

Navigating the Future: Modernizing and Transforming Investment Technology Operations

Authored by

Martin Ouellette
Byron Derti

Published

June 2025



THE CONTINUOUS NEED FOR MODERNIZATION



The investment industry is evolving rapidly, driven by technological advancements, regulatory changes, and increasing investor expectations. To remain competitive, firms must continuously modernize their people, processes, and systems. Stagnation no longer creates inefficiencies, it creates risk.

Modernization is not merely about adopting new technology, it requires a fundamental shift in how firms operate requiring them to reevaluate workflows, integrate automation, and leverage data-driven insights to enhance decision-making. Firms that treat modernization as a continuous journey, not a one-time initiative, position themselves for long-term success by improving efficiency, ensuring compliance, and building operational agility.

REGULATION: A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

Regulatory mandates often act as a primary driver for operational improvements. The introduction of T+1 settlement cycles, evolving reporting standards, and stricter risk management requirements all demand adjustments in technology, data handling, and compliance frameworks. With another wave of regulatory changes already on the horizon, like US Treasury Central Clearing, firms must continue evolving their infrastructure to remain compliant and competitive.

Rather than viewing regulation as a burden, leading firms see it as a catalyst for innovation. Enhancements in reporting systems, data validation, and transaction processing can improve operational resilience. Firms that successfully adapt not only mitigate compliance risks but also streamline operations, reduce costs, and enhance transparency for stakeholders.



DATA: YOUR BIGGEST LIABILITY OR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

The ability to manage, automate, and act on data is central to any modernization effort. Legacy systems often rely on fragmented workflows and manual data entry, leading to inefficiencies and increased operational risk.

By contrast, firms investing in automated data integration gain a competitive advantage. According to PwC, "59% of asset and wealth managers are currently adopting or considering big data analytics for their investment operations, underscoring the importance of robust data integration" (Charles, n.d.). Exception-based processing, Artificial Intelligence-driven validation, and robotic process automation enable firms to shift focus on high-value activities rather than routine data handling. Machine learning and advanced analytics further enhance the ability to extract actionable insights from vast amounts of financial data. In a fast-moving market, firms that invest in robust data infrastructure will be better equipped to respond to regulatory requirements, client demands, and emerging investment opportunities.

TECHNOLOGY THAT TRANSFORMS, NOT JUST SUPPORTS

Technology remains the cornerstone of transformation across investment operations. The widespread shift from on-premises data centers to cloud-based solutions, including Software-as-a-Service (SaaS), Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS), and Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) has significantly improved flexibility, scalability, and resilience.

In parallel, artificial intelligence and machine learning are being deployed to automate high-volume and low-value tasks like trade processing, reconciliation, and risk monitoring. Additionally, 91% of investment managers are currently using or planning to use AI within their investment strategy or asset class research, reflecting the growing importance of AI in investment operations (AI In Investment Management Survey, 2024.). The use of AI and ML help reduce the burden on operation teams and free up capacity for strategic initiatives. Predictive analytics and intelligent automation improve forecasting accuracy, allowing firms to make proactive, data-driven decisions.

The pandemic accelerated the adoption of digital workflows, and firms that embraced these changes are now better positioned to meet client demands, ensure business continuity, and operate more efficiently. Digital-first operating models have shifted from "nice to have" to "non-negotiable."



MEETING THE DEMANDS OF A FAST-MOVING MARKET

Today's investors expect more: greater transparency, personalized experiences, and faster access to data. Regulators are raising expectations too, requiring more frequent reporting and detailed disclosures. Meeting these demands requires advanced reporting tools and integrated data systems. Meeting these rising expectations requires operational agility. Firms that can quickly respond to new asset classes, evolving regulations, and market disruptions gain a competitive edge. Those investing in adaptive, forward-looking operations will stand out in an increasingly crowded marketplace. In today's environment, agility is a differentiator, but speed is not the only factor. To truly differentiate from competitors also requires responsiveness, scalability, and resilience under pressure.

EMBRACING CHANGE FOR LONG-TERM SUCCESS

Modernization is not a single initiative but an ongoing process requiring a commitment to reviewing and evolving systems, processes, and teams on an ongoing basis. This includes:

- Regular assessments of new technologies and vendor capabilities
- Revisiting operating models to find efficiency gains
- Ensuring staff have the skills and tools they need to adapt

Firms that embed change into their culture, and treat transformation as a business imperative will not only survive the current wave of disruption, they'll be leaders of the next one.

By embracing regulatory shifts, improving data integration, and adopting advanced technology, firms can future-proof their operations and remain resilient in an evolving financial landscape. Those that view modernization as a continuous effort rather than a one-time project will not only remain competitive, but they'll also set new industry standards for efficiency and innovation.

Organizations that fail to modernize face rising costs, greater operational fragility, and increasing difficulty meeting client and regulatory expectations. In a competitive market, stagnation isn't just inefficient, it's existential. Firms that fall behind risk becoming acquisition targets or fading into irrelevance. That's a risk no firm can afford.

Why Meradia



Modernization is complex, but it doesn't have to be overwhelming.

At Meradia, we help investment firms cut through that complexity and take decisive action. We understand the pressure to evolve and the risks of delay. That's why we bring deep domain expertise, a structured approach, and hands-on experience to every engagement.

Our team has partnered with global asset managers, asset owners, and service providers to:

- Implement scalable operating models
- Optimize investment data flows
- Integrate emerging technologies
- Automate financial data workflows and enable scalable integration
- Navigate T+1, regulatory shifts, and multi-platform consolidations

We don't just recommend change – we help execute it.

Firms that lead in modernization aren't waiting for a perfect moment. They're aligning their people, platforms, and processes to meet the future head-on. Meradia helps make that future real by turning strategy into action, and transformation into results.

Citations:

Charles, A. (n.d.). Asset and wealth management revolution 2024. PwC.

<https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/issues/transformation/asset-and-wealth-management-revolution.html>

AI in investment management survey. (2024.).

<https://www.mercer.com/insights/investments/portfolio-strategies/ai-in-investment-management-survey/>



Martin Ouellette

Martin Ouellette is an expert in leading large-scale transformational programs focused on investment operation transformations. He has 25 years of experience specializing in investment management system integrations, strategic consulting, and program management. Martin enhances Meradia's front-to-back offerings by bringing a unique blend of operations and technology experience and deep knowledge of the BNYM Risk and Analytics platform to support our clients' needs.



Byron Derti

Byron Derti, MBA leverages a strong background in data analysis and Power BI to deliver best-fit solutions for clients navigating the complexities of investment operations and accounting. He boasts an agile, proactive approach, along with strong organizational skills, to drive clients toward their goals. Byron enhances performance analytics by carefully examining data to ensure accuracy and reliability. He is skilled at translating complex data sets into clear, actionable tasks for stakeholders at all levels, and his ability to visualize data drives important business decisions with clarity and precision.



📍 119 N High St, West Chester, PA

📞 610-730-7787

✉️ info@meradia.com