



The independent impact rating agency™

Case Study

Canadian firm trusts Polcode with their core product development

impak Finance trusted Polcode’s product development services to transform their offline, early-stage concept into a market-ready online platform. Instead of hiring a dedicated costly internal team, Polcode’s flexible team models allowed them to scale developer talent and hours as needed.

After a successful product launch, Polcode remains their remote technical team—entirely replacing an internal IT department.

impak Finance is a growing fintech company based in Canada that provides digital tools for investors to assess opportunities in parallel with environmental impact. Today’s investors need to meet more sustainable regulatory requirements than ever before, and need easy methods to measure the environmental and societal impact of their portfolios and assets.

TECHNOLOGIES USED



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We were so happy with Polcode’s initial work that **now the entire product is driven by Polcode’s development team.** Immediately after launch, their work helped us successfully land the first set of clients, bringing our proof-of-concept platform to market readiness.

CTO at impak Finance

From **Early-Stage** to **Startup**

impak Finance holds a very special vision and mission statement. Through its impact assessment and scoring solution, they aim to channel capital towards businesses with a positive social or environmental impact. They hope their technology shifts the mindset of capital in society, while still offering insights into growth, gains and profitability.

There was just one small problem.

Armed only with a vision and offline proof-of-concept models, impak had little visibility into their online market entrance. Thus, it was initially financially impossible to hire a dedicated internal IT team just to validate the idea.

What they needed was lightweight solutions and flexibility—the power to shrink or extend a developer hours on-demand with a tightly controlled budget, yet rapid development timeframes.

Polcode is a trusted developer-partner for these exact scenarios, able to develop and design a digital product under tailored constraints. No matter the challenge, we knew that we would be able to deliver the rapid prototyping that impak Finance needed, along with developing and designing their app under budget constraints.

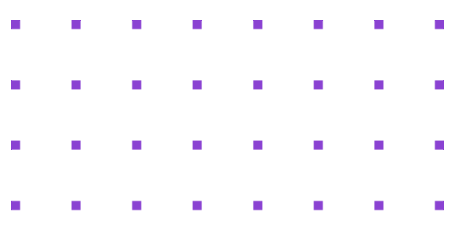
iS²

impak Investment Scoring Solution



The IS² platform is one of impak's core products, offering a way for investors to determine how environmentally sound a company's operational model and products. IS² generates a complete impact statement and an [impak Score™](#), even visualizing combined indices and custom modules tailored for specific business insights.

Facing the Challenges of **Fast-Paced Startups**



The cooperation with impak Finance is more like a startup-like environment, where a change in direction and priorities can shift within moments. Our teams in Canada and Poland meet frequently to plan accordingly and re-align project priorities.

To keep project on track and under budget, our agile processes focus on the following guidelines:



Predefined monthly costs

The whole project is broken down into logical ‘mini’ releases which contribute to the full product outcome. Each release is a work package that is priced accordingly. As a work package is completed, future work packages are re-estimated based on what we have learned from the previous one. This avoids unnecessary contingency and allows for a level of re-prioritization and new/revised features to be defined by the customer.



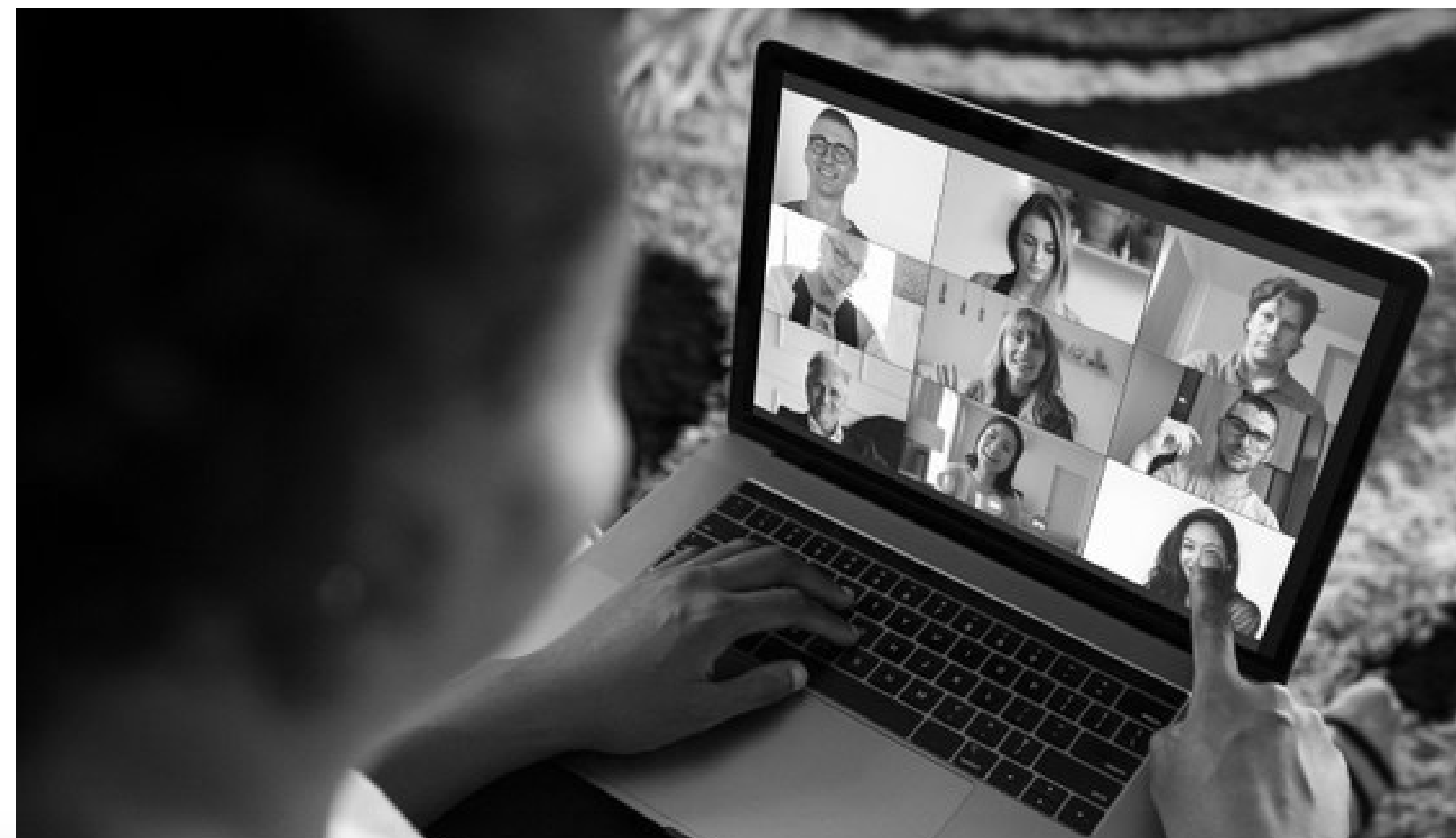
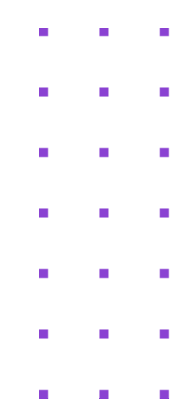
Flexibility

We know beforehand that we don’t know everything we will encounter. We encourage change and re-estimation based on relevant data and feedback. When a sprint or iteration ends, any changes or additional work can be brought up later, or pulled from the remaining backlog.



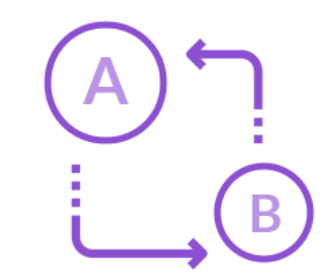
Building Trust

This clause is valid as long as the project team and customer have maintained a strong, trusting and close working collaborative relationship throughout the project.



Establishing warning thresholds

If additional work is expected, or developer hours exceed certain thresholds, we often have pre-agreed hourly figures which warn stakeholders before it occurs.



Recommending alternative resource allocations.

Instead of just telling the client, “Hey, we’re about to hit the limit of hours” it’s important that we also proactively offer a solution. Any time additional work needs to be re-prioritized, our teams offer alternative routes and best-possible options to proceed.

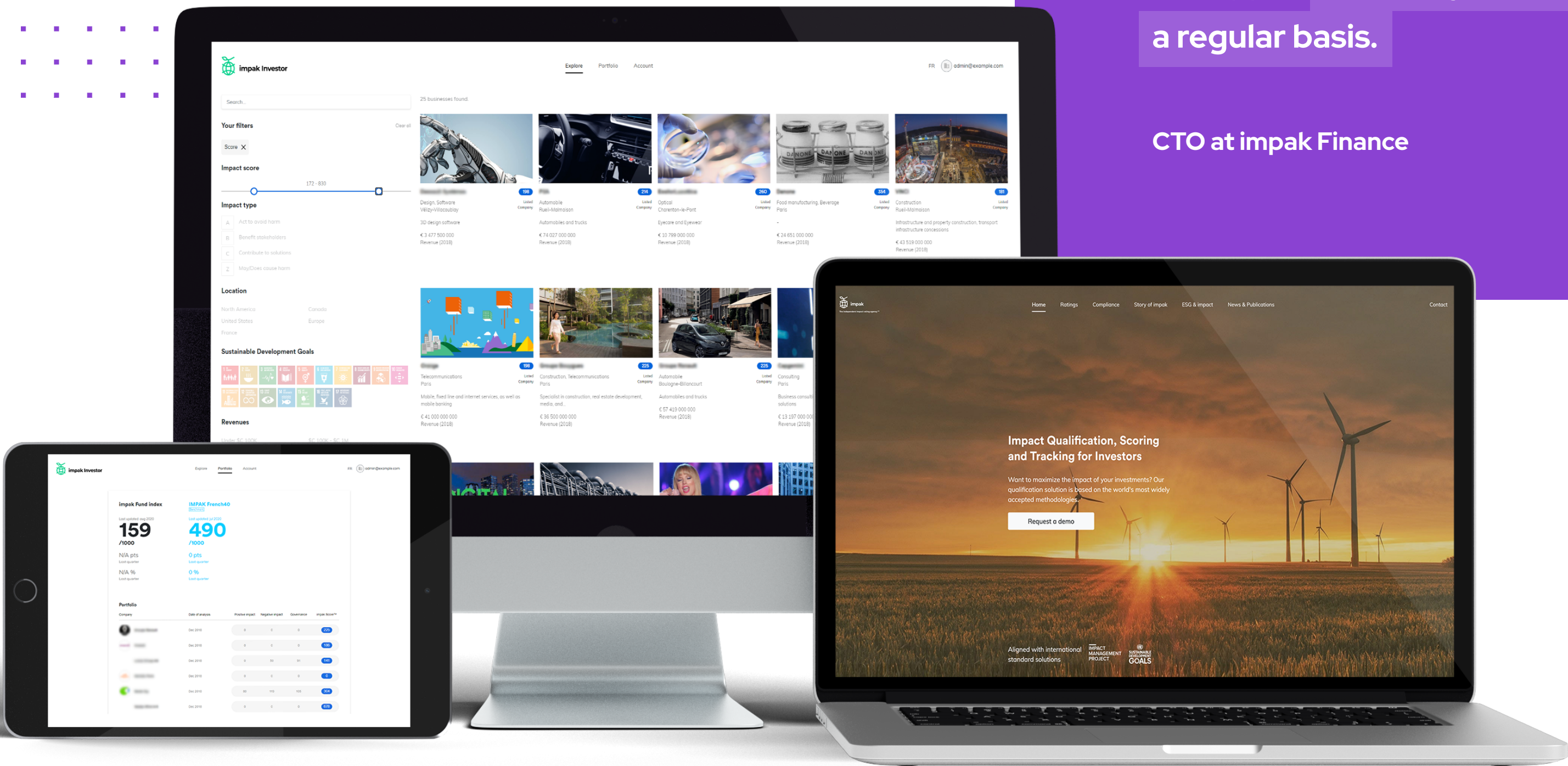


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We chose Polcode originally for their strong expertise in PHP and strong cultural fit with our teams. Our previous experience with software houses was a black box of issues, and we couldn't be happier. **Polcode just has great people to work with on a regular basis.**

CTO at impak Finance

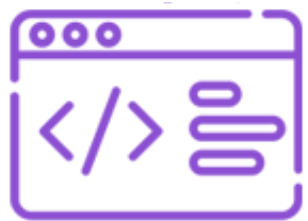


Realizing **The impak Online Investor Platform**

Polcode designed and developed the majority of the impak online experience. Development is currently ongoing on multiple fronts: their website, impak scoring visualization tools used by investors, and administrative panels for impak's internal back-office staff.

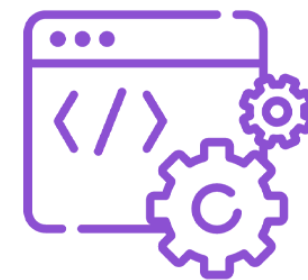
In terms of team, impak Finance works with a wide array of Polcode's core talent roles, including UX designers, frontend & backend developers and our dedicated project managers.

A quick summary of our services for impak Finance includes:



Frontend Development

- UI and UX for back-office operations to manage clients, connect new data streams, and centralize operations via administrative panels.
- Investor-focused data visualizations and themed reference indices.
- Customizable views and downloadable reporting functions.



Backend Development

- Backend development utilized Django that made it fast and easy for Polcode's developers to quickly get a production-ready app without having to code much from scratch.
- The database that impak Finance must manage for their internal scoring system utilized PostgreSQL for its speed and reliability.



Impak's CMS Site

The website www.impactfinance.com serves as a knowledge base and a quick and easy CMS structure, based on Wordpress. The actual platform and scoring system don't sit directly on the website currently, so the immediate goal was to share as much information about impak's mission and its products on the web as possible. It also serves as a digital kickoff point for sales leads.



Google Sheets Integration

Polcode also built a novel system that uses Google Sheets capabilities for data gathering which relies on complex conditional relations in a flat file. The sheet uses information from the backend system and automatically generates custom sheets and tables, making it much easier for impak Finance to process large relational data inputs for their analysts.

Greener Project Outcomes

Our partnership with impak Finance will continue to grow, as the product backlog ahead has some exciting new features and growth planned. However, our deliverables thus far were able to get impak Finance from a ‘proof of concept’ phase to actualized digital products.

Here were some of the latest project outcomes:



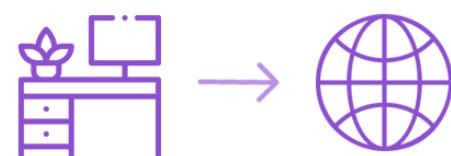
Successful market entry with the IS² platform launch.



Increased back-office efficiency by aggregating data views into one place.



Slashed potential developer costs by 50% by offering scalable, highly flexible, remote developers that work under budget, but act as impak’s own developer team.



Moving business from offline to online within less than a year, bringing impak’s digital footprint forward.

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I still find it amazing to this day that our teams work so well together. **Polcode, just over the last year, has offered us flexibility, extra resources, extra help on the frontend side, and a team that adapts to changing requirements.**

We think of them as our own team now.

CTO at impak Finance

Let's Talk!

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