

Benchmark and Reference Data Analytics Integration

‘One Size Does Not Fit All’

Service and customization The pillars of high-quality benchmark data

Successful asset management comes down to being able to make the best investment decisions; and one of the critical factors behind good decision making is asset managers’ ability to deliver high-quality benchmarks and index data into their workflow. Put simply: high-quality data leads to high-quality data analysis and high-quality decisions. Consequently, the way in which asset managers source, collect, remediate, transform, store, distribute and analyze data is a significant competitive differentiator.

This is our mantra at RIMES, as we offer our 300+ clients a single solution to all their data management challenges. **The RIMES Managed Data Services allow our clients to become more agile, streamlined and operationally efficient:** they are designed to deliver a sustainable, quantifiable improvement in business performance by relieving them of the burden of data management.

Recently, some solution providers have looked to promote ‘one size fits all’ integrated analytics software and benchmark data ‘solutions’ for portfolio management. These ‘black box’ offerings are marketed for their simplicity, and promise to end complex and costly manual data integrations into portfolio management systems.

The truth, however, is that many of these solutions have been built through acquisitions, so they don’t always fully integrate together - with each component facing competition from best-in-class products from specialist providers. Asset managers looking to invest in these solutions must therefore tread very carefully, and beware the potential pitfalls.

RIMES’ Integrated Solutions Checklist

At RIMES, we have developed a checklist for firms considering investing in an integrated solution. Our checklist criteria include crucial questions you must answer before making a purchase, including:

- Have you confirmed the integrated solution covers all the benchmarks you currently require? Does it have the coverage?
- Do you need benchmarks that are not currently provided?
- Who is responsible for working with index providers to source benchmarks that are not available in the integrated solution?
- Does it handle the creation and support for complex benchmarks (e.g. blends, hedges, customs)?
- Who is responsible for validating the benchmark data and remediating the inevitable errors?
- What evidence do you have that thorough checks are being applied by your integrated solution?
- What functionality is provided for supporting data transparency, data governance and data compliance?

Full checklist can be viewed at rimes.com/checklist
Reviewing the checklist, you will see that data integration is only a small part of the challenge facing your firm. If you are to ensure you have access to the highest quality data, then what you need above all else is **service**.



One size does not fit all

Simply providing a set of data in an integrated solution fails to address the critical service around the provision of quality data every day. Benchmark data management has never been more complex for the buy-side. Market volatility combined with the sheer number of the benchmarks available means firms must do more than ever to keep on top of the data landscape. This challenge is being exacerbated by new regulations around data transparency and new reporting requirements: good data management today is not only about delivering the best services to your clients, it is also essential to avoiding fines for non-compliance.

Today's market therefore calls for a continuous approach to data management that ensures the most up-to-date data is getting to where it is needed within the organization, when it is needed. At a time when increasing sophistication, agility and scale are required, however, integrated solutions are offering only a partial solution. This is largely because integrated solutions are usually designed and built (or, often just cobbled together through acquisition) by systems people, not data people.

Put bluntly: integrated solutions are little more than 'square peg' marketing and cannot handle the data transparency and governance required by end users.

Our recommendation

When it comes to selecting an integrated solution, as much emphasis must be placed on the data management platform as the analytical capabilities of the solution. You require data capabilities that add real value to your organization, and off-the-shelf integrated solutions simply are not the answer. We believe that successful data analytics, and by extension successful decision making, can only be achieved through a combination of customized integration and ongoing data management service. At RIMES, we design and integrate with your existing workflow, providing a customized, fully managed data service that covers all the elements of good data processing.



Contact RIMES and find out how we can tailor your benchmarks and any other reference data feed to your exact workflow requirements, ensuring that you get the highest-quality, up-to-the minute data to assist decision-making and guarantee regulatory compliance.

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About RIMES RIMES is a buy-side specialist that truly understands the data management challenges faced by its clients. It serves over 300 investment managers, pension funds, hedge funds, wealth managers, private banks, custodian banks and insurance companies in 40 countries, including 60 of the 100 largest global asset managers and 9 of the 10 largest custodians by TAUM.



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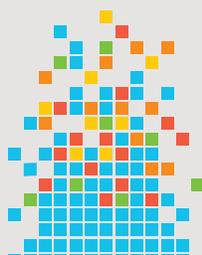
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