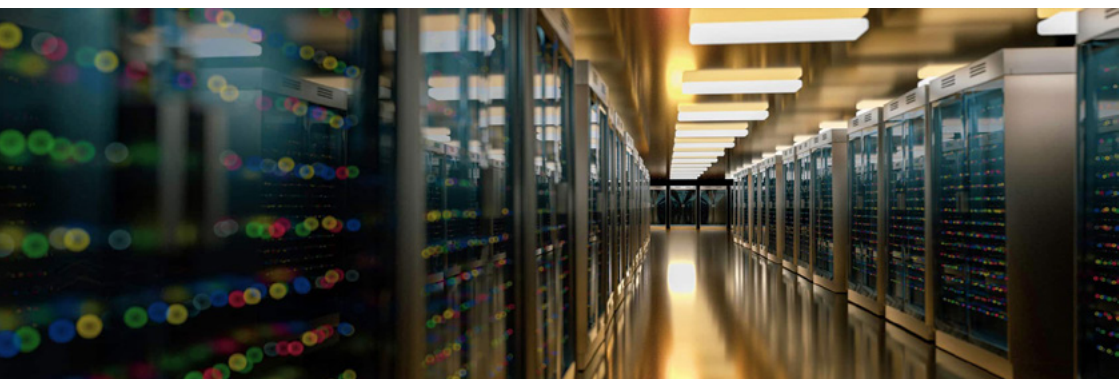




Acorn Life



Case Study: Acorn Life

Leading Irish life company set
to scale with Invest | Pro™

Background

Acorn Life is an Irish owned domestic life assurance company offering protection, savings, pensions and investment products for the local market.

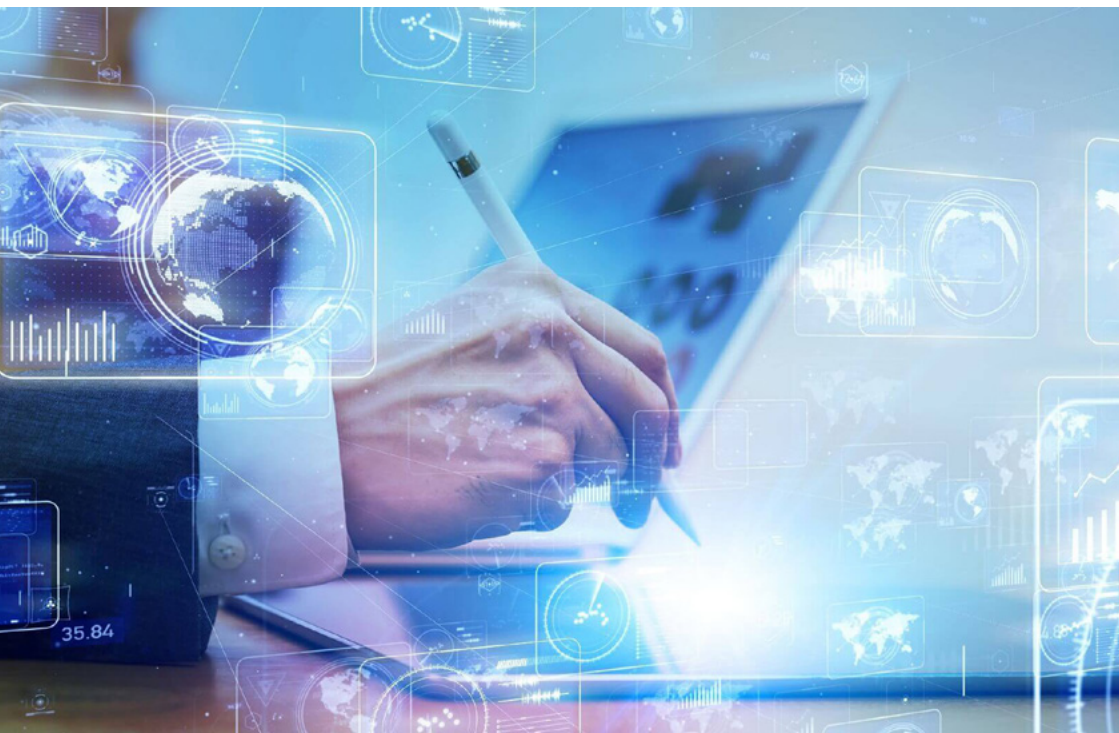
Established in 1989 and headquartered in Galway, Ireland, they have a team of over 250 staff and financial advisors managing over 75,000 clients.

The Challenge

Prior to engaging with **Financial Risk Solutions (FRS)**, **Acorn Life** managed their unit linked pricing and appropriations on a number of in-house systems and spreadsheets. These legacy systems posed challenges of efficiency and increased risk as the company continued to grow.

Acorn Life chose to move their investment administration to a specialist provider and after a thorough review of investment administration systems, chose **Invest|Pro™** to manage its Life Assurance book of business. Recent compliance requirements introduced by the Central Bank of Ireland increased the priority of the upgrade.





The Solution

Acorn Life required a comprehensive investment administration platform with an in-built general ledger, tax reporting, and audit-trail capabilities. Working closely with their Capital & Risk Actuarial team, FRS designed an Optimum Operating Model that manages cash flows between the company's member administration system and its external investment managers. It calculates fund NAVs and unit prices.

Today **Invest|Pro™** manages the investment administration of all **Acorn Life's** unit-linked funds, including unit-pricing, cash allocation and rebalancing, and trade order management.

Key components of the installation include:



Internal Fund Asset/Liability Unit Matching



Box Management



External Trade Management



Asset Servicing/Pricing



Net Asset Value (NAV) calculations



Unit Price calculations



Calculating/Managing liquidity, AMCs, Rebates and Tax on Life Funds



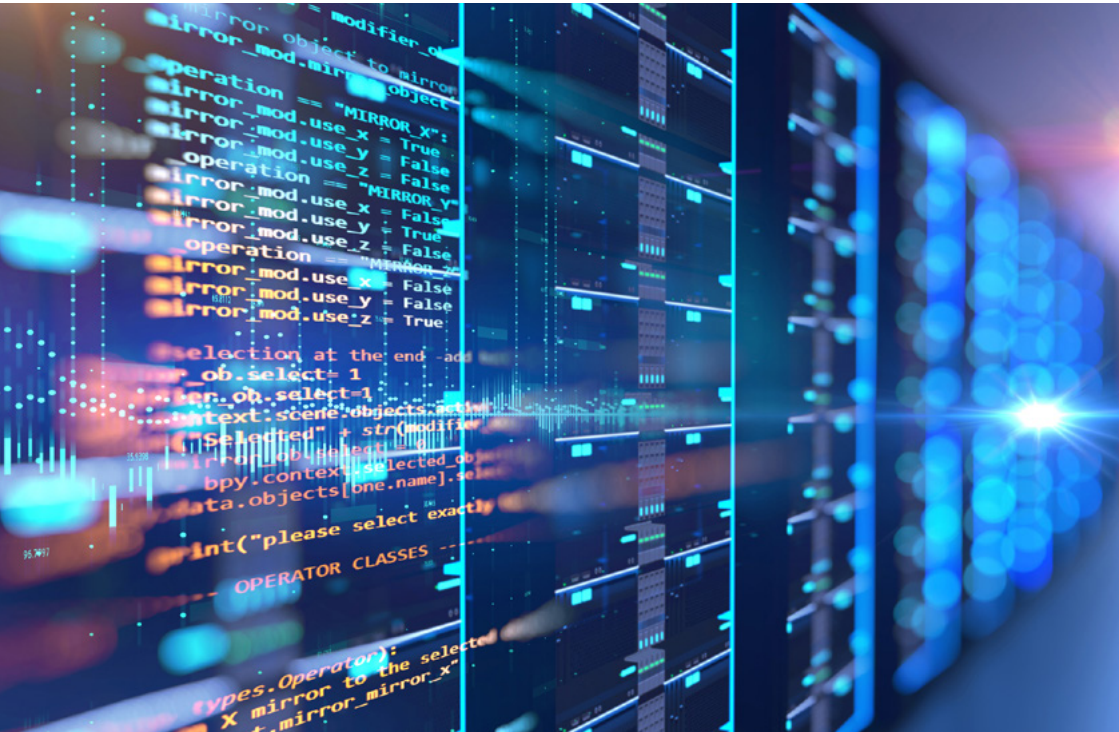
Daily/Month end financial reporting



Reconciliations



Invest|Pro™ appropriation and pricing



Implementation

With a twenty-year track record in fast deployment, FRS and Acorn delivered **Invest|Pro™** in just six months. Daily operations continued without disruption as the project team migrated the book of business onto **Invest|Pro™** with assistance from FRS consultants. FRS configured the **Invest|Pro™** reconciliation tool for both Broker and client assets and added an export for the complex income minus expenditure (known as '1 minus e' UK & Irish) life assurance tax reporting requirements.

Invest|Pro™ was delivered using standard architecture made up in this case of two servers, the first with a worker and application, and the second containing the SQL database.

Key Benefits

With **Invest|Pro™**, **Acorn Life's** business processes are faster, cost less and are carried out in a more controlled environment, leaving the company well positioned to scale in a robustly secure environment.





Key benefits include:



Reduced operational costs

By consolidating multiple systems and excel into a single platform, Acorn Life has been able to transition staff from manual activities to review and oversight roles. Staff were trained to operate **Invest|Pro™** and were up and running quickly.



Reduced operational risk

Removing manual processes significantly reduces the risk of human error and mis-pricing, while exception override tasks allow users to oversee and correct data where needed. Having **Invest|Pro™** general ledger checks now ensure that unit prices and fund valuations are entirely consistent with GL records, financial statements, audit, board and regulatory reports.



Faster unit pricing and investment accounting processing

Automating unit pricing with **Invest|Pro™** has removed manual inputs and reviews, resulting in a significant improvement in processing times.



Comprehensive audit trail

Invest|Pro™ provides a robust audit trail with all data stored, archived, and date stamped in the system. All changes made to data points are also tracked on **Invest|Pro™**. This increased oversight supports new compliance requirements from the Central Bank of Ireland.



Going forward with **InvestPro™**

Jennifer Loftus, Head of Actuarial Function at Acorn Life, said:

*"When the time came to move from in-house investment administration to a specialist provider, **Financial Risk Solutions** was the obvious choice. The **Invest|Pro™** platform is a market leader in unit-pricing and unit-linked fund administration, and their wealth of domain knowledge in the life and pensions market is second to none. The upgrade to **Invest|Pro™** was expertly led by the FRS project team and completed in just six months, allowing us to stay focused on our customers."*





Frank Carr, CMO, at FRS said:

"Acorn Life is one of Ireland's great domestic life assurance business success stories. Headquartered and operating west of the river Shannon for over 30 years, they have a team of 250 staff and financial advisors across the country, and are well respected for their dedication to quality customer service. We are proud to have been selected as their middle and back office investment administration partner and look forward to a long and fruitful partnership supporting them in their continued growth."



About **Financial Risk Solutions (FRS)**

With over 20 years delivering Investment Administration software, **Financial Risk Solutions Ltd (FRS)** is a trusted technology partner to life assurance, wealth and asset management firms worldwide. Led by an expert team of actuaries, compliance and IT specialists, clients license FRS software to help navigate the ever-changing challenges of growth, regulatory pressures and competition in the industry.

The award-winning* **InvestPro™** platform is relied on by over 60 blue-chip financial services and BPO clients to reduce operational costs, increase efficiencies and mitigate risk in the manufacture and management of investment products. More than 150,000 funds are managed on the **Invest | Pro™** platform today.

Delivered on-premise or cloud-hosted, **Invest | Pro™** securely automates multiple complex fund administration processes including unit-pricing, cash allocation and rebalancing; oversight and validation of operational activity performed by outsourced partners; and in Europe monitoring and reporting for PRIIPs, KID requirements, and Pillar III asset reporting for Solvency II.

FRS is part of the Constellation Software Inc. group and headquartered in Dublin, Ireland, with offices in Hong Kong and Sydney.



*2019 - Best Solvency II Tech Solution - Insurance Asset Management Awards, Pensions Technology Provider of the Year - Irish Pensions Award, 2017 & 2018 - Tech Firm of the Year - Insurance Asset Management Awards, 2016 - Tech Provider of the Year, Governance Risk and Compliance - Risk.Net Awards.



Knowledge based software

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