

Richard Forss

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CTO | CIO

Technology executive with more than three decades of leadership across trading, brokerage and market-infrastructure environments. I have led enterprise-scale platform transformations, rebuilt governance and financial disciplines, and shaped global engineering and operations organisations across Europe and the UK.

My experience spans front-to-back trading technology, market data, risk systems, portfolio management, cloud and infrastructure, product delivery and operational resilience. I specialise in modernising fragmented or legacy estates into scalable, compliant and cloud-portable platforms capable of supporting institutional-grade throughput, regulatory scrutiny and enterprise governance.

Having operated in both major financial institutions and high-growth fintechs, I bring a balanced leadership profile – commercial discipline, technical depth, strong financial governance and a clear understanding of regulatory expectations at global scale.

I have led the design and delivery of trading, risk and portfolio-management platforms across multiple asset classes, working closely with front-office, risk and operations teams.

UK Citizen and holder of a Swiss Residency Permit (No sponsorship required)

EXECUTIVE CAPABILITIES

Technology Governance & Financial Control

- Designed and embedded EXANTE's end-to-end financial governance framework (annual planning, monthly controls, CapEx/OpEx classification, IFRS alignment).
- Established budgeting, scenario-planning and board-ready reporting standards comparable to global banks.

Platform Modernisation & Scalability

- Defined and executed a multi-year roadmap to scale a global multi-asset brokerage across order routing, market data, risk, desktop/mobile platforms and post-trade automation.
- Delivered architectural simplification and 10x scalability in user capacity and order throughput.
- Modernised trading, risk and portfolio-management workflows, integrating pricing, analytics and order-lifecycle controls across asset classes.

Operating Model & Organisational Transformation

- Transitioned Technology from feature-led delivery to a modern Product Operating Model with accountable squads, discovery practices and outcome-based governance.
- Built the PMO, delivery rhythms, capacity planning processes and RAG-based portfolio oversight.

IT Operations, Reliability & Resilience

- Introduced a 99.99% uptime target across DevOps, SRE and Infrastructure; rebuilt observability, structured logging and incident management.
- Strengthened operational resilience to meet DORA, MiFID II, CySEC and HK SFC expectations.

AI Strategy & Engineering Productivity

- Launched an enterprise AI strategy across engineering, operations and client-facing products.
- Achieved 20–30% productivity gains through workflow redesign, tooling and governance.

Leadership & Organisational Development

- Built and led global organisations of 200+ staff across engineering, QA, operations, data and product.
- Implemented competency frameworks, performance standards and structured learning pathways.

Chief Technology Officer Jul 2024 – Present
EXANTE Cyprus / Zug / Remote

Leading the transformation of EXANTE's global brokerage and trading platform, serving retail, HNW, institutional and white-label clients in 60+ markets. Responsible for architecture, engineering, product, cybersecurity, market data and IT operations.

Key contributions:

- **Leadership & Organisation:** Reshaped engineering and IT Operations; strengthened leadership capability and performance discipline.
- **Delivery & Governance:** Standardised planning, discovery, portfolio management and capacity forecasting.
- **Scalability & Architecture:** Redesigning core systems to enable 10x increases in user scale, order flow and data ingestion.
- **Stakeholder Alignment:** Re-established strong collaboration with front-office and white-label partners, improving platform adoption.
- **AI Integration:** Embedded AI across SDLC, testing, operations and client-facing tools.

Deputy Chief Technology Officer Feb 2023 – Jul 2024
Crypto Finance AG (Deutsche Börse Group) Zürich, Switzerland

Joined to strengthen governance, platform resilience and delivery across trading, custody and tokenisation businesses.

- Led the replacement of the trade-execution platform: strategy, business case, RFP, vendor selection and delivery.
- Modernised SDLC, automation, CI/CD and architectural standards.
- Established cross-functional engineering guilds (databases, messaging, GCP).
- Oversaw development of a security-critical hardware signing device integrated with HSMs for institutional-grade digital-asset custody.

Co-Founder & Chief Technology Officer Feb 2020 – Dec 2022
Covario AG Zug, Switzerland

Digital-asset prime brokerage serving HFT hedge funds, asset managers and family offices.

- Designed low-latency, high-throughput trading architecture.
- Built governance and risk frameworks for a planned FINMA securities-dealer licence.
- Led a 35-engineer organisation; developed academic talent pipelines.
- Worked closely with clients and investors on product direction.

Chief Technology Officer Oct 2012 – Sep 2019
Argentière Capital AG Zug, Switzerland

CTO of a US\$3.5bn global hedge fund covering equity volatility, fixed income, distressed and systematic trading.

- Built complete infrastructure (data centres, networks, trading systems).
- Led development of trading tools, portfolio and risk analytics, and cross-asset dashboards supporting front-office decision-making.
- Designed serverless AWS-based risk engine (20 hours → 20 minutes).
- Owned technology governance, board reporting and due diligence.

Freelance Consultant Feb 2012 – Sep 2012

Designed the first REST API for the Imagine Trading System and delivered one of the industry's earliest iPad applications for portfolio and risk visibility.

Systems Director Arrowgrass Capital Partners LLP	Feb 2008 – Jan 2012 London, United Kingdom
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- Built the full trading and risk platform for an \$8bn Deutsche Bank spin-out.
- Established infrastructure, vendor strategy and operational processes.
- Led migration of proprietary trading models, systems and data from Deutsche Bank.

IT Director Deutsche Bank AG – OMNIS Hedge Fund	Oct 2004 – Feb 2008 London, United Kingdom
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- Built infrastructure and trading systems for the proprietary trading desk ahead of spin-out.
- Developed pricing, scenario and risk-calculation tools.

Project Manager / Senior Developer Deutsche Bank AG – Convertibles Trading Desk	Jun 1999 – Sep 2004 London, United Kingdom
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Designed and delivered the award-winning convertible-bonds analytics, pricing and trading platform.

EARLY CAREER

Bankers Trust – Warrants & Convertibles Trading | 1998–1999
Union Bank of Switzerland – Equities Technology | 1994–1998
NatWest Bank – Credit Card Services | 1993–1994
Credit Suisse First Boston – Trading Technology | 1991–1993
Citibank – Strategic Business Solutions | 1990–1991