options | Insights Series
FinTech Trends 2020

Options | Who We Are

Options is a global leader in financial technology managed services. We enable our clients to deliver a dual mandate: operating world class financial technology infrastructure today, while supporting business scalability and new technology for tomorrow.

We offer a managed colocation and proximity services platform that gives customers access to all the key liquidity centers globally across all asset classes (equities, derivatives, fixed income and FX). The platform provides a managed environment for the delivery of direct market data, order entry, servers and colocation space, either as a single managed service or individual component services.
Leveraging the fastest WAN links between key locations, best of breed technologies and operational processes hardened over 20 years in the business.

Key Facts:

- Connected to over 100 exchange, dark pool and ECN venues globally
- Delivered over resilient, fastest path route
- Utilising ultra-low latency switching technology to provide sub-microsecond delivery in data centre
- Investment bank grade security certification and processes (SSAE 18 SOC1 / SOC2)
- Supported by 24/7 expert operational teams.

Current Market Trends - Network Design

Ultra Low Latency

- Increasing demand for FPGA / Layer 1 network topologies through the full financial services vertical

- Customer demand pushing for ULL on a shared market access platforms and environments

Time Sync Evolution

- PTP service provider value prop shift from sheer precision toward transparent / reportable regulatory compliance

- High-precision client focus transition to PPS, received directly from local grandmaster time servers

Current Market Trends - Operations

Analytics

- Increased use of infrastructure analytics for risk management

- InfoSec teams tying directly into MSP analytics platforms

- Capacity management expanded to failure prediction/prevention

Transparency

- Drive toward unified monitoring across all vendor services

- Increased reliance on MSPs for compliance reporting

- Transparent MSP infrastructure design & implementation as a core requirement

Automation

- Heavy focus as an engineering force-multiplier

- Growth of NetDevOps industry / holistic skill sets across networks, unix, development

- Provides ability to rapidly and consistently deliver as a core value prop

Sim/Emulation

- Full holistic network sim/emulation emerging across the industry

- Network management risk mitigation strategies taking the front seat as security breaches become more visible

What does a 2020 trading environment look like?

4ns unfiltered market connectivity with precise, reportable time synchronization

Templatised infrastructure delivery for consistent regulatory compliance

Massive engineering force-multipliers that minimize time-to-market and maximize manpower output

Materially enhanced change confidence and risk mitigation

Full visibility into environment performance and security analytics

- Continued build out of IAC and CICD operating models, augmentation and self-healing network capability

- Software Defined Networks managed by orchestrators running optimisation algorithms pushing policy to controller based architectures

- Widespread adoption of 25/100 Gbps networking as exchanges migrate to the standard

- Portal based client access for self provisioning and cloud based delivery

options | Thank You

Please complete the Response Card if you'd like to learn more about how we design and implement cutting-edge managed trading environments around the world