

Software in Financial Markets

Presentation to UNSW CSE, March 2017

Nick Haan, Louie Nguyen & Denya Tessier

Financial Markets? A geek's guide...



Products

Participants

- Investors
- Speculators
- Arbitrageurs
- Market makers

"Liquidity"



IMC? Who are these guys?

BBC Documentary: "Traders: Millions by the Minute", Sep 2014



HFT: Finance or Technology?



- (B)leeding-edge technology
 - Latency
 - Scalability

Supercompetitive

Technology decisions are business decisions



Supercompetitive: Speed is critical

Speed has 2 axes



Innovation time

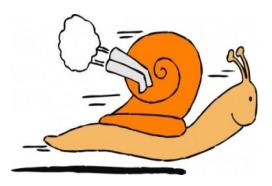
- Fast feedback is critical
- Iterate everything
- Manage risk

Performance

- Level playing field: Reaction time (=latency) counts
- Iterate everything



Speed



Speed & IMC



- Arbitrage
 - E.g. Nikkei between Osaka stock exchange and Singapore stock exchange
- Protection
 - E.g. management of hundreds active orders on the exchange?
- No one like to use a sluggish system
 - E.g. Buying a super computer to run excel.

The Design



- Modularisation and abstractions.
- Design trade-offs E.g.
 - The algorithms & data structure
 - Time complexity
 - How does it scale?
 - With users & with data.

The Measurements



- Tooling:
 - Off the shelf vs build your own
 - Accuracy & granularity of the tool.
- Methodology:
 - E.g. simplistic approach loop 10, 1000, 10000 ...
- Targeted Measurements:
 - E.g. hot path(s) vs Once off.



The Speed "Secret Sauce"

Feature(s) that gives your API a speed edge over the other teams E.g.

- Awesome data structure
- Smart Caching
- Parallelisation
- 5555



In Summary...

Three equally weighted sections:

- The Design
- The Measurements
- The Speed "Secret Sauce"



Three teams invited to the IMC office to do a 5-10 minutes presentations

- Guarantee prize money & chance to mingle with IMC engineers



Questions?