

IT Support for Start-up Hedge Funds



If you are starting a new hedge fund, one of your key concerns will likely be that of choosing the appropriate technology to suit your business. No doubt, you are looking for something robust, reliable and scalable.

You should take advantage of the strong position you are in versus your competitors, as you can cherry-pick all the best technology you need from scratch to give you an all-important competitive edge when you launch. The same applies to the outsourced technology provider you decide to use. It is important that your managed IT support provider is vendor agnostic yet has longstanding partnerships with reputable 3rd party suppliers that are industry leaders offering the best efficiency, agility and security.

The design and installation of a fully redundant office network using virtualisation technology as the core platform can offer you multiple advantages over a physical server infrastructure, such as:

- ▲ Consolidation could save you up to 50% on hardware and maintenance costs
- ▲ More straightforward backup and recovery
- ▲ Allowing you to achieve the highest availability at lowest cost
- ▲ Being able to use virtualisation as a strategy for expansion through better resource optimisation

Your chosen IT provider should be experienced in network design and management, allowing you to optimise hardware that is already in production and provide you with the best advice regarding what you should consider upgrading. Ultimately, you should aim for your network to be designed so that it is future-proof and flexible enough to grow in tandem with your business.

Any data centre your IT company uses should be ISO 27001 certified, which is the most widely accepted certification available for supporting information security. This ensures that risks and threats are assessed and managed appropriately and that physical security processes are enforced consistently. Data centres that carry this certification will conduct regular audits, including testing their security and CCTV monitoring.

It is essential that your technology partner has a clear understanding of the modern-day challenges you face operating within the financial industry. This includes the introduction of new regulations such as PRIIPs and the MiFID II Directive, and the possible impact that GDPR could have on your business along with any compliance obligations. Your supplier will need to ensure that your IT infrastructure includes the ability to provide long-term recordkeeping that meets with NCA guidelines. Similar applies to the safekeeping of any such data.

In terms of cyber security, you will most likely require a programme that is tailored to your specific business priorities, offering you the best protection and recovery measures for prompt resolution and restitution in the unfortunate event of a breach. Companies are under ongoing pressure from stakeholders to ensure that their IT systems include high performance defence against advanced threats, therefore all processes should be tried and tested to mitigate any damage caused.

The correct Disaster Recovery (DR) solution will activate in the event of an unexpected failure or disaster, allowing your business to continue as usual until the production systems are restored. Your DR prerequisites should focus on speed of recovery, ease of access and replicated functionality. Without a concrete DR plan in place, you could be putting your company in financial jeopardy and be leaving yourself open to reputational damage, or worse still, exposing your clients to a great risk of loss of data.

Today, having the best IT involves more than just good hardware. It is the backbone of your business and can be instrumental in delivering growth. Pick the wrong technology solution and it could bring everything to an abrupt halt. Ensure that system reliability and security are two of your main priorities.

"Tribeca provided invaluable consultancy when we recently acquired a new company. We would have struggled to have the data and systems migrated to our platform without their knowledge and support in a project with tight timescales. Tribeca enabled us to finish the project on time and on budget."

Jason Kennard - Go ETF

"I'd recommend Tribeca to anyone, they're responsive, knowledgeable, timely and the attitude of customer always comes first, it's not rocket science to apply these in business, but it's amazing how so few businesses actually do. Tribeca is, I'm glad to say, one of them."

Steve Rodley - GMI Resources (UK) LLP

"You provide a first class service at an acceptable price. Speed of response, knowledge of hardware and software, dealing with the smallest of issues without making us feel we should not have bothered them."

Paul Barry - Cargostore International Ltd

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