



The Computerworld Honors Program

Honoring those who use Information Technology to benefit society

Final Copy of Case Study

Status:

Laureate

Year:

2013

Organization Name:

BISON

Organization URL:

www.bison.co

Project Name:

Alternative Investment Network

Please select the category in which you are submitting your entry

Emerging Technology

Please provide an overview of the nominated project. Describe the problem it was intended to solve, the technology or approach used, how it was innovative and any technical or other challenges that had to be overcome for successful implementation and adoption. (In 300 words or less.)

Bison is creating a vertical network for pensions, endowments and foundations (PEFs) to find and learn about the best alternative investment managers actively raising capital. The alternative investment market has seen minimal technology innovation, and as result there exist a lack of transparency, high costs and general time inefficiency. For PEFs to efficiently invest their capital, they need to know where to deploy their capital, but also have a view to an unbiased mosaic of the firms they are considering giving millions of dollars to. Through more efficient investment processes, PEFs can make more informed investment decisions to provide greater resources to their constituents, including retirees, student and medical research organizations.



When was this project implemented or last updated? (Please specify month and year.) Has it incorporated new technologies and/or other innovations since its initial deployment? (In 300 words or less.)

Bison was formed in September 2011, the first prototype was delivered in April 2012 and our private beta was released on August 1, 2012. We will release our public beta during H1 2013. We are still developing our core technology, and employing continuous improvements. Our software development team continues to add new features and improve functionality.

Is implementation of the project complete? If no, please describe the project's phases and which phase the project is now in. (In 300 words or less.)

No, Bison is currently in a private beta with 30+ institutional firms that are seeking private equity and venture capital investment opportunities. We have many firms on our beta waiting list and we will open our platform to a public beta by the end of Q2 2013.

Please provide at least one example of how the technology project has benefited a specific individual or organization. Feel free to include personal quotes from individuals who have directly benefited from the work. (In 300 words or less.)

We have multiple pensions and endowments that are using our Funds In Market tool to identify investment opportunities that are a strong match for their investment criteria (geography, investment style and fund size). We not only save them time, but significant money that can be repurposed for their teams to gain additional resources in the investment management process.

Would this project be considered an innovation, a best practice or other notable advancement that could be adopted by or tailored for other organizations and uses? If yes, please describe that here. (In 300 words or less.)

This project would be considered innovative, as we are creating a marketplace where none existed before. At this point in time, we are releasing our tool for the LPs and GPs that make up the private equity / venture capital universe. Going forward, the natural evolution of our capabilities moves into hedge funds, real estate and real assets in the near term.

If there are any other details that the judges should know about this project, please note them here. (In 300 words or less.)

Our team is comprised of industry experience individuals (PE/VC fund investor and VC attorney) as well as strong technologists with extensive consumer and social experience. We are creating the epicenter of the \$3 trillion AUM in PE/VC and will shortly thereafter be able to help PEFs with their efforts across estimated \$10 trillion alternative investment market.