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Wombat Debuts DART Feed Entitlements Tools

Wombat Financial Software's Entitlements division, which the vendor acquired with the purchase of Harco Technology in January, will this week unveil two new Entitlements software systems based on Harco's DART (Data Access and Reporting Tool) technology.

The two products— DART Entitlements and Open Entitlements—should assist clients with monitoring and reporting datafeed usage, making it easier for them to comply with the requirements of exchange data audits, says Stuart Harvey, vice president of Entitlements at Wombat.

"Clients are struggling with the number of audits—they need to make them manageable somehow.... Having to prove that any system they implement is compliant is a large burden for clients," Harvey says. "A major issue is that applications distributing data are often built by developers who see data as a free commodity—but it's not; it's a liability. Our solution is trying to bring some control to that."

DART Entitlements is a permissioning application that controls user access to real-time data, while Open Entitlements is a software library for extending DART Entitlements to cover internal staff writing applications that

distribute market data. Though they share the name of Harco's DART usage capture and analysis system, Harvey says these tools are active control systems that enable feed users to control the entitlement of fee-liable data, more akin to Reuters' DACS (Data Access Control System).

"It does compete with DACS in the sense that it does the same job, but many electronic trading systems don't take any data from RMDS (Reuters Market Data System), so DACS can't monitor that data," Harvey says. "For example, people using Wombat feed handlers for direct connections need a comparable system."

The initial versions of the software cover more than 100 direct exchange and consolidated feeds for which Wombat provides feed handlers.

However, Harvey says future releases will not just support Wombat's feed handlers, but will be aimed at making the tools an open system. For clients using non-Wombat feed handlers, the vendor has defined a data format for publishing so that systems can cooperate, Harvey says.

The vendor developed the software over the past 18 months, and tested beta versions of the software with four clients in August—two

US-based hedge funds, and two investment banks in London. Users need to deploy an entitlements server and a database on-site, and access the reporting application via a browser.

Wombat has also been working with two exchanges in Europe and two in the US to obtain exchange feedback and ensure the reports generated are compliant with the exchanges' requirements.

"Most exchanges mandate a certain level of information around the number and identity of users connecting to their feeds, and we supply the ability to look at very low-level usage—for example, by symbol... or how many items are being subscribed to by a certain application," Harvey says.

The tools enable users to run a series of reports that will "hopefully" be accepted by the exchanges, Harvey says. Exchanges are still likely to perform audits on users, though these should be easier and less frequent as a result. "There should be fewer audits because the reports can be sent to the exchanges, and even when the exchanges do audit, the ease of use of the system should make that job on-site more efficient for the auditor, exchange and client," he says.

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