



Success story

RIMES Helps Fort Washington Optimize Performance & Risk Operations, Improve Data Quality and Coverage as they Expand into New Asset Classes

Client

Fort Washington
Investment Advisors

Need

Automation of Fixed
Income Benchmarks

Key Takeaway

- Strengthened data quality
- Increased responsiveness
- Improved ability to obtain historical data

Fort Washington Investment Advisors is an institutional asset manager with more than US\$50.6 billion in assets under management. Benchmark data is core to portfolio and investment analysis, featured in over 15 of their attribution models and over 1,000 reports a month, both internally and externally.

RIMES has been their managed data service partner since 2006, enabling them to stay ahead of market demands for increased attribution analysis and client reporting. RIMES has helped free up their Performance & Risk team from potentially risky and time-consuming manual data processes of the past, while enhancing the accuracy, timeliness and quality of their benchmark data. Since 2006 the firm's index volume has drastically increased and yet, with RIMES as their managed data service provider, their Performance & Risk team spends less time on benchmarks than ever before.

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A Truly Consultative Approach

Recently, RIMES helped Fort Washington automate their fixed income benchmark processes. The project was well-timed, as it was just ahead of a major Fixed Income Risk and Analytics platform migration. Tom Anderson, Director, Performance and Reconciliation at Fort Washington, explains: "To manage the risk inherent in transitioning to a new analytics platform, we moved our entire Bloomberg Barclays Index family - a very important set of indices for our business - over to RIMES. We've thereby been able to strengthen the quality of the data, and our confidence in it; increase our responsiveness; and our ability to obtain historical data."





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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RIMES' proactive and flexible approach to customer service is further benefitting Fort Washington as they expand into new asset classes. This includes a range of advanced asset classes such as bank loans, emerging markets debt, and international equities, which the firm has made the strategic decision to target. It also includes new equity strategies, which they are taking on as a result of a recent acquisition. In both cases, RIMES has gone well beyond the sourcing and onboarding of benchmark data; offering a truly consultative approach, and allowing them to tap into a vast catalogue of benchmarks to aid their benchmark selection process.

A Unique Partnership

According to Fort Washington, the main benefit they derive from RIMES is that it offers a unique partnership; RIMES listens to clients and uses customer feedback to optimize service and drive innovation. One such example is RIMES' Feed Audit Analytics, which was recently deployed to further streamline data management processes for Fort Washington. In the past, they had to step through onerous internal procedures if they needed to re-load or access a file. Today, the firm can immediately access its feeds through RIMES' secure, cloud-based portal, making it much easier to resolve issues. RIMES has thereby reduced what was a half-day process to a matter of minutes.

Tom Anderson sums up the partnership: "As our business looks to move into uncharted territory, RIMES supports us. They understand our needs in a way we simply don't see with other service providers. They play a role beyond providing indexes. They advise us conceptually - what makes sense, what other clients are doing, and are willing to invest in their technology and processes to ensure the service they offer is optimized. RIMES is helping us meet today's challenges and operationally do much more with less. Of the many vendors I deal with, RIMES is one of our best partners."

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