

TECHNOLOGY

Treasury departments have always been heavy users of technology due to the risks associated with their activities. Although the dream of having a completely automated, straight through processing and real time record keeping treasury department is yet to come, progress on a number of fronts continues to be made. This month's spotlight looks at the various developments and provides insights into the experiences of companies in implementing some of these new opportunities.

Neil Cotter of Logica takes us on a journey which looks at how corporates purchase financial instruments and the challenges that lie ahead in maintaining multiple bank relationships whilst at the same time benefiting from the technological and operational developments. As the prospect of executing treasury transactions completely automatically gets ever closer **Tom Buschman** of Shell discusses how the imperfections with existing processes are being worked on and how standards such as Twist are assisting with true straight through processing.

After all the hype of 2000 **Anne Querée** offers an assessment of where the various currency trading platforms are. She notes some surprising results from recent surveys on on-line trading and provides an assessment of where the market is going. In addition to electronic currency trading organisations now exist to enable other products such as money market loans and deposits to be transacted via web based 'brokers'. **Tony Johnson** of Cognito Europe looks at how two companies have taken the leap to embrace these new mechanisms and the benefits that have accrued to both companies.

Paul Gilmartin of Emap assesses how the implementation of a more functional treasury management system and its integration with various third party treasury systems has reduced manual processing and improved the overall control regime – two key battles that treasury functions continue to wage war on. His article provides a gritty review of the challenges Emap has faced in creating an integrated software treasury function.

The aggregation of data collected from different treasury centres used to be a critical problem for data integrity and its consolidation. **Daniel Andres** of SimCorp looks at the implications that remote access can have – especially on the management of cash within a multinational organisation. Finally, **Jon Purr** of Sungard Treasury Systems considers the opportunities to use the treasury workstation to integrate the various interfaces the back office has for confirmation matching, cash management, bank reconciliation, payments and receipts and multilateral netting.

If you have any views or comments on the following articles, particularly those on currency trading platforms and web-based financing, you are encouraged to join the online discussion forum at www.treasurers.org/forum.

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