



# Altus

clear thinking for Financial Services

## Deployment Architecture

---

Deploying systems has never been more complex. Whilst the applications themselves have become more flexible, the demands of legislation, corporate policies, and more varied business relationships are ever more exacting.

However, developing the deployment architecture is often left too late and receives too little focus. It is no longer adequate to leave the infrastructure teams to muddle through.

At Altus we believe that technology decisions should be driven by business needs. The deployment architecture needs to be considered early on in the programme and be driven by business considerations rather than technical preferences.

A successful deployment architecture will result in a deployment that meets business requirements effectively and economically.





# Altus

## Deployment Architecture

### The Issue

Flexible businesses need flexible systems. If the business decides to outsource a business process, expand into new markets or sell via a new channel then their systems need to adapt accordingly.

At the same time, the business needs to maintain tight control over its systems. Recent legislation has increasingly focussed on the security and reliability of IT. In particular, corporate governance legislation, primarily Sarbanes-Oxley and its UK equivalent, the Companies Act 2004, has significant implications for disaster recovery and security.

Also, more general information legislation, including the Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act, insists that the systems supporting the relevant data are properly controlled.

On top of this, most companies impose further controls through their own corporate risk and security policies and there may be a framework of administrative tools in place to support these policies and with which new applications must be integrated.

In response to these demands, modern business applications have become increasingly flexible. The distributed architectures around which they are built provide the necessary framework to create reliable, secure, scalable and well-integrated systems.



However, developing the deployment architecture is often left too late and receives too little focus. Development teams concentrate on functional requirements and infrastructure teams are only engaged towards the end of the project and rarely have a broad enough view of the solution.

At Altus, we believe there is a better approach.

### The Altus Approach

Technology decisions should be driven by business needs. So we start by working with the business to understand their current and possible future requirements. This will include departmental functions, business relationships, locations and volumes. We also consult with policy groups and risk managers to identify the necessary security and risk control measures.

### The Altus Approach (cont.)

---

In collaboration with infrastructure and production support teams, we look to exploit existing infrastructure assets and ensure that the new system can be integrated with preferred administrative tools. We can then begin to sketch out potential solutions, continue to work with stakeholders and policy groups to develop these, and finally move on to specify the deployment architecture in full.

Once the solution is agreed we assist project and programme management with planning, risk analysis and cost estimates, and help coordinate infrastructure teams to implement the designs.

### The Deliverables

---

The outputs of the deployment architecture design process are:

- The deployment requirements - including locations, volumes, expected growth, data sensitivity, access control, availability and response times.
- The deployment architecture - describing servers and clustering, infrastructure software, network topology, communication protocols and encryption, system failover and recovery, storage and system interfaces.

By clearly articulating requirements we ensure that all interested parties commit to what's



needed. The deployment architecture then provides a common understanding of the solution across business, developer and infrastructure teams and is the basis for subsequent cost estimates and plans.

### The Benefits

---

Distributed architecture technology has come a long way. The mechanisms to create flexible, scalable and secure deployments are there to be exploited, but these benefits can only be realised if the deployment architecture is given the necessary attention. A successful architecture will result in a deployment that meets business requirements effectively and economically, and a predictable, low risk implementation project.




## clear thinking for Financial Services

Altus understand Financial Services - the products, the processes, the people and the systems that make the whole thing tick. With years of experience in complex change programmes, we understand that successful solutions begin with the business.

### Altus Limited

1 Widcombe Crescent, Bath, BA2 6AH

 +44 (0)1225 472830

 [enquiries@altus.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@altus.co.uk)

 [www.altus.co.uk](http://www.altus.co.uk)