

# The power of technology in insurance M&A

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## M&A activity is a constant feature of the insurance industry

Number of insurance deals globally, 2009-20\*



\* Clyde & Co insurance growth report; \*\* CAGR

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## Ongoing insurance M&A is driven by macro & micro factors

- Low investment returns, abundant capital (equity and debt)
- Pressure on insurer combined ratios and cost efficiency driving search for scale
- Strategic focus on core business and operating model / technology transformation
- Challenges in achieving sustainable organic growth
- Risks: overpaying versus the earnings potential, cultural issues, unexpected costs (people, legal, technology)



## The impact of insurance technology has grown dramatically





\* NTT data insurtech global outlook 2021

## Technology brings great benefits and some risks to insurers

- Client experience
- Speed, cost and control of processes
- Data-driven decision-making
- Productivity of people through focus on higher value-add activity
- Risks: information security, cost of failed technology investments



## Technology is a critical component of every M&A deal



#### Workstreams



Corporate Development



Legal

Finance



Assurance/ Compliance









Operations & Change



## Technology considerations evolve during the M&A process





## Buyers & sellers can prepare for a focus on technology in M&A

### **Buyers**

- Access technology M&A and information security expertise (externally or internally)
- Define the approach to technology integration (stabilisation, integration, optimisation priorities)
- Invest in IT infrastructure / support / data capabilities / tools to enable rationalisation of acquired tech estates
- Know the target application stack for each business line – but be prepared to flex

## **Sellers**

- Ensure (& be able to demonstrate) robust information security
- Avoid decisions or changes that an acquirer might undo
- Prepare documentation on technology architecture, hardware, applications, IP, contracts etc.
- Develop detailed view of technology capex (and ensure it's not opex in disguise)



## Summary

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M&A has been a constant feature of the insurance industry over time



Technological innovation is a newer, but increasingly important, business driver



Technology should now be a core area of focus throughout M&A processes The impact of getting this right (and the risks of getting this wrong)

are material

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Buyers and sellers should prepare







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