The sophistication of combination products is growing at a significant rate. The market sees these products as Multiple Style Portfolios, Unified Managed Accounts, Retirement Income Accounts, etc. At the product level these solutions are composites of features from life insurance, annuities, investments, long term care, etc., and might be presented as a single account to simplify paperwork and reporting. From a systems level they are really “investment sleeves” that contain very different supporting investments or products. In most cases, the individual sleeves have entirely unique investment systems and operations implementations. These disparate administrative environments are managed by a new class of system called an overlay.

Addressing Silo’ed Systems

Historically, the financial services industry builds isolated, product-centric delivery platforms—in other words, administrative systems. Most products are conceived and delivered within the framework of an organizational silo. Hence, annuity products are developed by the “annuity group” and mutual fund products are implemented by the “mutual fund group”. This organization silo effectively supports new products within the domain with existing operations processes and a technology system. Flexibility associated with capabilities outside of the silo’ed organization simply cannot be integrated. In almost all cases any combination product, that is any product with features integrated from multiple silos, is passively created and managed by merging back office reporting and statementing to the client.

Successful strategic implementation of combination products lies in the concept of implementing a unified platform—not a unified product. The unified product would direct thinking toward implementation of combined systems and administration, whereas a unified platform can integrate systems and operations of the existing silos, making them operate as a unified implementation.
Complete Product System Integration

cEPS/ol™ represents the first unique implementation of an overlay system that supports the needs of the income management market. It integrates guaranteed income products, such as annuities, with investment products, such as mutual funds, to deliver the combination required by individuals in need of managing their retirement. cEPS/ol™ combines with cEPS/an™ (an annuity processing system) and cEPS/mf™ (a mutual fund processing system) or it can integrate with existing systems.

Functionality

1. Rebalancing
   a. Funds in a Model
   b. Sleeves in the Program

2. Fee Calculations

3. Income Management
   a. Periodic Liquidations (annually to fund 12 months of payments)
   b. Source of Payments
   c. Payment Day
   d. Frequency
   e. Payment Minimums and Maximums
   f. Cost of Living increases
   g. Notice Generation (when over or under expectations)

4. Income Payment Processing
   a. Calculation Rules
   b. Periodic Calculation

5. Plan Setup/Change
   a. Per Program
   b. Per Account

6. Administrative System Interfaces
   a. Integration with Sleeve Administration
   b. Combined Administrative User Interfaces
   c. Combines Administrative Processing

7. Complex Program Rules
   a. Minimum Sleeve Investments
   b. Sleeve Investment Order