



Restoring Live FX Trading at PMC Analytics

A Case Study by Syed Quadri

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At a glance

Company: PMC Analytics, part of PMC Treasury

Technology: Python, Django, QuickFIX, FXall

The problem

PMC Analytics trades FX through FXall, an electronic trading network, from its own Django platform. The connection started failing with an error that read "could not convert field: 20231215-05:13:05ùùù". The development team could not reproduce it locally or on test, and while the link was down the platform could not trade through FXall.

What I did

I took over the investigation and went to the production server, where the fault actually lived. The cause was a corrupt timestamp stored in the FIX session file. I removed the bad value and the connection to FXall came straight back.

I then made sure it could not quietly happen again:

- Worked with the backend and DevOps engineers to trace how the timestamp was being corrupted, focusing on the QuickFIX library.
- Contacted the QuickFIX maintainers, who pointed to a likely fault in its SSLSocketInitiator.
- Set up monitoring and asked the trading users to report any repeat immediately.
- Had DevOps add a scheduled job that checks the session file and removes invalid values automatically.

The result

Trading through FXall was restored. The platform now detects and clears this fault on its own, so it can no longer silently stop trading.