THE EVOLUTION OF TT®

THE BEGINNING

Trading Technologies (TT) was founded in 1994 at the forefront of electronic futures trading, and we quickly became a leader in trade execution. With a focus on innovation, we employed a mix of industry veterans and software engineers who built X_TRADER® into the premier toolset for professional futures traders. X_TRADER was designed using a client-server architecture and initially made available only for on-premise deployment. Primary customers included FCMs that catered to individual traders and proprietary trading groups. X_TRADER was fast, reliable and met the needs of those former floor traders.

As the business evolved, so did X_TRADER. Global banks, brokers, hedge funds and other buy-side customers had additional and varying requirements. We enhanced X_TRADER to accommodate certain business needs and workflows, but the original architecture made it challenging to address the wide range of needs from our ever-expanding customer base. Deployment became more and more difficult as many enhancements required forklift architectural upgrades that necessitated painful, coordinated deployments across each organization.

Some customers asked us to host their environments, which resulted in the formation of TTNET™, a global network of data centers connected to exchanges around the world. This became a very popular offering, especially among the global banks. However, due to our architecture, we had to create separate environments for each customer, which wasn't scalable and presented more deployment and support challenges.

Additionally, X_TRADER was a fairly closed platform. APIs provided some flexibility, but the platform's back end only provided access to a limited number of exchanges. Firms needed more flexibility, and they needed to integrate all of their systems across their front, middle and back offices. The constraints of the old architecture simply demanded a change.

THE PRESENT AND FUTURE

As the X_TRADER architecture was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain, support, deploy and extend, we began building a new trading platform. That platform, simply called TT, was designed from the ground up, leveraging the newest technologies to address many of the pain points that had really slowed down our ability to innovate and solve our customers' problems.

We wanted to build a platform that was easily deployable and accessible, but it had to provide the performance that professional traders demanded. Our hybrid cloud design delivers the best of both worlds. The low-latency infrastructure remains on our global network of exchange-colocated data centers, while a cloud-based distribution infrastructure provides great scalability and accessibility.

TT is deployed via the SaaS delivery model. Customers don't have to worry about client/server compatibility issues or workstation specifications. They simply enable users, accounts and connections, and users can be up and trading almost instantly.

The new architecture and delivery model make it easier and faster for our product development teams to build solutions that meet the increasingly demanding needs of our clients. Not only are we able to bring new features to market in a much faster timeframe, our open and extensible architecture allows us to deliver solutions that were never before possible.

Furthermore, this unique same network effect allows us to provide new offerings such as on-demand infrastructure services and data solutions that solve more complex problems across a firm's entire enterprise.