Cash Distributors (ICD) utilizes SWIFT products and services to provide automated services to their clients

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“Working with the SWIFT team, ICD Technology has enabled the ICD Portal with SWIFT services, continuing our trend of innovation with SWIFT technologies firmly embedded in our systems. The standards and automation capabilities offered by SWIFT make it possible for the ICD Portal to leverage decades of technological and organizational advancements, on a foundation negotiated between and nearly universally supported by our clients’ financial institutions.”

Mark Heyner, Chief Technology Officer, ICD Technology”
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Background

ICD, an institutional investment and risk management company based in San Francisco and London uses several advanced automation solutions to help their clients invest in institutional money market mutual funds, via the ICD portal. In order to meet their customer’s needs, ICD reached out to SWIFT to form a collaborative alliance in order to incorporate SWIFT services within the ICD Portal. SWIFT offers consulting services and products that help allow institutions such as ICD to quickly become SWIFT-enabled.

Business Challenge

ICD’s clients include many of the world’s leading institutional and corporate investors. These clients require efficient and timely access to position and account balances for their trading accounts in order to make quick investment decisions. Increasingly ICD’s clients were adopting the SWIFT standards and formats to allow for accurate and timely reporting of their global cash positions. ICD recognized that being able to process SWIFT messages in the ICD Portal would enable their clients to automatically reconcile cash, position and balance statements from their financial institutions, saving valuable time and resources. ICD needed to find a solution to allow their clients to easily and automatically settle trades through SWIFT messages.

Being “SWIFT-enabled” would empower ICD to attract and retain the up-market clients that use their services.

The solution

ICD teamed up with SWIFT to develop a solution to incorporate SWIFT message flows into the ICD portal. The SWIFT and ICD teams met on site to understand the business flows related to the institutional investing that ICD supports and to map out how ICD could incorporate SWIFT standardized messaging into those business flows. The team saw early on that ICD and its clients would benefit from the implementation of automated clearing and settlement via SWIFT as well as the ability to offer ICD clients automated balance and cash reporting. Many of ICD’s corporate clients are large institutions who are becoming SWIFT enabled and would benefit from ICD offering SWIFT services to their market.

The challenge for this collaborative team was to rapidly transfer SWIFT knowledge and incorporate SWIFT business flows into the ICD Portal platform. SWIFT was able to address that challenge through its Integration Services team comprised of IT professionals with many years of experience integrating financial institutions such as ICD. The team was able to get ICD up and running on the network in a relatively short amount of time.



In addition, ICD chose SWIFT's integration software, a state-of-the-art middleware package that was specifically designed with productivity tools and functionality that make it easier to integrate with SWIFT. The powerful combination of the SWIFT software and the Integration Services team can connect a financial institution to the network in three to six months, as was the case with ICD.

"Through cooperation with ICD, the Integration Services team at SWIFT was able to come in and quickly enable ICD with SWIFT capabilities," said Barry Silberstein, Senior Consultant at SWIFT. "The team's extensive knowledge of the industry and best practices helped simplify the process and provide multiple SWIFT capabilities to ICD within a short amount of time."

The ICD Portal now ingests SWIFT MT-535 position & balance messages from the financial institutions that maintain ICD Client trading account books & records, and uses that data to reconcile ICD Client trading account balances displayed in the portal. This gives ICD clients automatic, up-to-date information on their account balances, allowing investors to make timely investment decisions.

The portal also ingests SWIFT MT-940 cash statements and uses that data to post dividend reinvestments, capital gains and other balance adjustments for ICD Client trading accounts. This automation greatly reduces the time and risk inherent in entering those adjustments manually, saving ICD customers time and money.

Additionally, the ICD Portal is now able to translate SWIFT MT-940 cash statement messages into the ubiquitous BAI2 format for consumption by ICD client treasury systems, allowing corporate treasurers more flexibility in interpreting and inputting their account data. Tom Newton, ICD's Chairman said, "One of our global enterprise clients requested this MT-940 to BAI2 enhancement and we were unable to accomplish it through our existing channels. ICD Tech, working with JP Morgan, developed a solution with SWIFT that accomplished our client's objectives."

SWIFT Integration Services offered this transformation in an "out of the box" solution, which enabled ICD to offer more up-to-date trading account information and BAI2 reporting to their global enterprise clients.

Results

In joining SWIFT, ICD is able to automatically settle transactions over the network, and provide standardized, electronic reporting to their clients. SWIFT enables timely and accurate reporting for treasury global cash positions, so that institutional investors can optimize their daily investment decisions.

"We expect other clients to take advantage of this integration as well. By further leveraging our investment in SWIFT technologies, ICD has added yet another important tool that will help to facilitate client attraction, satisfaction and retention." - Mark Heyner, Chief Technology Officer, ICD Technology

Benefits –

- Timely and accurate reporting on treasury global cash positions allow investors to make faster, more precise investment decisions
- Reduction of operational and financial risk

Next Steps

The ICD Portal will continue to work with SWIFT to facilitate automation in payments and straight-through-processing. The next phase of the project will focus on debit automation for ICD clients' settlements.

About ICD

Institutional Cash Distributors (ICD) is the world's leading institutional investment and risk management company. ICD's next-generation Software-as-a-Service portal, DACOA™ 'Best Practices' methodologies and award-winning Transparency Plus® exposure analytics, support corporate treasury with end-to-end solutions. The ICD Global Trade Desk™ provides full-service support out of San Francisco and London. ICD develops its own proprietary technologies through Institutional Cash Distributors Technology LLC in Golden, Colorado. Institutional Cash Distributors LLC is a FINRA/SIPC member. Institutional Cash Distributors Ltd is authorized and regulated by the Financial Services Authority in the United Kingdom and the Dubai Financial Services Authority in the Middle East. For more information, visit <http://www.icdportal.com> or email info@icdportal.com.

About SWIFT

SWIFT is a member-owned cooperative that provides the communications platform, products and services to connect more than 10,000 banking organisations, securities institutions and corporate customers in 212 countries and territories. SWIFT enables its users to exchange automated, standardised financial information securely and reliably, thereby lowering costs, reducing operational risk and eliminating operational inefficiencies. SWIFT also brings the financial community together to work collaboratively to shape market practice, define standards and debate issues of mutual interest.

About SWIFT Consulting Services

SWIFT Consulting Services provide customers with direct access to SWIFT experts who can help optimise business processes, identify best-practice enhancements for a SWIFT infrastructure, speed up SWIFT integration projects, and reduce total cost of ownership.

SWIFT's Consulting Services put at your disposal a dedicated team of SWIFT experts who provide extensive knowledge of financial markets and systems, message standards, best market practices and front and back-office integration processes in business, technology and infrastructure related areas.

We provide Consulting Services in four distinct areas: Business Consulting, Technical Consulting, Implementation and Project Management.