# CREATING A CRM STRATEGY FOR CAPITAL MARKETS



# SPEED READ

- CRM strategy should be implemented in Capital Market firms to capitalize on growth opportunities by providing sales teams and business managers with better tools and data analytics to increase revenue targets
- Successful CRM strategies involve improvements and advancements in three areas: information input (capture, data storage, and information output (reporting))
- Changing the negative sentiment, assessing goals, and creating a strategic vision are all steps in creating a successful CRM implementation plan

# INTRODUCTION

Customer Relationship Management (CRM) strategy design should be at the forefront of all revenue producing banks to capitalize on growth opportunities using customized sales tools in conjunction with automation technologies. Within Capital Markets, firms still lack the ability to efficiently collect and transform qualitative metrics into actionable insights due to complex workflows, fragmented infrastructure, and the inability to report timely and accurate data. Robust CRM platforms should provide COOs and sales teams with personalized client data and performance metrics that are immediate and actionable — this could be the difference between closing a deal or missing it.

COOs, relationship managers, sales managers, and individual sales should feel empowered by real-time and easily accessible data as they speak with clients and new prospects. Critical to this empowerment is both the input of information and the consumption/output of data. Unfortunately, this input and consumption have proven to be problematic across the market. By placing an emphasis on CRM strategy, firms can better support the end-to-end customer journey (input), optimize data analytics (output), and with that added intelligence strive for a bigger piece of market share.



\*Examples of qualitative and quantitative metrics

Capital markets firms are in a prime space to increase sales and grow market share with a new or optimized CRM strategy though there is typically an unwillingness to adapt, mostly due to a fear of change or of the unknown.

With the right assistance, firms can change their negative sentiment around current CRM strategies, assess new goals and needs, and create a strategic vision to pave the way forward toward more sales.

#### **Historical Impact Across Industries**

When CRM adoption expanded around 2012, firms began to recognize a large return on their investments. As of 2022, most organizations are averaging a spend of \$500,000 to \$5 million a year on CRM technology and seeing a large upside. In research performed by Martech Zone,2 they found that the ROI for CRM software usage can exceed 245%. It is no wonder why this is currently over a \$66 billion dollar industry.

# Stuck in the past: For financial firms the problem is three-fold

Why have some capital markets failed at a successful CRM strategy when statistics prove implementation to be so positive?

We believe there are three factors, Information Input (Capture), Data Storage Management, and Information Output (Reporting):



## **Information Input**

- Due to outdated UI design, multiple points of entry, and usability issues, sales and management do not fully log qualitative information
- Without a complete view of these metrics, they cannot help to inform sales tactics and strategies.



#### **Data Storage**

- How data is consumed and managed is not always streamlined across business areas or products
- Technology systems, data warehouses, and analytical tools can be complex but house metrics which are pertinent to effective CRM planning and implementation.



## **Information Output**

- These is a widespread problem with receiving both a digital and printable report of qualitative and quantitative metrics in one centralized place which automatically updates intraday
- Individual Sales and Management often does not have the ability to see their personal or team productivity to capitalize on opportunity areas.

# MOVING YOUR BUSINESS FORWARD WITH A CRM STRATEGY

A go-forward CRM plan includes four steps to getting unstuck from the past and moving forward to a more productive future:

### 1. Change Sentiment Around Current CRM Application Offerings

Top four reasons stalling CRM growth and how to turn that negative sentiment around:

# 1. Options for capturing information are too complex and time-consuming

 How to solve: Automation and reengineering efforts can simplify and streamline data capture

#### 2. Management reporting falls short of expectations

 How to solve: Project managers can work with developers and UX designers to reengineer sales tools and applications

#### 3. Hard to realize upside

 How to solve: Sales and COO teams should evaluate productivity changes over time as CRM enhancements are implemented

# 4. External vendor platforms can be costly and are not scalable

 How to solve: Customized options for all budgets are viable both externally and in-house with a dedicated team that can perform a best-fit analysis

#### 2. Assess goals and needs

In building out CRM strategy, firms will have to consider whether they should build or buy the core technology behind their CRM. They will need to determine if the assessment and development should be conducted from within the organization or if it is advantageous to hire an external team that may be able to ease the process. The dedicated strategy team must be available to carry out this assessment and should partner with COOs, sales teams, business managers, and development teams to perform a current state assessment, define opportunities, and build an ideal future state of CRM tools as it relates to data capture, storage, and reporting.

# Cost Benefit Analysis

- Firms will have to consider whether they should build or buy the core technology by conducting a comprehensive analysis.
- Upfront costs and ongoing maintenance costs of a vendor solution vs in house should also be considered over time.



#### Current State Assessment

- An assessment will have to be completed to understand your current infrastructure capabilities.
- Does your firm already have a tool collecting CRM data and does it need to be revamped or are you starting from the ground up?



 Firms should assess the urgency of implementing their strategy.

An off-the-shelf solution

would speed up the time to market and save on initial hire costs whereas building in-house, while more costly upfront, gives firms the flexibility that comes with proprietary technology.



- Finding the right skillsets to fill roles can be challenging and can include full stack developers, solution architects, Product/ Program Managers, and UX designers.
- Firms often forget the technical teams will need a a committed partnership with the Business to develop software that fits their needs.



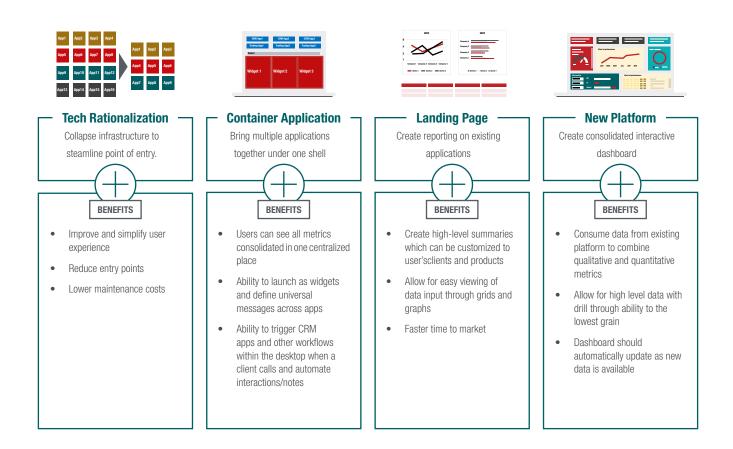
- Building a roadmap is an integral part of presenting and managing your strategic viewpoint and should show high level steps in succession and in parallel to one anothe.
- The plan should provide a flexible framwork to help manage, drive and forcast technology developments.

#### 3. Create a future strategic vision

Gathering inputs and outputs more effectively to produce detailed insight into a complete client profile will allow for higher success in future leads across products. CRM data should ideally make its way to sales, management, trading, research, prime brokerage, and C-Suite executives so teams can follow through on tasks in their pipeline and ensure every connection to a client is made with intention.

Firms should assess their current state and choose the strategy that works best. Trends highlighted below are not mutually exclusive and all of them should be a part of a firm's wider CRM strategy discussion in conjunction with automation opportunities.

- Input Target State: A user interface which allows users to swiftly enter real time qualitative data where automation isn't available
- Data Storage Target State: Maintain a stable data warehouse as the golden source of information to house data metrics
- Output Target State: Easily accessible reporting for sales, management, and C-Suite executives that enables real time and dynamic metrics to inform targeted approaches



# CONCLUSION

Understanding the infrastructure in the as-is state and formulating a future CRM strategy can feel overwhelming but is achievable with a dedicated team of resources who are experienced in understanding the challenges and opportunities from concept to delivery. Successful implementation will optimize available information and empower front office teams to create sales strategies based on informed analytics and a comprehensive view of client data. Input usability should be simple, fast, and streamlined. Data should be stable and accurate. Reporting tools should consolidate quantitative and qualitative data downstream and provide real actionable

insight so sales, managers, relationship managers, and COOs perform their duties with a clear focus and intention.

Capco believes investing in CRM Strategy puts your firm in the best position to support customer needs while increasing business revenue and wallet share. Insights obtained are used to beat the competition and help companies become adaptive and resilient. If you believe your firm is positioned to benefit from a new and improved sales strategy, Capco would be happy to assist you in your CRM journey.

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