

# IBM Power

# Investing in the Future of Financial Services

For decades, Meridian IT has been helping banks, building societies, insurers and financial institutions run their core systems on IBM Power servers. Today, the latest-generation IBM Power10 platform offers even greater security, reliability and performance to help firms enhance customer service, manage risk, and simplify regulatory compliance.



[www.meridianit.co.uk](http://www.meridianit.co.uk)

# Risk and regulation

Success in the financial services sector always involves risk. Managing risk effectively in banking, insurance and financial markets means not only aligning operations with the firm's own risk appetite, but also demonstrating compliance with a broad range of regulations.

Both internal and regulatory risk management require firms to capture, manage and analyse vast quantities of data consistently, rigorously, and quickly. That's only possible if you build your core systems and processes on platforms that are designed for robustness and rigor at every level of the technology stack—from applications and operating systems right down to the hardware.

## Why Power10?

Meridian IT can help your firm harness IBM Power10 technology to mitigate risk by:

- Creating a rock-solid data management platform for core banking and insurance data
- Accelerating batch runs to ensure you always hit your data processing and reporting deadlines
- Running pricing and risk models in real time to enable risk-aware decision-making
- Defending against cyberattacks with powerful security and encryption features.



# Power and performance

Unlike commodity server hardware, IBM Power is designed to “run hot”—using shared pools of processors that applications can access on demand for intense bursts of data processing. This makes it ideal for financial service firms’ performance-critical workloads, including both long-running batch processes and interactive real-time queries.

By making intelligent use of available processor cores and memory, IBM Power can both increase hardware utilisation rates and reduce total resource requirements.

Meridian’s IBM Power-certified technical experts can help firms get even greater benefit from their IBM Power investments by continuously analysing and tuning your workloads to make the best use of available resources.

## Proof points

- **50% resource savings:** One large international bank is using just 25 Power cores to handle Oracle database workloads that previously required 50 Intel processor cores—significantly reducing its per-core software licensing costs.
- **30% faster batch:** One firm has reduced the batch window for its financial consolidation process by a third by upgrading to latest-generation IBM Power10 servers.
- **At least 80% hardware utilisation:** The IBM Power 1080 is designed to run with 80% processor utilisation, ensuring firms get maximum value from their hardware investment.

# Reliability and availability

When your core systems go down, it impacts your business, your customers, and your standing with the regulator. In addition to heavy regulatory fines and penalties, unplanned outages often make the headlines and impact your reputation, too.

The IBM Power platform is legendary for its reliability, with highly sophisticated data replication and clustering technologies that enable instant failover between machines and across data centres. This helps financial services firms dramatically reduce and mitigate infrastructure-related operational risks.

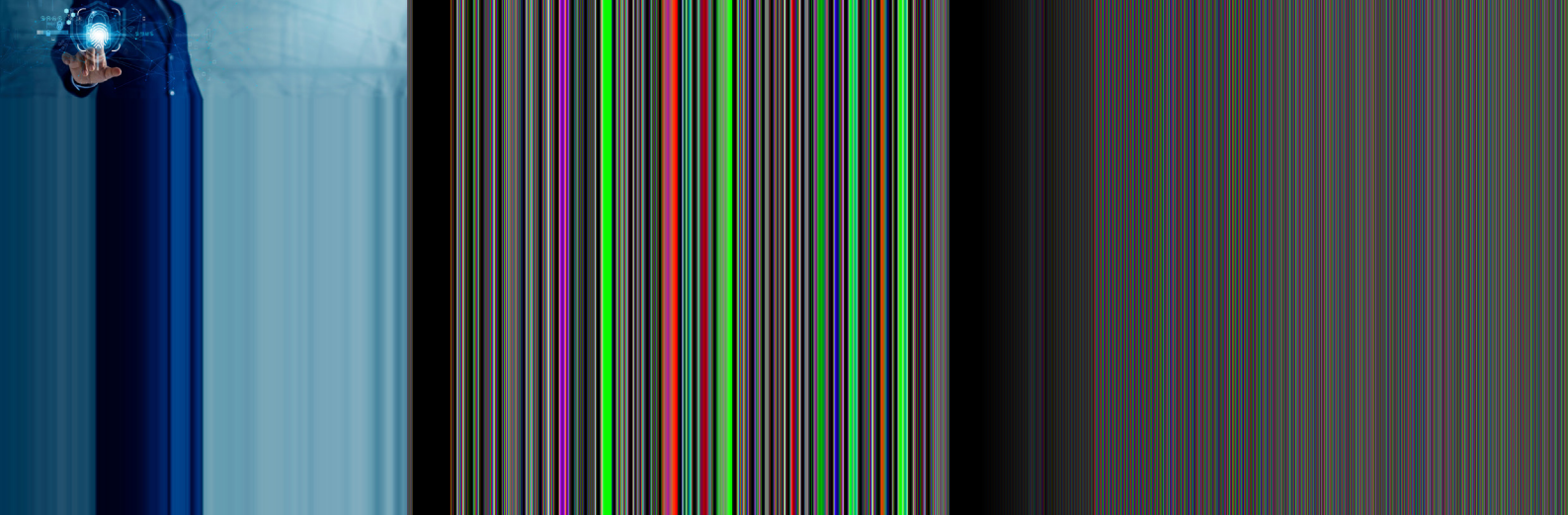
Meridian's managed services can help firms take availability to the next level with 24/7 monitoring, infrastructure and application management.

## Proof points

*According to ITIC's annual Global Server Reliability Survey:*<sup>i</sup>

- **14 straight years at #1:** IBM Power servers and IBM Z mainframes consistently deliver the highest availability of any enterprise platform.
- **5-6 nines availability:** 93% of IBM Power users experience just one minute of unplanned downtime per month.
- **40x less downtime:** Compared to commodity x86 servers, IBM Power servers were up to 40 times more reliable.

<sup>i</sup><https://itic-corp.com/itic-2022-global-server-reliability-results/>



# Security and encryption

Cybercriminals are getting more sophisticated every day and cyberattacks are successfully targeting even the biggest and best protected firms. According to UK government statistics, 54% of financial institutions have identified breaches in the last 12 months, and only 7% have a full view of cybersecurity risks across their wider supply chain. <sup>ii</sup>

IBM Power10 helps firms resist cyberattacks and protect their data with a layered security model that spans from the application level down through the operating system to the underlying hardware.

Meridian provides security services designed specifically for IBM Power environments, with 24/7 monitoring by security experts at our state-of-the-art Security Operations Centre (SOC).

## IBM Power10 zero trust security model

- **2.5x faster encryption** with built-in cryptographic cores.
- **Quantum-safe cryptography** to protect against next-generation attacks.
- **Highly secure hypervisor** with a superior security track record to major competitors.
- **Built-in multifactor authentication** with IBM PowerSC.

<sup>ii</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cyber-security-breaches-survey-2022/cyber-security-breaches-survey-2022>

# AI and machine learning

With the rise of machine learning, artificial intelligence is finally living up to its promises—and financial services firms are exploring the use of AI in a wide range of fields from risk management to marketing and customer service.

With four Matrix Math Accelerator (MMA) engines mounted next to each core, IBM Power10 brings AI to where your data lives. Instead of moving datasets to a separate GPU cluster for machine learning, you can run real-time inferencing directly on the same machine.

Meridian's AI practice can help you take full advantage of IBM Power10 AI capabilities and integrate new machine learning models into your core applications.

## Case study

Oxford Cancer Biomarkers uses AI to analyse digital images of tumours and help improve diagnosis of colorectal cancers. Meridian hosts the solution on IBM Power servers running in the Meridian Power Cloud.

[Read the full story on \*ibm.com\*.](#)

# Modernisation and portability

Many firms have run their core systems on IBM Power for decades—and will continue to do so for decades more. With IBM Power10, there's no need to regard these battle-tested systems as legacy applications, because you can seamlessly integrate them with modern, open-source applications and container platforms on the same box.

Running IBM i, IBM AIX and Red Hat Enterprise Linux on the same box means you can skip costly network infrastructure and high-latency connections and build microservices architectures where the apps live right next to the data—transforming performance.

Designed to support cloud-native, containerised applications, IBM Power10 also gives you portability, so you can move workloads seamlessly between your data centre and the Meridian Power Cloud, or any other public or private cloud you choose. This allows you to experiment with hybrid cloud operating models, while significantly reducing risk in case of a stressed exit from one of your cloud vendors.

## Client testimonial

*“The Meridian Power Cloud gives us simple, predictable and stable monthly costs that make budgeting easy.”*

**Richard Evanson, Head of IT, BHSF**



## Why Meridian?

Today, Meridian IT is home to one of the world's largest teams of certified IBM Power experts. Outside of IBM, few organisations can match our breadth of expertise in the IBM Power platform, the depth of resources in our technical team, or our years of experience in delivering projects large and small.

We work with a wide range of UK and international banks, building societies, insurers, payments providers, financial markets, fintech companies and other institutions to help them maximise the benefits of their IBM Power infrastructure today—and modernise their systems to meet tomorrow's challenges.

### Client testimonials

- ***"Meridian's focus on our long-term needs and their proactive approach have really paid dividends for our business."***  
Matthew Hier, IT Project Manager, Admiral Insurance
- ***"Our experience with Meridian has been overwhelmingly positive; their support has always been first-rate."***  
Mark Fallon, Unix and Storage Team Leader, Hitachi Capital
- ***"Meridian's expert advice and support made this project a real success for us."***  
John Byrne, Team Lead, IT Infrastructure, Ecclesiastical Insurance

### Next steps

Reach out to us today at [info@meridianit.co.uk](mailto:info@meridianit.co.uk) to discuss how we can help your firm achieve its goals.





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