

Unified MeridianLink, CO-OP, and Alkami data into a scalable cloud data lake – while enabling data engineering self-sufficiency in under 90 days

Rise Analytics Professional Services partnered with America's First Credit Union to integrate three key source systems – **MeridianLink, CO OP (credit cards/CECL) and Alkami** – into their Data Lake environment. The project included building out end-to-end data pipelines and enabling full reporting coverage across all systems, as well as the buildout of foundational data tables following ingestion and modeling.

BACKGROUND: Preparing for a Data Driven Future

As America's First Credit Union continued an ongoing project to modernize its data environment, they recognized the need to unify complex operational systems in a way that supported both immediate reporting and long term scalability. Partnering with Rise Analytics, they set out to consolidate data from MeridianLink, CO OP and Alkami into a centralized Data Lake while building internal skills to maintain and expand their reporting pipelines over time.

A key goal for the organization was not only producing the data assets, but ensuring their team could learn the underlying processes and take ownership of ongoing enhancements.

OPPORTUNITY: Activating Data Lake and Enabling Self Sufficiency

From the start, America's First Credit Union emphasized the importance of establishing the right infrastructure for long term success. They were assured that as they configured their cloud environment, the Rise Analytics team was consistently patient, supportive and adaptable throughout the setup process.

Within the project, Rise Analytics:

- Integrated **MeridianLink, CO OP** and **Alkami** into the Data Lake
- Delivered **an integrated extension of the data warehouse across all three systems**
- **Built an integrated analytics layer** across ML, Alkami and CO OP
- Provided **hands on guidance** to ensure the team learned how to support and extend the reporting environment

Within weeks of project completion, America's First Credit Union had already built additional dashboards, showing strong progress toward long term self sufficiency.

America's First
Credit Union

196,000
members

\$2.6B
in assets

RESULTS:

Early Wins and High Value Enablement

America's First Credit Union is already seeing meaningful progress, including:

- **A 5X improvement** in speed of adding data sources
- **A decrease of 75%** in time spent maintaining the data platform
- **4X faster responses** to business requests for analytics
- A projected **savings of \$200K per year** in additional employees to build and maintain a data platform

One of the first major outputs was an **Indirect Dealer dashboard**, designed to replace their legacy paper-based reporting process. This report was identified as a top priority, both for operational value and as a way for internal resources to develop new reporting skills.

The team has already expressed appreciation for the guidance and partnership.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Scaling Reporting and Building Confidence

To quantify the impact of the new reports and data assets, America's First Credit Union plans to track the lift in indirect lending activity over the coming months.

As the Data Lake foundation continually matures, America's First Credit Union is preparing for

broader adoption, deeper process integration and expanded reporting capabilities. Their dual focus – building reliable data assets while developing internal expertise – provides them with a strong position for long term, sustainable analytics success.

Rise Analytics will continue supporting them as they:

- Extend and leverage their new Data Lake solution
- Expand reporting beyond the MVP stage
- Introduce new dashboards across departments
- Evaluate opportunities to build new analytical solutions on Data Lake



“It was just as important that Nathan [Aldridge, Data Engineer at AmFirst] learn the skills as it was to complete the actual work.”

— David O'Dell, VP of BI

500% ↑

A 5X improvement in time to add data sources



A decrease of 75% in time spent maintaining the data platform



4X faster responses to business requests for analytics

About Rise Analytics Rise Analytics empowers financial institutions with cutting-edge analytics, AI and machine learning to turn data into actionable strategies. With deep industry expertise and innovative data solutions, Rise Analytics helps financial institutions make smarter decisions, drive meaningful outcomes and achieve long-term success. Their powerful combination of technology and advisory services ensures every insight leads to impact. Learn more at RiseAnalytics.com.

