



UP, UP AND AWAY – Helping Asset Finance Systems Fly Higher

Q&A – Akshay Hari, director, Technology, Asset Finance, FIS Global

As leading asset finance firms continue to break free from old, restrictive technology, platform providers are upping their game to give clients even more control and flexibility. In response to common questions, FIS Technology Director Akshay Hari explains how the latest developments to Ambit Asset Finance will rise to industry challenges in 2021.

Q1: Cloud computing is reaching new heights in usage. How is Ambit Asset Finance taking advantage of the cloud's capabilities?

Akshay Hari: As more of our clients move their asset finance platforms off premise, we're continually evolving Ambit Asset Finance to improve its power and performance as a cloud-based system. By modernizing the application to make its features cloud native, we are making it simpler, faster and even more cost effective to deploy and upgrade in the cloud.

Along the way, we are also improving the system's performance, so that it can handle a significantly higher volume of transactions without compromising speed or efficiency. By rearchitecting Ambit Asset Finance in this way, we can help firms of all sizes take full advantage of the cloud's almost limitless scalability while delivering a more resilient IT infrastructure that will automatically heal itself when something goes wrong.

Q2: What is cloud-native technology and what are its advantages for asset finance systems?

AH: When software tools are cloud native, it means they have been built specifically to be used in a cloud environment. This simplifies and speeds up deployment, reduces delivery costs and allows us to provide Ambit Asset Finance on a software as a service (SaaS) basis. With SaaS, clients can access their systems online from wherever they are working, through a web-based user interface.

Making more of our components cloud native also makes it easier for our managed services team to run, maintain and scale our software applications for clients in the cloud. With real-time alerts in place, the team can monitor the health and performance of a client's system around the clock and respond rapidly to any issues.

Q3: Whether on premise or in the cloud, systems can take a lot of time and effort to configure to new requirements. Can FIS help speed up the process?

AH: Absolutely. Recently we have extended our configuration capability to include a new Business Logic Designer tool. With this, clients can configure new rules quickly themselves. Now, an in-house technical consultant can do the job of a whole development team, at the client's site and in a fraction of the time it would traditionally have taken to specify and schedule requirement, write code and develop and deploy plug-ins.

From allowing clients to build, test and deploy new calculations and validation messages within Ambit Asset Finance, we are extending Business Logic Designer into new areas of business logic, including the gathering and consolidation of data (ETL) and the use of APIs to simplify integration with other systems. We are also continually extending our APIs so that clients can easily integrate more third-party solutions and innovative technologies with their digital front-end solutions.

Ultimately, Business Logic Designer is all about enabling self-service and helping our clients improve time to market for new processes without developing code. A configuration job that would once have taken our development team more than 300 days can now be completed by two in-house consultants in four days.

Q4: Are different components of Ambit Asset Finance available as services in the cloud?

AH: Yes, in our drive to rearchitect the solution, we are breaking it down into different "medium-grained microservices" – large building blocks within Ambit Asset Finance that can run as native services in the cloud.

Currently, we're splitting up the solution into capabilities for reporting, documentation, workflow, contracts and identity management, but over time we will break it down a little further.

Q5: Will an on-premise deployment be able to access the new features and functions of Ambit Asset Finance?

AH: All of our technology is cloud agnostic, so it can be deployed either on premise, in a client's private cloud or in a public cloud, whether that's run by Microsoft Azure – our managed services partner – Amazon Web Services or another cloud provider.

We are working closely with Microsoft Azure to take full advantage of its native capabilities. So, inevitably, a client that takes our managed services is likely to get the best performance from Ambit Asset Finance. But clients that deploy the solution on premise will still benefit from the work we are doing to increase automation, improve performance and simplify deployment.

Additionally, you can deploy a hybrid solution that runs mainly on fixed infrastructure, but also extends to the cloud. For example, a client with an on-premise platform could opt in for an additional capability like elastic searching, which uses the scale of the cloud to search huge volumes of unstructured data, beyond an in-house database. Or, the same client could ask our managed services team to monitor and report on its solution's on-premise performance using cloud-based analytics.

Let's solve your new demands. Get in touch now and find out how Ambit Asset Finance can help you adapt and grow your business for less cost and risk with a flexible modern platform.