

Quintant Partners

Services, Solutions and Support

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Introduction

With more than 40 years of experience and lots of new ideas, we're ready to be your partner for success.

Quintant Partners is a consulting firm working with insurance clients on the use and strategy of modelling tools and technology to support key business processes such as statutory economic capital calculations, external financial reporting and other capital, risk and financial metrics used to support management decisions.

We also advise software, technology and professional services firms seeking to build commercial engagements with insurers in areas such as business development, market entry strategy, the developing business requirements of the sector and act as coach to individuals in senior management roles in those organisations.

Across the team, we have a range of recent, specific and relevant experience appropriate for the challenges faced by our clients in today's environment.

- Working with a large UK life insurer to formulate contingent strategies to mitigate delivery risk of a significant Solvency II economic modelling project, including the design and delivery of the "Plan B" option
- Design and delivery of a model governance framework encompassing internal model validation and justification to be compliant with Solvency II requirements for a globally systematically important insurer
- Stimulate and challenge the senior management of leading software vendor facilitating a refresh of their product road map developing a leading edge product, differentiated from competitors by anticipating and delivering on emerging requirements of insurers.

- Supporting a new entrant in their modelling platform selection decision, by guiding them through their current and future requirements and helping them understand the emerging technology landscape.

Whatever your financial modelling maturity or capability, we will help you understand the art of the possible and maximise existing & future investments.

www.quintantpartners.com

@quintant



Guy Shepherd

Adam Tyrer



Services that Support You

We help you define, develop and deliver your vision, in the way you want.

We can help you achieve your business objectives by leveraging existing and future investment in technology by providing access to:

- Business and technology leadership
- Experienced and trusted partners
- Best practices and frameworks
- Tools and solutions

Analysis and Research Services

In order to make the most appropriate and informed decisions in the actuarial and risk technology domain, clients need access to the most up-to-date information and insight. We offer a view of peer-group activities, successes and failures, and make sense of emerging trends in the marketplace. We use our wealth of industry expertise to support you in your journey while minimising risk and maximising value.

Delivery and Deployment Support

We recognise that in many situations using the existing internal resources of an organisation represents the most appropriate and cost effective way to deliver change. However, we understand there will also be times when access to additional specialist or experienced resources in a particular discipline will be of value. Quintant Partners offers a variety of resources with a range of experiences to support internal capability when the need arises. We can provide these resources on a flexible manner to ensure clients have what they need when they need it.

Solutions, Frameworks and Toolkits

In order to accelerate decision making and solution delivery we have developed a range of solutions, frameworks and toolkits to complement our services and support. These allow clients to quickly understand the dimensions of a particular problem or opportunity and make properly informed decisions. Our fully flexible and platform agnostic solutions are designed to offer a view of what's possible and provide a springboard for change.



How to Use this Catalogue

This catalogue includes the current range and planned future offerings available from Quintant Partners to help your business develop the knowledge to design, plan, deploy, operate and support actuarial & risk management technology solutions.

Details of each offering are summarised by general offering category.

For more detailed information on a particular service, solution or support provision, please contact us directly or refer to the latest list of offerings available on our website. Similarly, if there are any other offerings which you would like to see, please get in touch.

Duration

The duration of our services and support will largely depend on the size and scope of the engagement, however a number of our offerings are essentially time-boxed to ensure you get the most important answers in the shortest time possible.

Type of Offering

The majority of our offerings will provide you with direct access to one or more of our consultants. Some of our engagements are based around specific toolkits or structured workshops as indicated by the appropriate icon.

We also offer a number of industry-wide or organisation specific events. Again these are denoted by the appropriate icon.



New offering

WORKSHOP

Workshop-based offering

TOOLKIT

Engagement includes access to a toolkit

EVENT

A Quintant Partners Event

FUTURE OFFERING

Planned future offering

Strategy and Planning

Having a robust and well defined actuarial or risk systems strategy should be a foundation of any agile and evolving insurance organisation. As disruptive trends in technology continue to change the way in which every stage of the insurance business operates, so the need for close alignment between IT and business objectives grows. Our strategy and planning services help CIOs, actuarial and risk directors align the IT and business visions to reduce risk and maximise productivity.

SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Actuarial & Risk Systems Environmental Health Check



1-2 WEEKS

Given the complexity of today's financial modelling ecosystems, it's not always obvious where or how to focus the next round of investment in order to derive the biggest business benefit or to minimise risk of service disruption. We have developed our actuarial & risk management systems health check based on more than 20 years of practical experience designing, developing, testing, operating and supporting primary technology in the insurance industry.

Model Migration and Consolidation Strategy / Business Case



2-3 WEEKS

Insurers who embraced the first generation of financial modelling tools in the 1990s / 2000s may now be left with a complex and inefficient collection of systems poorly aligned to the needs and agility of a modern insurance organisation. The ongoing development, support and maintenance of such a wide variety of platforms can also be a significant and unsustainable burden to the organisation. We can help you establish a robust strategy and / or business case for consolidating your models onto your preferred strategic modelling platform and ensure you unlock tangible benefits of undertaking such activity.

Cost Benefit Analysis for Actuarial Systems Transformation

3-4 WEEKS

Unfortunately, demonstrating tangible financial benefits of any actuarial systems transformation is not always straightforward due to the complexity of the enterprise and the number of moving parts. Similarly, given that any change is likely to be expensive, time consuming and potentially risky, it's vital that a wide range of factors is considered when attempting to justify or understand the potential benefit of change. This offering helps clients develop a robust and multi-dimensional cost benefit analysis for any significant change or transformation they are considering.

Modelling Software Product Strategy and Roadmap (for Vendors)

6-8 WEEKS

As a vendor of financial modelling or associated technology, you will recognise the need for continuous innovation and responding to existing and future client needs. This offering helps vendors develop or refine their product and marketing strategy, and help them develop a roadmap for future commercial success based on our market awareness and insight into the needs of existing and future clients.

Strategic Architecture & Planning Advisor

6-36 MONTHS

Architecture and planning advisors provide ongoing assistance to articulate the business value of actuarial and risk technology. They provide measurable financial benefits, specifying cost and schedule and show how technology aligns with organisational strategies and initiatives. Advisors are committed to customer advocacy. They champion customer goals and proactively identify opportunities to enhance the business value of existing and planned technology investments.

SOLUTIONS, FRAMEWORKS AND TOOLKITS

Modelling Capability Maturity Assessment

TOOLKIT

2-3 WEEKS

Understand how various dimensions of your modelling capability compare to those of your peers. Using our extensive toolkit, an experienced consultant will review your current functional and non-functional modelling and associated systems capability, its alignment to business goals and recognised best practice in the industry. Based on this analysis we will recommend areas on which you may want to focus future investment in order to develop your modelling capability and climb the maturity curve as quickly and efficiently as possible. The maturity assessment can also be used to measure the progress / success of any strategic change programme.

Actuarial Systems Strategy Development

TOOLKIT

TYPICALLY 4-6 WEEKS DEPENDENT ON SCOPE

An Actuarial Systems Strategy is essential in summarising how the actuarial systems function and capabilities will contribute to the success of the actuarial function and the organisation at large. The strategy provides the direction of travel for a variety of stakeholders including the executive team, actuarial leadership, IT leadership, and of course the actuarial community. Our toolkit and associated support allows a strategy to be developed or refreshed in a coherent and structured manner, based on practical hands-on experience in large insurance organisations undergoing technology or business transformation.

Total Cost of Modelling Platform Ownership

TOOLKIT

1-2 WEEKS

The Quintant Partners Total Cost of Financial Modelling Platform Ownership and Operation toolkit provides an objective and empirical insight into the true cost of selecting, implementing, operating and supporting a financial modelling environment over a variety of time horizons. The toolkit is designed to be technology agnostic and allow comparison between different platforms and implementation approaches, either as part of a selection exercise or to demonstrate the costs / benefits of change. Similarly, the toolkit will demonstrate the real cost of a modelling environment regardless of its size, either at a point in time or as part of an ongoing programme of change.



Systems Architecture & Design

In today's highly competitive insurance market, organisations are seeking ways to use modelling, data and analytics to better support the strategic goals of the business at large. Quintant Partners offer a number of services to help improve agility, reduce costs & simplify processes, and leverage existing investments & assets to gain competitive advantage in the marketplace.

SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Considerations for Enterprise Modelling Platform Adoption

1 WEEK

In recent years a number of apparently enterprise-ready financial modelling platforms have appeared on the market. While at first glance the features of these platforms seem to align to the increasingly demanding requirements of the end-user community, how useful and relevant are they really in the operational environment of a modern insurance company? This guide outlines some of the most important factors when considering the adoption of such a package.

Common Modelling Environment

1-2 WEEKS

In many organisations different models and modelling platforms are used at different stages of the customer lifecycle. This makes reconciliation between different stages of the value chain difficult and time consuming. This engagement helps firms understand the potential of using a common platform and set of models across all aspects of the insurance lifecycle, and breaking down pre-conceived ideas regarding the feasibility of such a design.

Assessment and Roadmap for Modelling Solution Architecture

3-4 WEEKS

This engagement provides a decisive perspective on existing and future modelling solution architecture capabilities. It delivers a tailored roadmap with prioritised recommendations, supported by comprehensive documentation of findings, service inventory, and maturity & adoption levels.

Plan B – Alternative Solution Design

3-4 WEEKS

Adopting a particularly new or exotic solution comes with its own risks and sometimes these risks need to be mitigated by developing alternative "Plan B" solutions, just in case the worst happens. This engagement provides the envisioning, planning and design services requirements to provide a pragmatic alternative solution design should the need arise.

Modelling as a Service / Cloud Modelling

1-2 WEEKS

This offering help clients understand the potential opportunities associated with the development and operation of financial models as a service in a cloud-based or hosted environment using a utility (pay per use) model. This engagement goes beyond the relatively straightforward use of cloud distribution / bursting of workload to running existing and future modelling technology as a full platform and as a service offering. It also covers important considerations such as the security and privacy of data in transit and at rest.

Open Source Modelling

1 WEEK

Historically the open source movement has failed to penetrate the actuarial and risk management functions, largely due to the perceived risks associated with adopting an "unsupported" platform. In recent years, the majority of organisations have embraced open source technology (with appropriate support) for a variety of mission critical activities. This engagement explores the potential benefits and challenges of using open source technology to address the emerging & future needs of financial modelling.

Legacy Model Integration Design

2 WEEKS

Financial modelling platforms have traditionally been isolated from the rest of the actuarial and risk management enterprise, largely due to the lack of integration points and having a relatively closed & opaque architecture. With the majority of insurers still relying heavily on models developed and operating on these legacy systems, the benefits of integration are potentially significant. This engagement explores ways in which legacy models could potentially be integrated with other components of the actuarial / risk infrastructure to increase productivity and reduce failures.

Spreadsheet Inventory Analysis & Replacement Design

TYPICALLY 1-2 WEEKS DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF SPREADSHEETS

Spreadsheets are often used as prototype solutions or when more industrial strength capability is out of reach of the actuarial and risk management user community. Unfortunately, such solutions often find their way into production use and therefore present a potential risk to the organisation due to lack of controls, governance and / or performance. This offering reviews the spreadsheet inventory of an actuarial function and suggests alternative solution designs to provide equivalent (or better) functionality.



Art of the Possible & Probable

2 WEEKS

This engagement helps those responsible for actuarial and risk management solution architecture understand the true art of the possible using existing hardware, software and service offerings. Furthermore by considering planned and anticipated future offerings, the art of the probable may also be considered to ensure that future evolution is not hampered by short-sighted design.

Model Solution Architecture and Design Support

TYPICALLY 1-2 WEEKS

To complement existing internal architecture and design capability we can help provide focused effort to ensure your future business, technology, data and organisational architecture is optimised for future success.

Vendor / Service Provider Selection Support

2-6 WEEKS DEPENDING ON COMPLEXITY OF REQUIREMENTS / CANDIDATES

When the time comes to select a new software or service component to the risk management or actuarial function, it's essential that any selection decision is based on as much available insight, information and experience as possible. This engagement helps you develop the framework for the decision making process and ensures that all dimensions of the process are appropriately considered, from requirements, through RFI / RFP, through negotiation to final decision.

SOLUTIONS, FRAMEWORKS AND TOOLKITS

Modelling Platform Selection Toolkit

TOOLKIT

TOOLKIT INCLUDING 1 DAY OF SUPPORT

Selecting a financial modelling platform is likely to be a decision that most insurers will only face once during the lifetime of a given business, or at least only once during the lifetime of a specific organisational structure of the business. This means that making the most appropriate selection decision for both the current and future anticipated needs of that business is absolutely critical and requires an appropriate level of thought and investment. This toolkit is designed to provide a comprehensive & structured framework for assessing the functional and non-functional features of a financial modelling platform, either in isolation or against competitor products.

Mo.net for MoSes Developers

FRAMEWORK INCLUDING 1 DAY OF SUPPORT

This offering enables organisations who already have existing MoSes development, support and operational capability to leverage this experience with the Mo.net platform. This guide details the principle differences between the platforms and describes how to perform some of the most common operations in both platforms, from a development and operational user's perspective.

(Other platform combinations available on demand)

Model Development Life Cycle (MDLC)

2 WEEKS

Developing financial models is analogous to developing any other complex, mission critical software asset, however to date, mature software development disciplines have largely failed to penetrate the model development environment. The Quintant Partners MDLC is a software development lifecycle tailored to the specific needs of an insurance organisation and allows non-IT developers to develop models in a robust, repeatable manner to improve efficiency and reduce risk.

Solution Development & Project Delivery

Insurance firms are continually striving to reduce the costs associated with implementing model changes, either as part of regulatory change or internal business / product development. At the same time organisations are seeking to reduce the risks to the business of application failures or shortcomings. These offerings are focused on model development best practice and implanting change in a robust but efficient manner to minimise the impact of change on the business.

SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Configuration Management for Financial Models

3-4 WEEKS

The principle tools used for financial model development do not usually offer the rich and robust configuration management feature set which is common in the majority of today's software development environments. As a consequence, developers are often forced to adopt fragile manual procedures in an effort to manage model code and operational configurations. This offering provides advice and suggested solutions for designing and implementing lightweight but effective configuration management capability around your existing modelling environments.

Modelling Project Health Check

1-2 WEEKS

The successful delivery of financial modelling projects can be a challenge, even for those who are seasoned project delivery professionals. Gaining the appropriate blend of skills, experience, behaviours and cultural awareness is critical to the success of such projects. This offering provides a focused and impartial review of a modelling project's health, regardless of its status or project lifecycle stage, considering milestones, costs, risks, issues and other key metrics, in order to provide a more robust foundation for future activity.

Modelling Project Benefits Realisation Review

1-2 WEEKS

This offering provides a rich, standardised framework for assessing the quality and completeness of artefacts delivered as part of any model or associated system delivery to the actuarial or risk management function. An experienced actuarial project delivery consultant will help you determine alignment to original scope, requirements, design and expectations, and measure overall success of the project. We will provide you with a short report to allow continuous improvement in actuarial and risk management modelling projects.

Project Tour Guide, Navigator and Trouble-shooter

TYPICALLY 1 DAY EVERY 2 WEEKS FOR DURATION OF PROJECT

Sometimes despite the best efforts of all involved, projects lose their way and require refocusing in order to successfully achieve their intended goals. This offering provides access to highly experienced consultants who have a track record for getting actuarial technology projects back on track as quickly as possible.

Project and Programme Management and Oversight

TYPICALLY 2-3 DAYS PER WEEK FOR DURATION OF PROJECT

This offering provides access to our highly experienced actuarial systems / modelling project delivery experts who will complement internal resources to ensure projects achieve their goals. This includes bringing external perspective and direction to the project, ensuring it doesn't lose its focus but at the same time takes advantage of potential opportunities during delivery.

Business Analysis Support

DEPENDENT ON PROJECT DURATION AND SCOPE

Developing good quality, complete and appropriate functional and non-functional requirements for an actuarial or risk management transformation project can present a challenge for internal resources not used to the associated culture, vocabulary and environment. This offering provides clients with credentialed, experienced business analysis support to ensure projects set out on a robust footing with a coherent set of rich documentation to support design, delivery, testing and operation.

Test Design, Planning and Execution

4-6 WEEKS

Design, planning and executing test strategies for financial models and related systems can be a challenge for many insurance organisations. The level of complexity and sometimes volatile nature of requirements for system changes means standard techniques are not always appropriate or easy to use. This offering provides support to experienced testing personnel to ensure new models are delivered into mission critical roles with confidence.

Legacy Model Migration

TYPICALLY 2-4 MONTHS DEPENDING ON COMPLEXITY OF MODEL

As an insurance company's modelling capability matures, it's common to accumulate a number of different models developed across a variety of platforms, with each exhibiting different design, performance and quality characteristics. As a consequence many firms are now considering the consolidation of models onto a single strategic platform to reduce the total cost of ownership and operation. Due to the complexity of the existing models and the lack of documentation or knowledge about them, migrating them onto a new platform is a significant challenge. This engagement offers a migration as a service concept to migrate models from one platform to another.



EUC Industrialisation & Refactoring

TYPICALLY 2-4 WEEKS PER SPREADSHEET MODEL

We recognise that spreadsheets offer a perfect combination of flexibility, power and intuitiveness for the actuarial end-user community, especially when used as prototype models. Unfortunately spreadsheets can also quickly evolve into complex ecosystems of poorly understood, managed and operated workbooks, which then work their way into production use without any of the necessary controls. This engagement offers a service to refactor existing spreadsheet solutions into more appropriate industrial strength tooling.

Model Refactoring

TYPICALLY 8-10 WEEKS DEPENDING ON MODEL

Models often evolve quickly from humble beginnings into complex systems which are relied upon for critical decision making. Unfortunately unless the model has been well designed and developed from the outset, the code can quickly become impenetrable to all but the original developers. As a consequence models are hard to extend and support, and the layers of code often lead to performance and resource bottlenecks, hampering their use in a time critical environment. This engagement refactors a client's model using a combination of experienced model developers and a collection of industry-standard optimisation approaches and tools.

Planning Review & Assessment

TYPICALLY 1-2 WEEKS DEPENDING ON SCOPE / COMPLEXITY

We recognise that the successful delivery of actuarial and risk management solutions often relies on many complex components all coming together as part of a well-developed plan. This engagement provides clients with the opportunity to have new or partially delivered plans reviewed by consultants with a track record of successful delivery of actuarial systems to ensure the right steps are taken to enable future delivery success.

Resource Augmentation & Secondments

DEPENDANT ON CLIENT REQUIREMENTS

Sometimes clients require additional, sometimes highly specialised resources to support their existing internal project delivery capability. We can provide the appropriate resources either on a short term augmentation basis or longer term secondments.

SOLUTIONS, FRAMEWORKS AND TOOLKITS

Re-Modeller

DEPENDENT ON COMPLEXITY AND SCOPE OF MIGRATION

Moving models between platforms has always presented a significant challenge for any organisation considering M&A or other consolidation activity. The proprietary and closed architecture of most modelling platforms makes any migration difficult, and the lack of any tangible benefits beyond architectural purity mean justification can also be a challenge. Re-Modeller offers an alternative assisted migration approach for financial models. Using our in-depth experience of the principle modelling platforms together with our practical knowledge of model migrations, we're often able to offer a compelling case for migration.

Agile Model Development

DEPENDENT ON SCOPE OF MODEL

Traditional waterfall-based project delivery frameworks offer a robust but often cumbersome and slow solution for financial model development. With little or no models appearing for perhaps months or even years after requirements are agreed, stakeholders often become frustrated with lack of visible progress. While Agile project delivery should not be seen as something to try when traditional methods fail, it can provide rapid results in the right environment and with the right support. Quintant Partners are able to provide credentialed resources with hands-on experience of large-scale Agile model delivery in the largest and most complex insurance organisations.

Model Development Standards

1-2 DAYS

Historically actuarial and risk models were typically developed by actuaries with an interest in programming rather than by professionally trained developers. As a consequence models generally evolved organically rather than aligned to any specific development standard or framework, leading to challenges associated with readability, maintainability and compatibility. Given the complexity of today's enterprise-scale models, many developers or even teams of developers now unite to build and support such systems and rely on well-defined and practical standards to ensure consistency, reusability, transparency and efficiency. Our platform agnostic development standards provide an out of the box template for new and existing model development.



Business Intelligence & Data Management

With insurance organisations seeking any opportunity to differentiate themselves in the marketplace, quality & timely business intelligence can have significant benefits if implemented successfully. The Quintant Partners business intelligence, analytics and data management offerings can help you design & embed intelligence and analytics into the heart of risk, finance and actuarial operations.

SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Business Intelligence Insight for Insurance

WORKSHOP

2-3 DAYS

This workshop aims to provide attendees with a deeper insight into the challenges and opportunities associated with the delivery of business intelligence capability into an insurance organisation. The workshop uses lots of practical examples and experiences to help clients embark on their own business intelligence journey in confidence.

Data Quality by Design

3-4 WEEKS

With Solvency II and other regulatory regimes now requiring insurance firms to objectively demonstrate the quality and completeness of their financial reporting data, so the challenges of implementing such solutions for actuarial and risk management functions become apparent. With complex ecosystems of modern and legacy technology, finding a holistic solution is a challenge. This offering helps clients understand the art of the possible regarding data quality based on hands-on practical experience of implementing data governance solutions in large insurance organisations.

Business Intelligence Assessment & Blueprint

2-3 WEEKS

Find out how you can streamline your business intelligence processes to match business needs with this offering. An experienced consultant will analyse your current status, look at alignment of functional goals with business strategies, then design and document a business intelligence roadmap tailored to your organisation. Our experience with a variety of industry standard toolsets will provide a complete BI blueprint from the operating system to the end-user interface, regardless of current architecture.

SOLUTIONS, FRAMEWORKS AND TOOLKITS

Actuarial & Risk Intelligence and Analytics (ARIA)

4-6 WEEKS

Our ARIA offering provides a framework for providing business intelligence and analytics solutions designed specifically for the needs of the actuarial and risk management communities. The framework provides a set of loosely-coupled technology independent building blocks to accelerate any actuarial intelligence initiative and provide end-user value-add from the outset. Within a few weeks clients can expect to develop and deploy a rich and integrated set of dashboards and reports appropriate to the needs of various roles within the actuarial and risk community.

Actuarial & Risk Reporting and Analytics Data Model

8-12 WEEKS

Data is a fundamental and highly valuable asset for any insurance business. Insurers rely on an unambiguous understanding of the data, its meaning, associated rules and relationships, and its quality to make informed and appropriate decisions. Developing an appropriately rich and robust data model specifically for the needs of the risk and actuarial community reduces data movement, redundancy, the time to make decisions, and the level & cost of effort required for any maintenance or development involving data. Using our highly experienced consultants with a track record of insurance data model design and development, this offering allows clients to unlock the potential of their data assets.

Insurance Data Directory

4-6 WEEKS

Today's financial reporting processes require access to a vast array of information held in a multitude of locations and forms, and with varying degrees of consistency, quality, and completeness. While conventional data warehousing solutions may go some way to providing centralised access to appropriate data sources, they do little to aid the understanding and appropriateness of the data used as part of critical processes. This offering provides clients with an out of the box, scalable and extensible data directory to link business process context / use with specific data elements. Linking such elements allows the flow of complex business processes to be understood and the impact of up or downstream changes, gaps or errors to be quickly understood.



Value from Insurance Data (Warehouses)

4-6 WEEKS

With much being made about the potential of big data and advanced analytics, insurance firms should be well placed to unlock hitherto untapped value from their vast pools of data. Unfortunately the challenges of unearthing any tangible value from data are significant. This engagement helps clients identify potential sources of value in their existing data using tried-and-tested approaches for profiling and analysing specific sets of data and applying insurance domain expertise to focus on a specific opportunities rather than hoping to stumble across potential value. We will also help clients understand how to make the most of existing investments in data warehousing, or develop the business case for a data warehouse if one doesn't exist.

Building a BI Strategy for Insurance

TYPICALLY 2-4 WEEKS

Business intelligence projects can be challenging in any industry, however the complexity and legacy of any typical insurance organisation makes the successful delivery of BI initiatives in this environment very rare. In part this is due to poorly defined and appropriately shaped BI strategies appropriate for the needs and challenges of the insurance industry. This offering, using consultants with significant experience of developing and delivering such strategies in large insurance organisations, will help clients develop a BI strategy providing tangible and early visibility of business benefit.

Total Cost and Value of Data Quality

TYPICALLY 2-4 WEEKS

Insurance organisations typically have a large legacy of data, created and managed in outdated technology with a limited degree of control and documentation expected in today's environment. As a consequence many insurers may be carrying a significant risk associated with the use of poor quality data in business critical processes. This offering helps clients understand the true value of good data quality, and the potential costs of poor quality data. This in turn can help clients develop their business case for their data quality initiatives.

Advanced Insurance Analytics with Hadoop

TYPICALLY 1-2 WEEKS

In many industries Hadoop clusters are revolutionising the power and performance of advanced analytics, offering tangible differentiating insight into customer behaviour, sentiment, pricing, sales, and other fundamental business metrics. Whether you are looking to unlock the potential of an existing Hadoop investment or considering embarking on your first Hadoop venture, we can help you understand and maximise the opportunity based on our own experience of designing, building and operating Hadoop environments.

Data Lineage by Design

TYPICALLY 6-8 WEEKS DEPENDING ON SCOPE

As the complexity of the insurance information factory increases, and with an increased focus on obtaining accurate information from trusted sources of data, so the ability to demonstrate and evidence the lineage & provenance of data / information used for decision making becomes critical. Whether data used for decision making is sourced from data warehouses, spreadsheets, or complex financial models, we can help you understand the tools & techniques for implementing full data lineage capability in your financial reporting environment. This can help provide confidence that "last mile" results have come from the right place, or help understand the impact of upstream changes to data / systems.

Data Governance and Ownership Framework

TOOLKIT

2-3 WEEKS

In today's highly regulated insurance environment, having an appropriately rigorous level of control over all principal data assets used for key business processes is essential to ensure confidence in results and business decisions. This offering provides an adaptable toolkit to help establish an appropriately rich and robust data governance framework.

Total Cost of Data Ownership

TYPICALLY 2-4 WEEKS

This offering provides clients with a framework to fully understand the true cost of data ownership and control. Whether clients are seeking to embark on a new information strategy or help justify the expenditure required to improve existing data management and governance solutions, we can help ensure the total cost of ownership is properly calculated.

Integrating Financial Models with Analytics Platforms

TYPICALLY 2-4 WEEKS FOR PROTOTYPE SOLUTION

Financial models have the potential to provide insurance organisations with the insight they need in order to make appropriately informed decisions for their business and their customers. However, out of the box, most financial models are disconnected from the analytical and decision making processes, relying heavily on manual and fragmented processes to transform data and derive business value. This offering provides the ability to integrate financial models, regardless of the modelling technology, with the rest of the analytical enterprise, reducing costs, decision making time, and streamlining processes.

Reporting Platform Selection Toolkit

TOOLKIT

TOOLKIT INCLUDING 2 DAYS OF SUPPORT

While the design, development and operation of "last mile" financial reporting is arguably the most important aspect of the actuarial, risk and finance information factory, it's often given the least amount of attention and investment. Whether driven by the evolving reporting needs of Solvency II Pillar 3, or the need to perform better, faster and more collaborative reporting, implementing an industry standard reporting platform may be the answer. Our toolkit is designed to provide a comprehensive & structured framework for assessing the functional and non-functional features of a financial reporting platform, either in isolation or against competitor products.

Operation and Optimisation

Quintant Partners offer a range of services that aim to improve the processes and procedures that support key actuarial and risk system operations. These engagements provide advice, tools and capability to enable clients to significantly improve the stability and efficiency of key technology assets and associated processes. We offer assistance to guide actuarial, risk and IT communities in how best to utilise processes, tools & technology to improve service availability and overall performance.

SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Cloud Modelling Readiness & Design

3-4 WEEKS

Cloud computing is revolutionising the way businesses harness and pay for once exotic computing resources. The demanding and somewhat unpredictable compute and storage needs of the actuarial and risk management community are perhaps an obvious candidate to take advantage of cloud-based solutions. However, with legacy systems proliferating the insurance enterprise, unlocking these opportunities is not necessarily as simple as it could be. This engagement enables clients to understand the pros & cons, the opportunities & challenges associated with cloud-computing with specific focus on actuarial and risk solutions. Consultants with specific industry expertise of designing and deploying cloud-based actuarial technology will guide you on your path through the cloud computing landscape.

Modelling Centre of Excellence Organisation Design

4-6 WEEKS

Actuarial model development has historically fallen to appropriately minded actuaries and students with some experience & interest in software development. As models have grown in complexity and become mission critical in today's insurance operations, so the demands on the model development community have also increased. With models now under the spotlight in light of regulations such as Solvency II, so the application and demonstration of rigorous development and change management procedures commonplace in the IT function is now essential. This engagement helps clients understand the optimal mix of skills, experience, and roles to provide a modelling centre of excellence in your organisation.

Model Automation and BPM

TYPICALLY 3-4 WEEKS FOR PROOF OF CONCEPT

This engagement assists clients in understand the potential offered by model automation and business process management tools and methodologies. Historically the lack of integration between modelling tools and other components of the actuarial / risk enterprise has limited the potential for automation. With increased flexibility in the automation and BPM technology space, some of these barriers have now disappeared and the ability to automate and optimise actuarial modelling and associated processes is now a real possibility.

Triage and Operational Troubleshooting

4-6 WEEKS

Sometimes, despite the best laid plans, actuarial & risk management systems don't behave as intended, either through shortcomings in solution design, software capability or use. With the time available to address any failure of such critical systems so limited, we can offer clients the benefit of our significant practical experience of troubleshooting system issues in the most challenging of environments.

Model Distribution Optimisation

3-4 WEEKS

Many insurers have invested heavily in large compute clusters to service the ever increasing needs of their actuarial and risk modelling communities. Unfortunately due to the highly variable and sometimes exotic nature of the actuarial systems infrastructure in place in many insurers coupled with the rarefied needs of actuarial and risk modelling software, getting the most from such investments is not necessarily straightforward. We can offer clients unparalleled experience in getting the most out of their model distribution environments, whether using proprietary master worker solutions or more industry standard grid computing / HPC offerings.

Model Simplification and Optimisation

TYPICALLY 4-6 WEEKS DEPENDING ON MODEL

The financial models used today across the insurance industry are often the direct descendants of those developed when the first generation of desktop modelling software appeared in the mid-1990s. These models were commonly developed by actuaries without the formal design or programming experience required to develop efficient code from the outset. As a consequence these models have often evolved organically with little or no review of the underlying model design and are now bloated, slow and hard to maintain. With this offering we can help clients simplify and optimise their existing models without rebuilding the model from scratch. Our consultants have experience of developing mission critical solutions in the actuarial and risk management environment and come armed with many years of formal systems development and optimisation experience.



Model Distribution Design

3-4 WEEKS

While it might reasonably be expected for actuarial modelling platforms to provide a robust, efficient and scalable distribution platform "out of the box", the complexity and highly variable nature of end-user developed models and environments means this isn't necessarily the case. This engagement helps organisations understand the true capability and limitations of various model distribution mechanisms and design an optimal solution to meet the specific needs of your business / environment.

SOLUTIONS, FRAMEWORKS AND TOOLKITS

ModelBridge

TOOLKIT

DEPENDENT ON COMPLEXITY OF MODEL(S) - TYPICALLY 4 WEEKS PER MODEL

Many insurance firms rely on a range of financial models developed over many years using a variety of technologies on numerous different platforms. Unfortunately this often leads to an overly complex modelling estate which is difficult and costly to maintain, support & develop. ModelBridge provides those clients wishing to consolidate or migrate models onto a single platform with a structured framework & toolkit to accelerate the reduction in existing modelling debt. The toolkit, which is platform agnostic and incorporates many years of practical experience, provides rapid and comprehensive analysis of model structure, code, data, assumptions, output and operational configuration to aid the migration / consolidation journey.

Operational Dashboard for Modelling

4-6 WEEKS

Historically the vast majority of financial models were installed and operated from within the actuarial or risk management function. However, as the resource demands of these models has grown, so the footprint of the modelling enterprise has extended beyond the desktop into the data centre. With these same models now supporting many business critical processes, the need to keep the lights on has become increasingly important. The Quintant Partners Operational Dashboard for Modelling provides an out of the box collection of specific metrics and counters designed to monitor the operational health of any modelling environment, regardless of the technology used. The fully extensible and customisable framework can also integrate with standard service management tooling, allowing the IT service desk to help ensure the modelling estate runs as peak performance.

Model Operation: Implementation & Performance Review

1 WEEK

This is a proactive service that aims to deliver prescriptive problem identification and suggested resolution guidance for selected components of your modelling platform implementation. The review is designed to uncover potential performance and application configuration risks and provide recommendations for any identified issues.

ModelControl – Automating Model Runs

TYPICAL IMPLEMENTATION 8-12 WEEKS

The configuration and control of traditional actuarial models is largely a manual process reliant on the experience and discipline of the user community. The modelling systems themselves do little to aid the user in running models in a robust, controlled and auditable manner. ModelControl allows the user community to manage, control and operate their models and associated inputs, parameters and data without compromising flexibility. The framework also allows sets of standard model runs to be run as a batch at the start of each reporting cycle, reducing overheads and minimising the risk of error. By allowing key artefacts such as data, assumptions, standing data, run-time parameters, models and output to be explicitly versioned but not restricting the user in terms of the combination of artefacts that can be used, ModelControl allows an exhaustive audit trail of activities to be captured and past model / model sets to be re-run on demand using exactly the same (or different if required) data and assumptions.

Model Service Wrapper

1-2 WEEKS

The proprietary nature of most financial modelling platforms prevents end-user models from integrating fully with other components of the actuarial and risk management technology enterprise. As a consequence business processes are rife with manual interfaces, point solutions and spreadsheets to address the shortcomings in available technology. Our Model Service Wrapper solution allows existing financial models to be run "as a service" without the need for massive refactoring or development. The wrapper encapsulates existing model functionality but significantly enriches the interfaces to and from the model, allowing them to be integrated with other enterprise systems, such as data stores, web sites, BPM solutions, etc.



Governance and Risk Management

With financial models now providing business critical insight and analysis to many insurance organisation processes, so the governance and control of such systems is now paramount. The offerings below provide clients with the services, support and solutions to manage & control their existing actuarial & risk management technology environments.

SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Beyond Control – Business Benefit from Spreadsheet Governance

1-2 WEEKS

Spreadsheets are the life blood of many actuarial and risk management functions. However the risks associated end-user computing solutions such as spreadsheets is obvious, especially in today's highly regulated insurance environment. In recent years many firms have started to address the problematic convenience of spreadsheets with the adoption of internal or external technology to manage and control the use of such applications. However such solutions have so far struggled to penetrate the actuarial & risk management environments. This offering helps clients understand additional, perhaps more tangible business benefits from the adoption and carefully designed implementation of spreadsheet control solutions with a specific focus on actuarial and risk management users.

End-User Computing Control and Transformation Strategy

2-3 WEEKS

As insurance organisations begin to understand the real risks and implications of their end-user computing estate, so many will start to consider alternative, better controlled and perhaps more appropriate technology solutions. Unfortunately the sheer flexibility of these end-user tools means that alternative solutions providing the same or similar levels of functionality are not necessarily obvious, and the migration path is even less clear. This offering helps clients understand the alternative technologies that do exist to complement or replace end-user solutions, lowering the cost and risk of ownership, and providing opportunities for increasing productivity and flexibility.

Solvency II Readiness Assessment

3-4 WEEKS

With Solvency II compliance now in force, many insurers are now seeking clarification and confirmation of the key areas on which to focus their effort. Our readiness assessment is designed to provide this clarity by summarising the key requirements as they apply to our clients, signposting appropriate elements of legislation and any areas of uncertainty. From this we will help clients develop a gap analysis and action plan with a specific focus on modelling, systems and data related components.

Decision Support & Expert Witness

TYPICALLY 1-2 WEEKS DEPENDING ON SCOPE

When faced with a significant strategic or business critical decision, it's helpful to call upon independent support to help ensure the right decision is made. Our decision support and expert witness service will provide you with one of our senior consultants to help with requirements development & review, candidate / provider shortlisting and decision support.

SOLUTIONS, FRAMEWORKS AND TOOLKITS

ModelNote – Assisted Model Documentation

TYPICALLY 3-4 WEEKS PER MODEL

As financial models have evolved over the last 15-20 years from the actuary's desktop and into the enterprise data centre, so the documentation associated with requirements, design, testing and implementation is often found to be limited or missing completely. With the need for increased governance and control of today's models, the retrospective documentation of these systems often becomes a necessity rather than an option. The ModelNote solution provides a semi-automated way of documenting existing models in a standardised and flexible manner but allowing further enrichment by the developer / user community.

Assumptions Management Solutions

4-6 WEEKS

Today's complex financial reporting environments rely on a combination of well-developed models, good quality data and appropriate sets of assumptions. Unfortunately the majority of actuarial modelling tools include little or no functionality to help control and manage the assumptions used across the financial modelling environment. This offering provides a customisable and extensible assumptions management solution across a number of alternative technologies to help the end-user community govern modelling assumptions and provide management with confidence that the right assumptions have been used with the right model to produce the right results.

Evidence Management System

6-8 WEEKS

Ensuring and being able to evidence that the requirements, designs and implementation of models and other actuarial systems have been appropriately controlled and managed is now a critical task for most actuarial & risk management functions. Developing a solution to collect, store, manage and report such a complex set of interrelated evidence can be a significant challenge. This offering provides an out of the box evidence management solution template, which can be deployed in a variety of technologies to accelerate your path to a fully operational capability.

Model Governance & Control Framework

2-3 WEEKS

Today's highly regulated financial reporting environments demand models which are themselves tightly controlled and managed. This might include a rigorous model configuration management & release process, a well-designed and operated testing harness, and a suitable defect & service management solution. By evolving practice that is commonplace in the IT function, this offering provides an out of the box foundational model governance and control framework providing immediate, tangible benefit.



Research, Analysis and Events

We recognise that clients often want to understand the direction of travel of their peers and industry at large. Whether it's understanding the impact of a particular regulatory change or getting insight into the potential benefit of new technology, our research and analysis will help provide the answers. Similarly Quintant Partners' events allow peers to discuss common challenges in a safe environment and with access to industry thought leaders and expertise.

SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Annual Modelling Survey

ANNUAL REPORT

The Quintant Partners Annual Modelling Survey provides a comprehensive cross section of current activity across the actuarial & risk modelling & systems landscape. With information drawn from the global community of insurance organisations, each survey and associated report provides detailed insight into a number of key dimensions together with an informed commentary regarding current and emerging trends in the industry.



Modelling the Impact of IFRS4 Phase 2

TYPICALLY 2-4 WEEKS

With IFRS 4 Phase 2 likely to come into effect on 1st January 2018, insurers are starting to ready themselves for the next round of regulatory driven change. Following quickly on the heels of Solvency II, many insurers will be hoping to adopt a lighter touch approach for IFRS and build upon existing actuarial & risk management technology assets. This offering helps insurers understand the potential implications and gaps between the anticipated Solvency II capability and that which is likely to be demanded under IFRS 4 Phase 2. The offering also provides an insight for clients into some of the specific modelling aspects of the new regulation.



Modelling Platform Perspective

ANNUAL REPORT

The Quintant Partners Modelling Platform Perspective is a detailed review and commentary of the actuarial and risk modelling technology landscape, providing an independent view of the merits and shortcomings of all key platforms. It also takes a look ahead and compares known information relating to the roadmaps and plans for each of the platforms so that existing and future customers alike can make an informed decision about which platform is right for them.



Impact of Disruptive Trends on Financial Modelling

WORKSHOP

TYPICALLY 1-2 DAY WORKSHOP

Keeping a handle on the potential impact of emerging technology trends on the actuarial & risk management environment is a challenge. To help clients ensure they understand the benefits and implications of emerging trends, but also filter out the hype, we offer a workshop and accompanying report to ensure insurers are appropriately informed as they develop their future actuarial & risk management vision & associated systems strategies.

Risk & Actuarial Modelling Club

SERIES OF EVENTS AND ACCESS TO RESEARCH

The Quintant Partners Modelling & Systems Club is a must for anyone who works in or has an interest in the evolving world of actuarial & risk modelling platforms and associated systems. Membership of the club provides access to all Quintant Partners events, three pieces of research / analysis (except toolkits) per year, and an opportunity to share ideas & discuss challenges with your peers through our networking forums.

Board & Team Meeting Attendance

DEPENDENT ON CLIENT REQUIREMENTS - TYPICALLY 1 DAY PER QUARTER

Sometimes clients simply want to stay in touch with emerging trends and competitor / peer group behaviour. As an alternative to attending our own regular events, we are happy to spend time with you and your teams to share the latest thinking and insight from around the industry on any matters relating to actuarial & risk systems, modelling and technology.

Risk & Actuarial Systems Conference & Seminars

EVENT

ANNUAL / QUARTERLY EVENT

The Risk & Actuarial Systems Conference is the must attend event for anyone involved in the design, development, deployment and operation of any actuarial or risk management modelling package or related systems. Our annual event provides a day focused on the challenges and opportunities associated with all aspects of actuarial systems, and provides unparalleled access to members of the Quintant Partners team, vendors, service providers, and peers across the industry.

Domain Specific Training & Mentoring

TYPICALLY 1-2 WEEKS DEPENDING ON SUBJECT AND SCOPE

We recognise that quickly expanding the actuarial modelling or systems capability within an organisation can be a challenge, especially with such complex interconnected systems in place and with a less than ideal body of existing knowledge & documentation. This fully bespoke offering provides clients with tailored technology training to meet their specific needs, such as model design and development, creating reports and analysis using BI tools, or simply running the right systems in order to populate the year-end returns. Our consultants have extensive practical experience of not only the principal software packages but also the domains in which they are used. This will help ensure knowledge is developed quickly and effectively across the end-user population.



Platform Specific Independent User Groups

EVENT

ANNUAL EVENT

We recognise that sometimes the users of the main actuarial & risk management software packages appreciate the opportunity to get together and discuss common challenges and solutions in a safe environment away from the eyes and ears of the vendor. Quintant Partners consultants are on hand at our independent platform user groups to provide thoughts, opinion and facilitation.

Custom Research

TYPICALLY 1-2 WEEKS DEPENDING ON SUBJECT AND SCOPE

We recognise that our clients sometimes require answers to very specific questions, which aren't readily available from usual sources. To address such requirements we offer a bespoke service to provide independent, tailored and exclusive research / analysis on behalf of our clients.

Whether you are about to embark on a specific project or have an interest in peer group activity, we can help you get the answers you need to make an informed decision.



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Contact

General Contact Information

United Kingdom

Email: info@quintantpartners.com
Telephone: +44 (0)20 3746 6364

Office Location

United Kingdom

7th Floor
4 Chiswell Street
London
EC1Y 4UP



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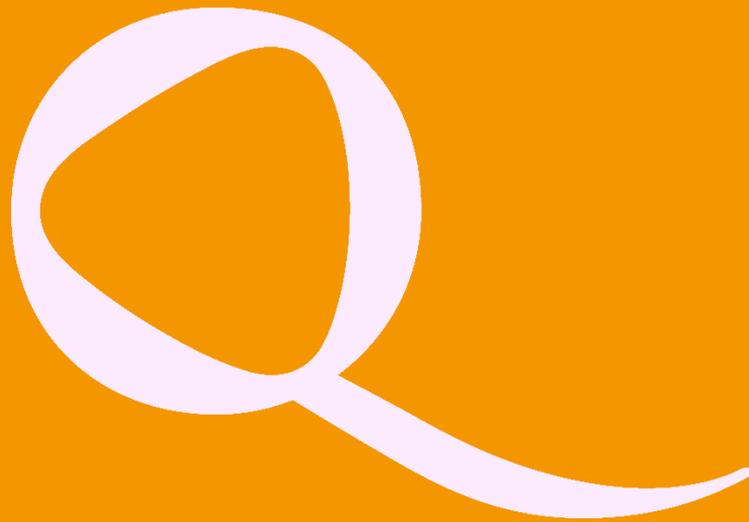
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