



“Customised data centre solutions
and managed IT services”



Sirca and ac3 growing together in partnership

Since Sirca began using **ac3's** data hosting service in 2001, it has grown to become a world leading financial markets e-research company with over 250 university, regulator and commercial clients world-wide.

Established in 1997 to promote research excellence, thought leadership and innovation in the financial and related services industries, Sirca's e-research and data management services now span all major traded asset classes, corporate governance, wealth management and news related coverage of corporate, economic, and environmental events.

In addition to 30 universities in Australia and New Zealand, Sirca's membership and client base now comprises the Reserve Bank of Australia and overseas universities including Oxford University in the UK.

Central to Sirca's mission is the need to enable the sharing of infrastructure amongst researchers and the creation and maintenance of financial market databases for the exclusive use of Sirca members and subscribers.

“The major dataset that sits underneath a lot of our services captures around 180,000 records a second from over 2,500 different sources, and we have a 14 year history of that,” explains Dr Michael Briers, Sirca's Chief Executive Officer.

“It captures trades from every market in the world including news stories and economic announcements. We believe it is the largest financial database in the world. By using **ac3's** hosting service, we've been able to not only manage a massive dataset and provide extremely quick access to it, we've also been able to normalise the data that comes in different formats from different parts of the world so it all looks the same.”

In addition to hosting all of Sirca's equipment and data (consisting of a Unix cluster of approximately 150 servers and 520 terabytes of disk storage), **ac3** also provides Sirca with systems-level services including networking, security, porting of software, systems engineering and operational support.

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According to Dr Briers, as Sirca's business has expanded beyond its original group of universities and academic clients, its relationship with **ac3** has also grown. In particular, he says that **ac3** has been able to provide extremely high levels of security and service reliability which has been important in gaining the trust of data partners.

Sirca now provides Internet based services to Thomson Reuters' clients globally. These are typically investment bankers and others who are very discerning about how and when they get their data. Much of this data is business critical, and therefore its security and the speed with which Sirca is able to deliver it in a consistent and robust manner has become ever more critical, Dr Briers says.

"Whereas academics might tolerate a service being down for a little while, investment bankers don't. Our relationship with **ac3** has consequently grown in a way that has enabled us to deliver higher service levels to a much more discerning client base globally. **ac3's** equivalents in other states just don't have its 24x7 security level accreditation," he reflects.

Nor has it just been one-way, and Briers considers Sirca and **ac3** to be a good cultural fit in terms of their mutual sizes.

"We're not an anonymous client, we get a personal touch. The relationship has been mutually beneficial for both organisations. Sirca has been pleased to make a contribution to **ac3's** growth and evolution, and **ac3** has had an important role for us in keeping some very important clients happy," he says.

Monique McIntosh, **ac3's** Chief Operating Officer concurs. "It's been a good relationship for the pair of us. We've seen Sirca grow to become one of our largest customers. We have a dedicated network and security team who use their specialist skills to provide a highly secure environment for all our customers. So Sirca can concentrate on what is really important to them, which is running their business," Ms McIntosh says.

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