




The future of publishing services



“Catalysts enabled us to move our UK & Irish Securities Taxation and International Dividend services smoothly from CD-ROM publishing to online and they continue to support the delivery of those services.”

Richard Lee – Interactive Data

Client and supplier – success from a close working partnership.

Interactive Data Corporation is a trusted leader in financial information. Thousands of financial institutions and active traders, as well as hundreds of software and service providers, subscribe to their fixed income evaluations, reference data, real-time market data, trading infrastructure services, fixed income analytics, desktop solutions and web-based solutions. Interactive Data’s offerings support clients around the world with mission-critical functions, including portfolio valuation, regulatory compliance, risk management, electronic trading and wealth management.

The problem. Interactive Data had for some time published their securities taxation services on CD-ROM but needed to move it online. They had worked with Catalysts for some years on the CD-ROM publishing and asked them to design, build and host an online solution using technology developed by the same vendor, as clients were familiar with the user interface layout and search and navigation features.

Interactive Data had a tight timescale as well as a demanding specification covering automated production and updating processes and complex access control, subscriber account administration and usage logging.

The solution. Catalysts designed, built and manage an online solution for Interactive Data which encompasses all the following elements and which continues to be enhanced as the need arises:

- A bespoke process to convert the existing content from the flat file format used in the CD into XML. This entailed the development of a sophisticated set of regular expressions and file handling routines. Once the legacy content had been converted these were also built into the future automated production process, as follows.
- An automated publication ‘build and update’ process, initially hosted by Catalysts but later transferred to Interactive Data. This process creates incremental delta files that are applied to a staging server for editorial checks before being deployed to the live site. The editors can then update the live site via an administrative web interface when ready. This incremental delta file approach allows rapid real-time updating of content on the live site.

- An NXT online content delivery application, hosted by Catalysts, in which XSL is used to render the XML content, customised templates create the Interactive Data branding and custom search forms are provided to assist users to get maximum advantage from the content. A key component of this part of the solution is the comprehensive access control developed by Catalysts that has the following features:

- A License based approach. Licenses can include a mix of authentication methods - username/password and IP Addresses.
- Concurrency limits may be set per license and per IP/Username + Password.
- Account administration. Interactive Data administrators can create and administer IP and Username/Password accounts directly.
- Usage logging. User activity is recorded to custom log files accessible to Interactive Data.

Conclusion. By working closely with Catalysts who had provided their original CD-ROM production system and who were a known and trusted supplier, Interactive Data were able to make a smooth transition to Online delivery.

Together the two companies delivered a system that satisfied the subscribers most importantly, but also from Catalysts’ perspective their client, Interactive Data, who now have a smoothly running publishing system from author to subscriber – requiring minimal administrative intervention.

About Catalysts. Catalysts is a specialist systems integrator designing, developing and supporting information systems for publishers and corporate information providers.

Catalysts offers a full range of skilled services and software chosen for its performance and reliability. They are committed to their clients’ success.

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