

Firco Continuity 5.9 Technical Webinar: Questions

Questions & Answers

Migration Process

1. What does the Database Health-check involve? How do you go about arranging it?

The Database Health-check is a key step to perform prior to the migration to Firco Continuity 5.9. It helps identify any potential issue that could occur during the migration by comparing the installation to the standard installation. This process can be executed at any point prior to the migration. For further information, please contact your local Accuity Fircosoft representative.

2. When migrating to the 5.9 Database, will this include all Stripping and Decision Reapplication, etc. checksums or will the benefits that have built up from these modules be lost?

Yes, as part of the migration process, these Checksums will be migrated to the new system.

3. Our current version of Firco Continuity is 5.3.X (below 5.3.14.1). Do we need to upgrade to 5.3.14.1 prior to upgrading to Firco Continuity 5.3.14.1?

This depends on the migration path chosen. As part of the Migration, the upgrade to the 5.3.14.1 database can be done at the same time as the migration. However, if this is not possible (e.g. if wishing to migrate Unit by Unit without upgrading to 5.3.14.1) Accuity Fircosoft can provide a migration tool for your specific version. However, these are created on a case-by-case basis and we recommend a minimum of 2 months notice before these tools can be provided. We recommend contacting your local Firco Continuity representative at the nearest opportunity if you believe you will need to migrate from a version other than 5.3.14.1.

4. How will Advanced Reporting and Archiving data be migrated to 5.9?

For the Advanced Reporting module, we currently expect the structure of the data to be similar to that in Firco Continuity 5.3 but with additional tables for the Hit-by-Hit commentary and the data from the Message Auditor. We therefore expect that the Advanced Reporting database will be upgraded rather than a full migration like the Firco Continuity database.

For the Archiving data, the recommended approach is to import the Archiving data into a standard archiving tool. As more data will now be archived, the format of these files will change so the archiving tool will need to be adjusted to read the new archiving file format (still XML, but with additional fields and information). We'd recommend contacting your local Accuity Fircosoft representative who can help understand your current archiving solution and assist with the migration process.

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5. The Roadmap shown at the end of the Webinar did not show the Archiver module. Can you confirm at which phase this will be available?

The Archiving module is classed as a Standard Module for Firco Continuity (both in version 5.3 and 5.9). Therefore, this was released along with the Standard Firco Continuity 5.9 release (Phase 0) and is available now.

6. Do you currently have anyone who has performed a migration or currently live with Firco Continuity 5.9?

We're currently in the early stages of planning migrations with the early adopters and expect migrations to start in the next few weeks. We will keep you updated on these projects and envisage sharing an update at our Client Summits in London and New York, in June this year.

7. What is the performance of the migration? Is it direct DB to DB migration or will it work similar to the Archiving module (Export to File and then Import)?

The performance of the migration is dependant on the volume of messages within the History database of Firco Continuity. The recommendation is to have a maximum of 2 million messages within the History prior to migration. The migration process itself will export to a file and then import to the new Firco Continuity 5.9 database. This is to ensure data is properly retained in case of any issues during the migration process.

8. How long does it take to migrate?

This varies based on your company size. Our expectation is a couple of months in total for the full project, from initial concept, planning and migration. The actual migration of your database takes just a few hours (ideally over a weekend). For larger clients, we would suggest a phased approach, focusing on different units, over separate weekends. For this reason, we strongly recommend working with your regional Accuity representatives who will assist you in your migration project.

9. During the presentation you mention only migrating messages in the history database, not the live database. How will we handle messages that are still in the live database?

Our recommendation is to make decisions based in the live environment. However we understand this might not always be possible. If this is the case, there is a potential solution to use the re-check functionality to remove your live messages from the Firco Continuity 5.3 environment and place them into the new live environment. If this is a requirement, please let us know if it will affect the overall migration flow of the project.

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10. How do you ensure data integrity as part of the migration process?

The migration tool is based on technology currently used on archival process within Firco Continuity 5.3. In addition the tool can be run on your current servers which are secure and can only be accessed by authorised users. It can be run in a controlled way so access is restricted and users cannot modify files during migration process.

11. Will the Workflow be migrated from 5.3 to 5.9?

Yes, the workflow will be migrated as part of the migration process. However, we recommend a full review of the workflow so the operations and IT teams can benefit from the enhanced features of the Firco Continuity 5.9 workflow. This review will then determine the best approach to your workflow 5.9.

12. Can we migrate in two phases? For example, taking Phase 1 in June and then Phase 4 in December?

Yes, it is possible to split the migration. There are multiple options available to do this (either Migrate everything and then upgrade to Phase 4 or move specific traffic to Firco Continuity 5.9 Phase 1 and then another set during Phase 4). We would recommend contacting your local Accuity Fircosoft Representative to discuss the different options.

13. If we have already built a custom “No-Hit” database, how would that be handled?

Firco Continuity is compatible with version 5.7 of the filter and above. This filter version is compatible with all currently supported versions of the Utilities application, so therefore, there is no need to upgrade the Utilities. However, we'd recommend reviewing the latest Utilities as part of the project as multiple new features (including performance benefits) are available in the newer versions.

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Database and Integration

1. Within our 5.3 system, we inform our backoffice application of the Hit/No Hit decision from the Requester via the MQ ACK queue. How will this work in 5.9?

The back-end responses sent by the system will be the same in Firco Continuity 5.9 as in Firco Continuity 5.3. Acknowledgement messages can still be sent back to the Banking Application via the MQ ACK.

2. Do you use Oracle Partitioning?

Currently, the system has not been tested using Oracle Partitioning. However, as the Database is designed following general standard, the ability to use Oracle Partitioning should be possible in Firco Continuity 5.9. We would recommend contacting your local Accuity representative if you are interested in Oracle Partitioning and we can work together with our technical development team to assist with the process.

3. Version 5.9 is again going to be a big application, what is the roadmap for breaking this into micro-services which helps it moving into cloud for better scalability?

Firco Continuity 5.9 is designed to be scalable and can be installed on cloud environment. If there are specific requirements about separating different parts of Firco Continuity, please let us know as, depending on the requirement, it could be possible within Firco Continuity 5.9.

4. How many messages can we keep in the database without performance issues?

Firco Continuity has been tested with ~100 million messages within the database. Similar to other general systems, we recommend keeping the Live system with only the data needed for Live analysis. The additional modules, like Advanced Reporting can be used for Historic look ups.

5. Does 5.9 combat click-jacking?

Accuity Fircosoft are constantly testing out software against the latest security threats. We can confirm that 5.9 does not allow for click-jacking.

6. Is 5.9 compatible with the Hadoop DB (or similar) products?

Firco Continuity 5.9 database is currently based on RDBMS using SQL queries. However, interest has been shown in using different database types, in particular for reporting. If you have an interest in different database types, please contact your local Accuity Fircosoft representative.

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7. How does the new DB structure affect back-end querying? If there is no history database, are back end queries running on the Live data?

The new database structure is designed to handle high volumes in a Live environment. As per Firco Continuity 5.3, if large reports are needed on historical data, the recommendation is to use the Advanced Reporting module where the data has been restructured to allow for efficient reporting.

8. Can some of the traceability functionality be parsed from filter 5.7.x logs (which rule or exception was applied to which hit, etc...)?

The recommended approach is to use the full traceability feature within Firco Continuity. There is potential for some information to be provided, however, we cannot guarantee without knowing the full requirement and the reason why the Traceability functionality in Firco Continuity 5.9 is not suitable. I would recommend contacting your local Accuity Fircosoft representative so we can provide a full solution that will meet your requirements.

Enhanced Workflow and Alert Review

1. Is the Enhanced Workflow included in 5.9 as standard?

Yes, the Enhanced Workflow is a standard module contained within 5.9. It replaces the workflow currently available in Firco Continuity 5.3 but the Firco Continuity 5.3 workflow is compatible with the new workflow. However, the Enhanced Workflow greatly simplifies the maintenance process for the Workflow (reducing the number of different states and transitions). It's therefore recommended, as part of the Firco Continuity 5.9 project to review the current workflow and convert it to the 5.9 Enhanced Workflow.

2. How will the Enhanced Workflow impact profiles? For example, Maker Profile moves from Filter to Half-Passed and Checker Profile moves from Half-Passed to Passed.

All workflows created within the Firco Continuity 5.3 system are compatible with the Enhanced Workflow available in Firco Continuity 5.9. Although the profiles will be similar to the Firco Continuity 5.3 profiles, we would recommend still performing a review of the profiles and workflows as benefits can still be gained (for example, if the Checker profile needs to send the message back to the Maker profile).

3. How does 5.9 record reasons for Hit discounting? Will there be standard reasons for discounting or is it free text?

Firco Continuity 5.9 will store a comment a reason for each hit (this is an additional module,

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otherwise it's against the message as a whole). The decision is stored in two parts. The first is a Reason Code. These can be defined within the Firco Continuity Front End. In addition, the operator can add a custom comment to each hit. For example:

Reason Code: FP001 - Hit is on Address not Individual

Comment: Hit is on Abdullah in King Abdullah Road

These Reason Codes can then be used in the Advanced Reporting module (available end of 2019) to analyse details on the types of alerts generated by the system.

4. How does 5.9 do Bulk Discounting?

Within Firco Continuity 5.9, multiple hits can be selected and a single decision taken on all selected hits. The Decision, Reason Code and Comment are then added to all hits for audit purposes.

5. Will the content of messages change in Firco Continuity 5.9? For example, using common tag names for both SWIFT and XML messages when filtering in Firco Unique Format (FUF)?

Firco Continuity 5.9 uses the same message style as 5.3, therefore, there is no change in how the messages are filtered and the display of the messages to the front end user. However, Accuity Fircosoft are actively looking at ways to allow clients to further standardise their message.

6. Does Firco Continuity allow for Archived messages to be displayed in the Front End easily?

The recommended approach for accessing archived messages, via general archiving tools, remains the same in Firco Continuity 5.3 and 5.9.

General

1. Is moving to Firco Continuity 5.9 mandatory? When will 5.3 be out of Support?

Currently, Firco Continuity 5.3 is still fully supported. We understand that upgrading to Firco Continuity 5.9 will take time and therefore, there is currently no end of support date set for Firco Continuity 5.3. Based on how many clients have upgraded, a notification will be sent out with sufficient time to allow for the migration to take place. However, we still recommend starting the planning for the migration as soon as possible as this will open the functional and technical benefits delivered by Firco Continuity 5.9.

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2. During the webinar, a regulation or guidance was mentioned that talked about the basic need for “Traceability”. Can you provide further details?

This was in reference to the *New York Department of Financial Services Superintendent’s Regulations: Part 504: Banking Division Transaction Monitoring and Filtering Program Requirements and Certifications*. This regulation outlines the expected governance and oversight of a Sanctions Filtering program. This regulation increases the need for banks to understand how their Sanctions Screening solution works. Firco Continuity 5.9 introduces the traceability and Message Auditor to help give the bank a greater understanding on a message-by-message level (along with a full Audit trail) to help comply with regulations like this. Further details can be found on the NY Department of Financial Services website: <https://www.dfs.ny.gov/legal/regulations/adoptions/dfsp504t.pdf>

3. Any similar functionality planned for Firco Trust?

We are currently planning on introducing some of the functionality shown into the Firco Trust product suite. In particular, the Traceability feature would provide great benefit for Sanction, PEP and Adverse Media screening within Firco Trust.

4. Will the Utilities be combined into 5.9?

The Utilities remain a separate component to the Firco Continuity suite. However, we are looking to integrate the different components further via the new Firco Live Services product, the first version of which is scheduled for release this year. Please ask your local Accuity Fircosoft representative for more details or join us our regional client summits in May/June.

5. Are there any plans for the Accuity Fircosoft client summit in the UAE for Middle Eastern clients?

Accuity are always looking to increase interactions with our clients. We don’t have a specific Client Summit planned in the UAE. We do however have a one-day Client Summit planned in Singapore in May that is intended to cover the APAC region - where we will be covering a deep dive on Firco Continuity. You are also welcome to attend the New York or London events in June, should these be more suitable for your travel. If you are interested in finding out more, or requesting a demo, we encourage you to contact your local Accuity Fircosoft representatives.