

Wesleyan Bank implements Aurius core system from Sword Apak

Wesleyan Bank is in the design stage of its core banking modernisation project. The bank is replacing its legacy Misys Bankmaster core with Sword Apak's Aurius. A 'big bang' go-live is planned for the second half of 2014, says Steve Deutsch, MD of Wesleyan Bank. The bank's processes are being reviewed, to see how they can be improved and adapted to the system. Deutsch describes it as 'part and parcel' of the overall transformation venture, as the bank is moving off a 20-year-old platform. 'It will give us efficiencies along the way, but more importantly it will enable the processes to be slicker both for our staff and customers. It is not a cost-saving exercise, it is about providing a better service to our customers and making it easier for our staff.' Aurius will cover all main operations at the bank, front-to-back office.

Wesleyan Bank is a niche player with ambitious growth plans, states Deutsch, and whilst the Misys Bankmaster system has served the bank well, the time is right for a change. The bank is part of Wesleyan Assurance Society, a Birmingham-based mutual, that provides specialist financial services for professionals in medical, dental, teaching and legal sectors. There are plans to extend the bank's product range. For instance, it is one of the UK's largest second tier lenders to law firms for short-term commercial finance, and this capability will be extended to other sectors. There are also plans to develop an SME savings product range (at present, deposits are limited to retail clients only).



Steve Deutsch, Wesleyan Bank

Sword Apak's main competitor for the deal was Temenos with its T24 system. 'Temenos is widely used across the industry and offers a very good package', observes Deutsch. 'Sword Apak, however, better suited our needs. We liked, for example, that the people we were dealing with at Sword Apak are Bristol-based [Wesleyan Bank is just 90 miles away, in Birmingham]. The bank took references from the other two

Aurius users, United Trust Bank and Unity Trust Bank, and was reassured by their positive reviews. Also, 'the price was right', he adds. The incumbent provider, Misys, also participated in the selection at an earlier stage, but it was felt the Bankfusion product was yet to be proven. The bank wanted a tried and tested system with reference sites in the UK. 'We didn't want to go for a "bleeding edge" solution.'



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