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Is Your Inventory System Ready to Scale? A Self-Check and Safe-Migration Playbook

A vendor-neutral worksheet for depositories, vault operators, bullion dealers, and refiners. Score your current setup, then plan a migration that protects chain of custody at every step.

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1 Scale-readiness self-check

Answer each question for your current inventory system. Count every "Yes." Three or more is a strong signal it is time to plan a replacement.

1. Does reconciling across vaults, clients, or systems still take manual effort every day?

Yes | No

2. Would you struggle to prove a clean chain of custody for a single bar within minutes?

Yes | No

3. Does onboarding a new client or vault require custom code or developer time?

Yes | No

4. Would you lose critical know-how if one or two people left?

Yes | No

5. Do your engineers spend more time maintaining the old system than improving anything?

Yes | No

6. Is your exact, current position across every client and vault hard to see on demand?

Yes | No

0/6

Answer all six for your full read (0/6 done)

Every "Yes" is a place where growth is adding friction instead of absorbing it.

2 What to require from any replacement

Bring this to every vendor evaluation. Check what each platform proves it can do on your real workflows, not just claims on a slide.

- [ ] Native allocated, segregated, and pooled holdings
  Real ownership models, not a workaround or a report bolted on afterward.
- [ ] Asset-level identity
  Tracking at the SKU, bar, or lot level with serial, weight, purity, and assay detail.
- [ ] Configurability without code
  Add clients, custody rules, and billing through configuration rather than a development project.
- [ ] Reconciliation and real-time position
  One current picture across every client and vault, on demand.
- [ ] Control and security
  Dual-control workflows, role-based permissions, and audit-ready trails that support your compliance efforts.
- [ ] Clean integrations
  Connections to ERP, trading, and finance systems so data stops living in silos.
- [ ] Scale and continuity
  A cloud-capable, supported platform that does not depend on one or two people to survive.

Ask each vendor to demonstrate, on your data:

- Move a bar between two clients under different custody models and show the full audit trail it creates.
- Onboard a new client with its own segregation and billing rules without writing code.
- Produce a client statement and a proof-of-position report as of right now, then as of a date in the past.
- Run a reconciliation across two vaults and show how a discrepancy is flagged and resolved.

3 Safe-migration playbook

The goal of a migration is not speed. It is proving that ownership and custody never went dark. Work these four steps in order.

STEP 1

Clean and map your data first

- [ ] Standardize units (troy ounces, grams, kilos) across every record
- [ ] Verify serials, weights, and purity against source documents
- [ ] Map every allocated, segregated, and pooled holding to its owner
- [ ] List the client-specific custody, billing, and reporting rules that must carry over

Owner and target date

Who owns this step, and when is it due?

STEP 2

Carry the full history forward

- [ ] Migrate chain-of-custody history, not just current balances
- [ ] Preserve the complete audit trail (receipts, transfers, withdrawals, adjustments)
- [ ] Confirm assay records and certificates travel with each asset

Owner and target date

Who owns this step, and when is it due?

STEP 3

Run in parallel and reconcile to zero

- [ ] Set the parallel-run window and the cutover criteria before you start
- [ ] Reconcile old and new daily; log every discrepancy and its cause
- [ ] Do not cut over until the two systems agree to zero

Parallel window and cutover criteria

e.g., 4-week parallel run; cutover only after 5 consecutive days of zero discrepancy

STEP 4

Verify with a physical audit

- [ ] Pull a randomized sample of real bars from the vault
- [ ] Confirm serial, weight, and location match the new digital record exactly
- [ ] Capture a signed sign-off you can show clients and auditors

Sample size and sign-off owner

e.g., 25-bar sample across 3 vaults; signed off by Head of Vault Ops

Why this order works. Ownership never goes dark, the audit trail stays intact, and the physical audit at the end gives you, your clients, and your auditors a clean, verifiable starting point on the new system.

Take this to your next conversation

When you are ready to see how a platform built for high-value assets handles custody, ownership, and reconciliation, use this worksheet as your starting point.

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