



Altus

clear thinking for Financial Services

Altus Funds Gateway

Fund administrators have much to gain from automating the dealing process for pension investments. Mistakes are rare but potentially very expensive and the administrative overheads of processing investment instructions by fax, e-mail or letter are considerable. Their larger clients expect an efficient service and are increasingly demanding support for the new ViaNova market practice for electronic dealing. The Altus Funds Gateway delivers an efficient and flexible solution.





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Investment Process

The Altus Funds Gateway automates the whole investment process from receiving and validating instructions, through execution and confirmation, to settlement, reconciliation, exception handling and audit trails.

Investment instructions can be received electronically via SWIFT using ISO20022 and the ViaNova market practice or by fax or e-mail where electronic messaging is not supported by the client. In either case, the same process is used giving a consistent set of controls and reports.

Unit holdings are maintained for each client investment account and statements and price reports are dispatched electronically or manually. Deals and liabilities are reported to back-end fund administration systems and administrators have visibility of the whole process from high-level summaries to detailed status reports.

Benefits

The immediate benefit of adopting an automated approach is a reduction in administrative effort through removal of manual processing steps.

More important, however, is the reduction in risk as transcription errors are eliminated, approvals are more strictly controlled and the process more easily audited.

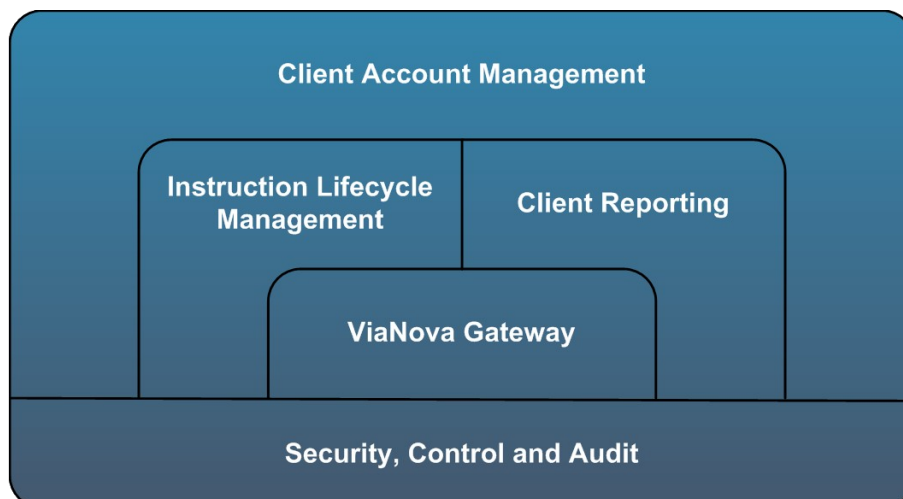
Last, and by no means least, is an improved service to clients by providing instant up to date price and holding information and the potential for faster and more frequent transaction cycles.

Unsurprisingly, the largest pension and fund administrators have been first to adopt the market practice, but ViaNova support is gathering momentum among smaller administrators and is increasingly seen as a prerequisite for winning new business.

Adopting ViaNova doesn't have to be a long and expensive exercise. Using an off-the-shelf package avoids the cost and risk of a large development project with ongoing maintenance overheads and drastically reduces timescales.

Ease of Deployment

The Altus Funds Gateway is designed to minimise the impact on the existing system landscape. Its modular structure allows it to be deployed as a simple gateway for electronic dealing or a full corporate transfer agency system. An intuitive browser-based user interface, comprehensive set of web-services and choice of SWIFT connectivity methods combine to give a wide range of integration options.





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Features

- » Receives investment instructions over the SWIFT network in accordance with the ISO20022 messaging standard and ViaNova market practice
- » Allows investment instructions to be captured from fax and spreadsheets where clients do not support electronic transmission
- » Automatically issues status reports and trade confirmations
- » Intelligently monitors and validates instructions and responses against predefined criteria
- » Automatically alerts supervisors when intervention is required
- » Shows hierarchical views of clients, third party administrators, schemes, accounts and funds and summarises trading activity for each
- » Provides supervisors with visibility of the whole process and the means to handle any exceptions
- » Captures fund prices from fund administration systems and issues price reports to clients electronically
- » Maintains client account holdings and issues client statements electronically
- » Allows price and holding reports to be issued manually where clients do not support ViaNova
- » Authenticates all access via digital certificate and user password, optionally integrated with corporate network security
- » Authorises individual user actions against a fine-grained access model
- » Encrypts all external network traffic
- » Maintains a full audit trail of all user actions, instructions and responses
- » Isolates fund administration systems from changes by mapping internal account and fund references to external identifiers

The screenshot displays the Altus Funds Gateway web application interface. The main window is titled "Altus Funds Gateway - Order Summary - Windows Internet Explorer". It features a navigation pane on the left with a hierarchical tree view of accounts, including Birmingham, London, and Watson Wyatt. The central area shows a table of orders with columns for Received, Administrator, Account, Status, Value, Type, and Id. Below this is a "Subscription Order Details" section for a specific order, including fields for Administrator, Account, Received, Value, Settlement Ref, and Settlement Date. An "Instructions" table is also visible, listing Reference, Fund, Status, Value, Units, and Traded At. To the right, there are two "Account Holdings" windows, each displaying a line chart of account values over time (from 10/08 to 06/09) and a table below it. The bottom left window shows a "North American Equity Index - Ftd price history" table with columns for Valuation Date, Price, and Alt Price, alongside a corresponding line chart.




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Altus understand Financial Services - the products, the processes, the people and the systems that make the whole thing tick. We understand that successful solutions begin with the business and Financial Services companies across the UK depend on our products to handle business critical processes.

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