



# TAMING YOUR TECH STACK



# MODERNIZATION



No sizzle, all steak.

PROCESS

PEOPLE

PLATFORM

# PROCESS



# PLATFORM



# FOCUS WORK

Chief Executive Officer  
 Chief Growth Officer  
 Chief Planning Officer  
 Chief Investment Officer  
 Chief Operating Officer

Business management  
 Marketing management  
 Lead Advisor  
 Service Advisor

Relationship management  
 Financial plan: input and initial analysis  
 Portfolio administration  
 Marketing administration

Meeting prep & follow-up  
 Schedule management  
 Client service, general  
 Paperwork processing

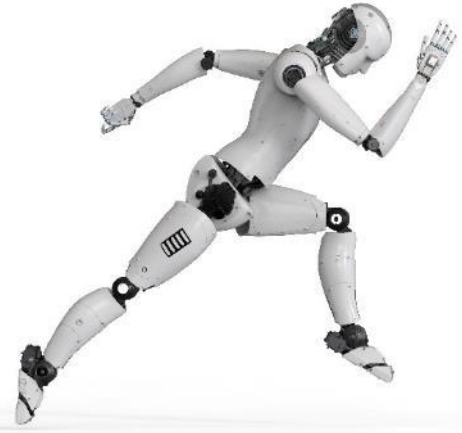
Data entry  
 Appointment scheduling  
 General administrative work  
 Reception

# FACTORY WORK

# PEOPLE



THAT WAS THEN...



...THIS IS NOW



ShareFile™



ORION



loom



DocuSign®



Ameritrade

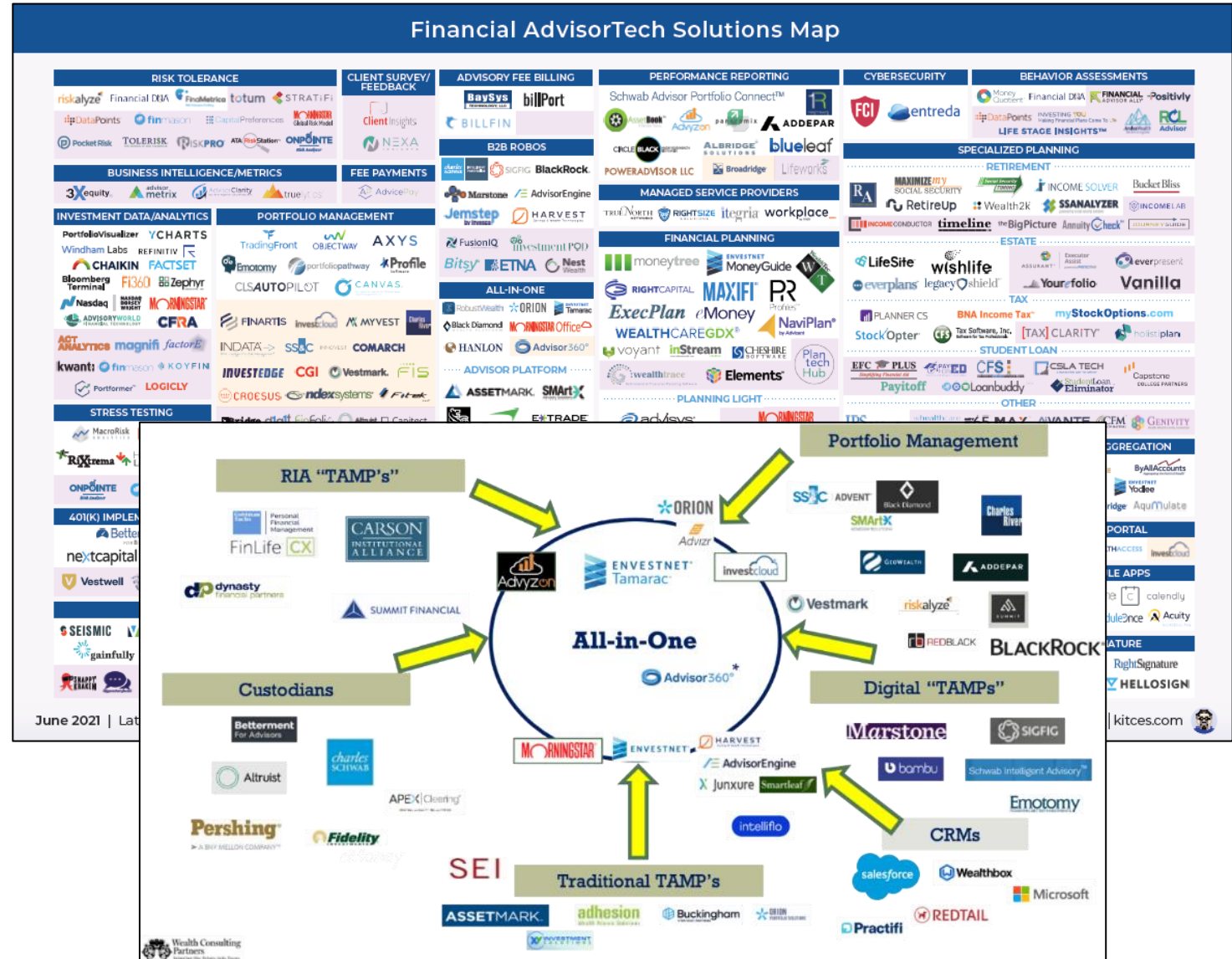
# RIA TECHNOLOGY LANDSCAPE

## THE GOOD NEWS

You have more options than ever before

## THE BAD NEWS

You have more options than ever before



# BECOME BRILLIANT AT THE BASICS TO SYSTEMATIZE A HIGHLY SPECIALIZED OFFERING

Manual

Modern



# PREPARE FOR CHANGE

- Share motivation & purpose
- Set expectations
- Measure success
- Use accountability check-ins

"It sounds like you are concerned about XYZ. What could we do to eliminate/mitigate that concern?"



# EVALUATE

## ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS



WHAT'S THE GOAL?

- What am I solving for?
- Is there a better way?
- Will it change my life?
- If I had no other choice...?
- What are my limiting beliefs?



HOW IS THE CURRENT SYSTEM WORKING?

- How is it serving me?
- What's working?
- Where do we get frustrated?
- What are the bottlenecks?
- Which steps require the most time or cause the most delay?



WHAT SHOULD THE NEW SYSTEM DO?

- What are the benefits?
- What is MVP?
- How does it integrate with other systems?
- Will it change my life?
- What's the ROI?

PEOPLE



# STEP 1: IDENTIFY

PROCESS



# STEP 2: STANDARDIZE

PLATFORM



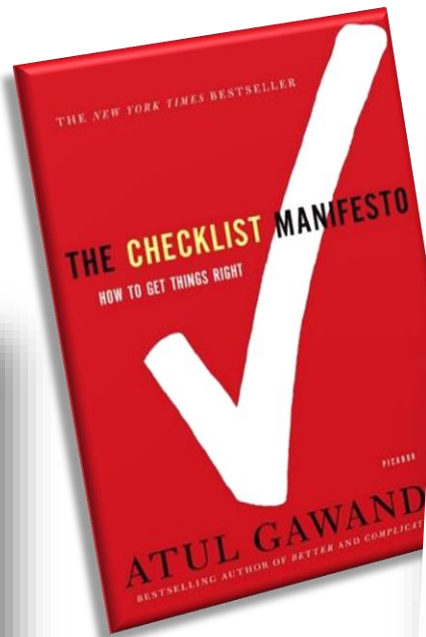
# STEP 3: SYSTEMATIZE

# What systems do I need?

### BUSINESS SYSTEMS INVENTORY

Instructions: Update to include the business systems in your firm. Then, for each business system, identify the current status (red, yellow, green), process owner, review frequency, process update, target date and the last updated date. For descriptions of each of these, select the title cell. Use this tool to identify projects to include as upcoming business initiatives to be completed.

Business System	Description	Area	Status	Process Owner	Review Frequency	Target Date	Last Updated
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Office Environment	Standard for the physical office environment.	Packaging Brand	●		2 years		
	Process that defines how a	Promotion	●				



**Retail Workflows**

- Appointments - Annual Client Review Process
- Appointments - Client Meeting
- Appointments - Client Phone Call
- Appointments - Client Review (March)
- Appointments - Employee Benefits Workshop
- Appointments - New Prospective Client
- Appointments - New Prospective Client (From Fax)
- Appointments - Prospective Client Pre-Discovery & Discovery Process
- Client Account Service - 401(k) Distribution
- Client Account Service - Adjust Cancel Deposit of Funds
- Client Account Service - Adjust Stop Reversing Distribution
- Client Account Service - Beneficiary Designation Change
- Client Account Service - Change of Address or Email
- Client Account Service - Change of Broker/Dealer
- Client Account Service - Change of IRA
- Client Account Service - Client Online Access
- Client Account Service - Death of a Client
- Client Account Service - Deposit Funds into Account
- Client Account Service - Direct rollover from Retirement Plan
- Client Account Service - Distribution from Prerequisite Account
- Client Account Service - Move Money Form
- Client Account Service - Name change
- Client Account Service - Process IRA Contribution with Subsequent Roth Conversion
- Client Account Service - Processing 401(k) Investment and Insurance Checks (except Financial Planning fee Period)
- Client Account Service - Redemptions from 529
- Client Account Service - Redemptions from Direct Account
- Client Account Service - IRA Stretch & Re-establish Standing Instruction
- Client Account Service - RMDs - First \$4, establishing 1st RMD, adjust reversing \$
- Client Account Service - Roth Conversion
- Client Account Service - TDA Advisor Client com - link accounts
- Client Account Service - TDA Signature Verification form
- Client Account Service - Transfer of Assets
- Client Service - Client Termination
- Insurance - Additional Policy Forms Required
- Insurance - Disability
- Insurance - Fixed Annuity
- Insurance - Life (Electronic Form or UL)
- Insurance - Life (Paper)
- Insurance - Life Insurance Death Claim
- Insurance - LTC
- New Account - 401(k) Participant Enrollment (Online)
- New Account - 401(k) Participant Enrollment (Paper)
- New Account - 401(k) Qualified Plan Design & Implementation
- New Account - 529 Plan
- New Account - Money Template (Conservative)
- New Account - Money Template (Moderate/Advisory)
- New Account - Money Template (Aggressive)
- New Account - Money Template (TDA)
- New Account - New Traded Alternative Investment
- New Account - SIMPLE IRA

**Financial Advisor FinTech Solutions Map**

**Client Review Workflow 2019**

Set Target Date to the same day as the Client Review

Task Name	Assigned To	Due Date	Status	Complete Step
Review and Print Yearly Goals	Tucker McLaughlin	12/04/2019	In Progress	Completed
Run Needed Reports	Assign to me	12/04/2019	In Progress	Complete
Confirm Meeting with Client	Client Service Team (Team)	12/04/2019	In Progress	Complete
Run Plan Report from Planning Software	Client Service Team (Team)	12/04/2019	In Progress	Complete
Prep Conference Room	Completed on 12/03/2019	Due by: 12/13/2019		
Prep and Gather All Relevant Paperwork	Assigned To			Step Notes (1)
Review Follow Up	Client Service Team (Team)	Due Date	Status	Completed
Enter Meeting Notes	Tucker McLaughlin	12/11/2019	Completed	12/08/2019
Make and Record Adjustments	Assigned To	Due by: 12/13/2019		
Follow Up Call	Tucker McLaughlin	Due Date	Status	Completed
	Client Service Team (Team)	12/13/2019	Not Started	
	Tucker McLaughlin	12/13/2019	Not Started	

# WHO

...(NOT HOW)

SOLOS



HYBRID



FULL  
OUTSOURCE



# WHERE TO START?



Map Current Systems & Tech Stack



Evaluate & Prioritize Improvements



Prioritize into 1-Page Business Plan

**BUSINESS SYSTEMS INVENTORY**

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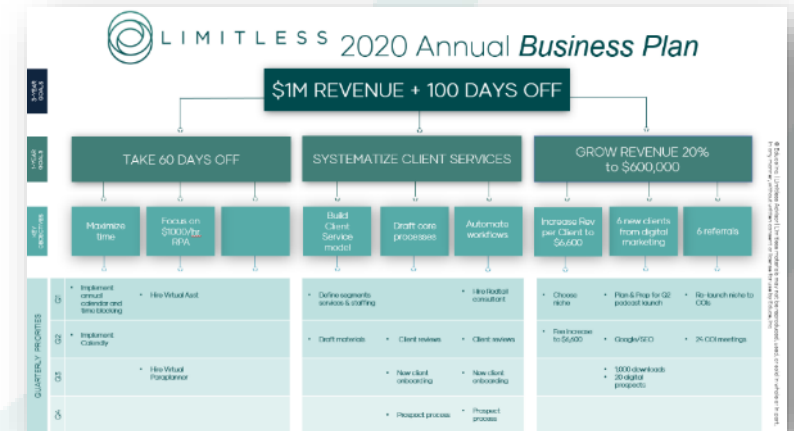
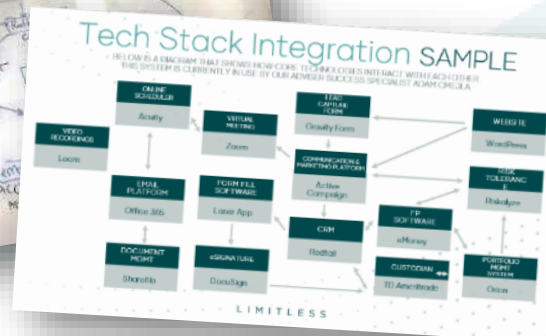
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**Tech Stack TEMPLATE**

USE THE BELOW CATEGORIES TO IDENTIFY YOUR CORE AND ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGIES. THE BELOW TECH ARE STANDARD, BUT NOT ALL ENCLUSIVE, AS YOU EVALUATE YOUR SYSTEMS AND FIND ONES NOT INCLUDED HERE, SIMPLY ENTER A NEW CATEGORY AND NAME. LOOK FOR HOLES AND GAPS TO HELP DETERMINE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

CORE TECHNOLOGY	TECH	ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGY	TECH
CLIENT FILE SHARING & HOSTING		INTERNAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT	
CRM		INTEGRATION TECHNOLOGY	
COMPLIANCE EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA ARCHIVING		NOTE-TAKING & WRITING	
CUSTOMER		PASSWORD MANAGEMENT	
DOCUMENT CREATION & MGMT		SOCIAL MEDIA	
FINANCIAL PLANNING		VIDEO RECORDING	
EMAIL PLATFORM		WEBFORM / SURVEYS	
EMAIL MARKETING PLATFORM		OTHER	
EMAIL HOSTING			
eSIGNATURE			
ONLINE SCHEDULER			
PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT BILLING & PERFORMANCE REPORTING			
RISK TOLERANCE			
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE MEETING			
WEBSITE HOSTING			

- Level of effort to complete
- Highest value or impact
- Biggest pain points / gains
- ROI, and return on time (ROT) and experience



- Due diligence
- Select vendors
- Intentionally implement

# YOU NEED A SYSTEM FOR YOUR SYSTEMS

- Simple systems are successful systems
- Every project or product has an owner
- Who, what, how, how long, and by when
- Team involvement = team investment
- Commit & carry through

## Example Process

### WEEKLY TEAM MEETING PROCESS: SAMPLE

Owner: CSA  
Description: Process for preparing for, conducting and following up after weekly team meeting  
Meeting date: Every Monday at 10 – 11 am.

ACTION STEP	WHO	BY WHEN
1 Update the Weekly Team Meeting Agenda in preparation for Monday meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Add any weekly win or shout out, these can be your own or for someone else</li><li>Update the status to reflect if a priority is Green - On track, Yellow - Issues to discuss, Red - Significant issues deadline in jeopardy</li><li>Each team member adds their most critical issue for discussion to Top Issues and remaining issues to Remaining Issues</li></ul>	Team Members	End of day Friday
2 At	Team Members	Monday in meeting

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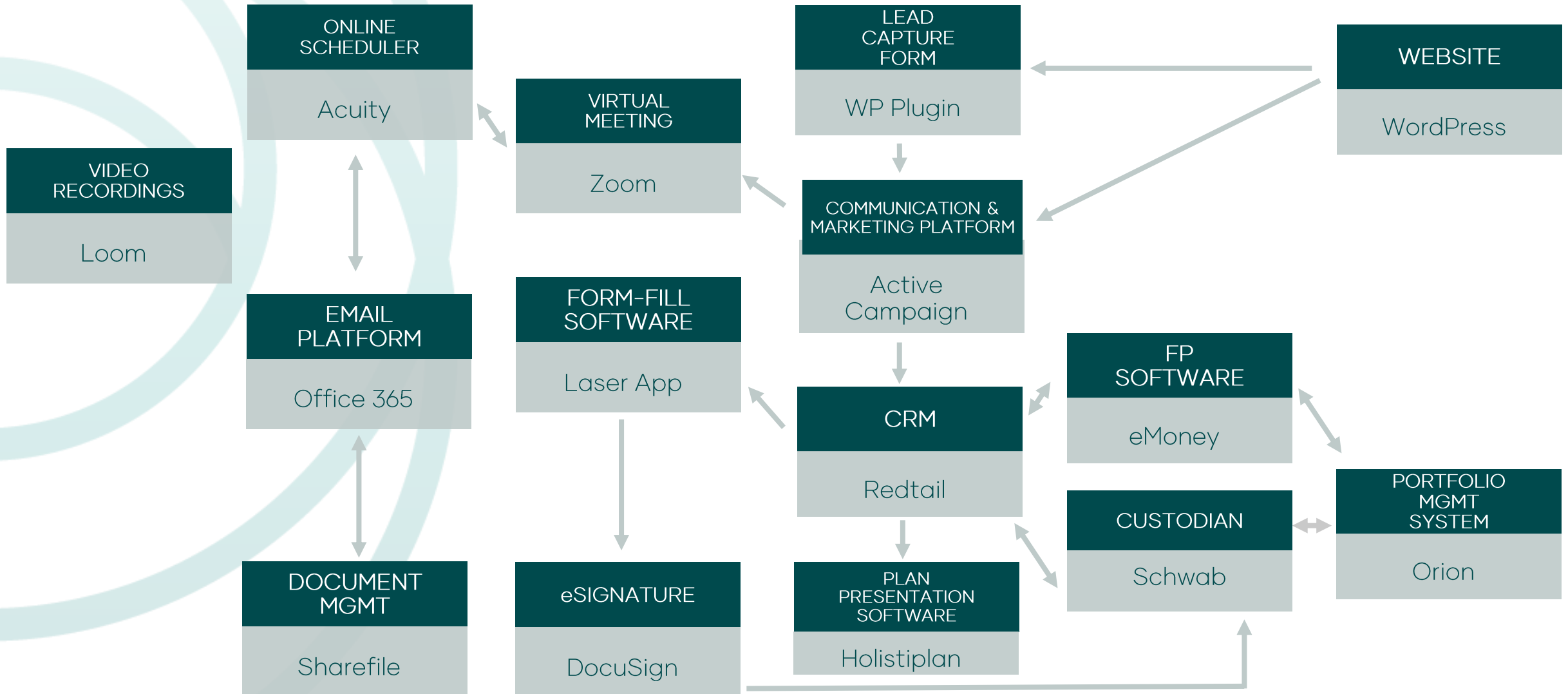
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### Operations Project Plan

#	Task name	Assignee	Priority	Status	Task Progress
▼ Planning					
1	Initiative goals and targets	David Sands	High	Done	Done
2	Finalize workback plan	David Sands	Medium	Done	Done
3	Set OKRs and quarterly goals	Reigan Rea...	High	Done	Done
4	Finalize external agreements and budget	Reigan Rea...	High	Done	Done
▼ Milestones					
1	Milestones:	Reigan Rea...			
2	Hold kickoff meeting	Blake Pham	Medium	Done	Done
3	Gather marketing and sales input	David Sands	Medium	Deferred	Deferred

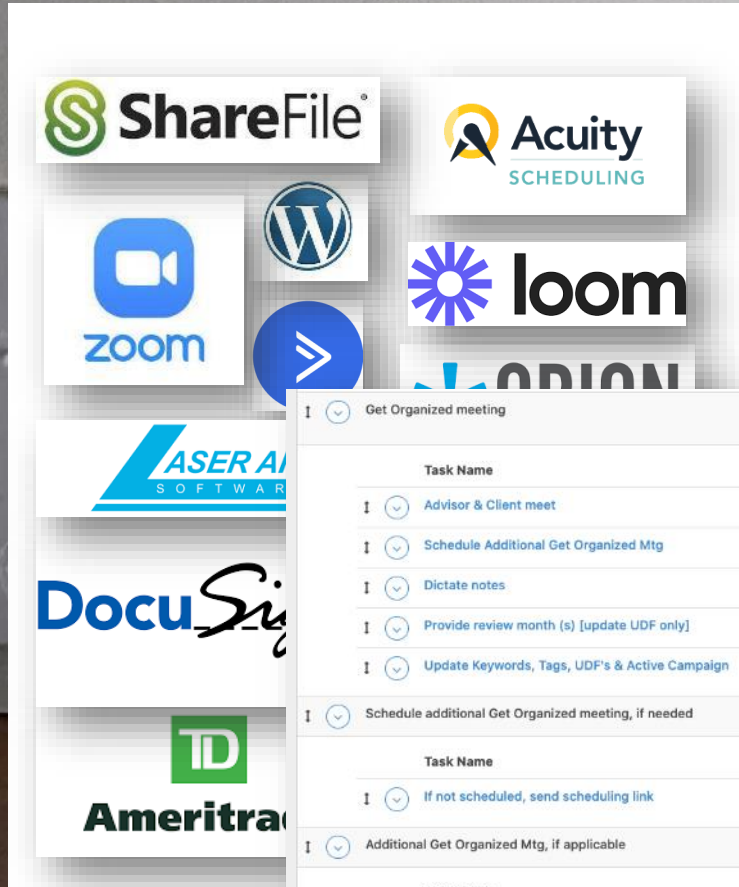
# TECH STACK: ADAM

How Core Technologies Interact with Each Other



# IN PRACTICE

Could a robot figure it out?



Task Name	Assigned To	Due Date
Obtain Document signatures, provide EMX access & Get Organized scheduling link	Completed on: 04/22/2022	Due by: 05/19/2022
1 Create email with scheduling link & documents needed list	Client Service (Team)	05/19/2022
1 Send email or print Documents for signatures	Client Service (Team)	05/19/2022
1 Send DocuSign envelope, if applicable	Client Service (Team)	05/19/2022
1 Send Wealthplan (EMX) invitation	Client Service (Team)	05/19/2022
1 Get Organized mtg scheduled?	Completed on: 05/03/2022	Due by: 06/06/2022
1 Meeting scheduled?	Client Service (Team)	06/06/2022
1 Adjust Target date to that of meeting	Client Service (Team)	06/06/2022
1 Data Entry	Completed on: 05/18/2022	Due by: 05/17/2022
1 Data Entry	John Bohnsack	05/17/2022
1 Add to Active Campaign, Tag Groups, & Keywords in CRM	John Bohnsack	05/17/2022

Task Name	Assigned To	Due Date
1 Get Organized meeting		
1 Advisor & Client meet	John Bohnsack	05/18/2022
1 Schedule Additional Get Organized Mtg	John Bohnsack	05/18/2022
1 Dictate notes	John Bohnsack	05/18/2022
1 Provide review month (s) [update UDF only]	John Bohnsack	05/18/2022
1 Update Keywords, Tags, UDF's & Active Campaign	John Bohnsack	05/18/2022
1 Schedule additional Get Organized meeting, if needed		Due by: 05/19/2022
1 If not scheduled, send scheduling link	Client Service (Team)	05/19/2022
1 Additional Get Organized Mtg, if applicable		Due by: 05/31/2022
1 Advisor & Client meet for additional Get Organized meeting	John Bohnsack	05/31/2022
1 Dictate notes	John Bohnsack	05/31/2022



# EXPECT IMPERFECTION



- "WTF?!?"
- "This is never going to work."
- "Bunch of idiots!"
- "What else is F-ed up?!?"

- "Where did this go wrong?"
- "Show me the holes."
- "What do we need to do to improve?"



LEARN  
MORE

- "The Coming Technology Divide Between Investment & Financial Planning Firms," Michael Kitces
- "The 8-Step Process for Leading Change," John Kotter
- "The Best Technology to Adopt First as a Solo Financial Advisor," Michael Kitces



ADAPT &  
APPLY

- Read the Optimizing Operations Guidebook, and review all resources
- Use the Tech Stack Tool to map your current systems
- Implement the Business Systems Inventory to review systems as part of your 1-Page Business Plan



TAKE  
ACTION

- Continue to revisit your Tech Stack and assess your systems and processes