Dear Members,

This spring, our team is preparing for the 2017 ACORD Insurance Innovation Challenge. Bringing together insurers, brokers and agents as well as investors and technology startups, the Innovation Challenge is an opportunity to participate in a collaborative effort to transform the way the industry does business. The ACORD Innovation Challenge accepts submissions in two categories: Startup Disruptor and Industry Innovator.

The 2017 semi-finals will take place in New York on June 22, Chicago on July 19, and London on September 5, with the finals at ACORD2017 in Boston. New this year, the award will include more than $300,000 worth of support, including $30,000 for the winner of the Startup Disruptor category and $60,000 worth of consulting for the winner of the Industry Innovator.

ACORD welcomes all individuals and organizations of any size or location who have developed—or can demonstrate the potential to develop—products and services that bring significant innovation and drive value for our industry. For additional information about the ACORD Innovation Challenge and how to apply, visit http://www.acordchallenge.com/.

I encourage you to share this opportunity to participate with key stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Bill Pieroni
ACORD President & CEO
Microservices Update

We are continuing our effort toward developing a Standard for Microservice processes. To enhance our speed to delivery and resulting implementations, we are engaging carrier partners both inside and outside of our dedicated working group in developing proofs of concept (PoC). These PoCs will be incorporated into our final Standard, ensuring that it is adopted as quickly and seamlessly as possible.

ACORD Insurance Digital Maturity Study

Digitization. It’s one of those industry terms which comes up so frequently that it hardly makes a dent in our awareness anymore. It’s a concept that attracts hype, but not always quantification. Many are skeptical of its value, with little rigorous research done to measure its impact.

For these reasons, ACORD chose to discard the assumptions and develop quantitative insights on the state of digitization in the insurance value chain. Where does the industry stand? Does digital maturity correlate to value creation? What are the potential digital strategies, and are there common traits among those who have successfully executed them?

Read More
R3 and ACORD launch insurance industry Centre of Excellence for distributed ledger technology

Financial innovation firm R3 has partnered with ACORD to launch a Centre of Excellence for distributed ledger technology (DLT) in the global insurance industry. The Centre of Excellence will provide a dedicated environment for both R3’s members and ACORD’s members to research, experiment and design DLT applications that improve the efficiency of insurance processes such as claims handling and data management.

London Forum

The ACORD London Forum is only a few days away! Join us on April 25 for a day of panels and keynotes focused on data management, innovation, and transformation in the insurance industry. The Forum provides a unique opportunity to gain insights on the future of the industry, interact with thought leaders, and learn from experts on innovation. Register on the event website.
ACORD2017

Registration is open! Join us to explore the latest thinking on strategic issues facing the global insurance industry and take an in-depth look into ACORD Standards and Architecture. Early bird registration is open until April 30. Click here to take advantage of our special rates!

Calling all speakers: If you're a great speaker, know of one, or have topic suggestions, we want to hear from you! Click here to submit your proposal. Submissions are due by May 5.

ACORD Insurance Innovation Challenge (AIIC)

Are you an innovator or disruptor? The AIIC welcomes individuals and entities of any size from anywhere in the world who have developed – or can demonstrate the potential to develop – products and services that bring significant innovation to the insurance industry. AIIC accepts submissions in two categories: Startup Disruptor and Industry Innovator. Click here to learn more about the AIIC and submit your application to present at the semi-finals in New York, Chicago, or London.
Forms Portal

We have launched the new forms portal for agents. New features include enhanced speed for form search and download and a shopping cart for forms where users can download multiple ACORD forms at once. The link to the new Forms Portal can be found on the Forms Search page on our website: ACORD.org Forms Search Page. Simply log in with your ACORD.org credentials, go to the Forms Search Page and connect to the Forms Portal.

Special Offer for ACORD Members

Tom Wetzel is giving ACORD members a special offer in conjunction with his co-branded white paper, The Digital Tsunami: Why U.S. Independent Agents Must Optimize Online Tools Now. He is offering a free, no-obligation digital footprint evaluation of members' websites and social media activity to provide recommendations. If you're interested, please email Tom at twetzel@wetzelandassociates.com and include "ACORD Special" in the subject line.
Volunteer Spotlight: Steven Williams, Liberty Mutual

In order to recognize our volunteers, ACORD will be highlighting a volunteer each month. This month, we feature, Steven Williams, Principal Data Analyst at Liberty Mutual.

Q: What attracted you to work with ACORD?
A: I first used ACORD around 1999 during the period when P&C XML was originally being developed. At the time, I was working with a small company to create a policy management system. We were integrating with forms, rating, underwriting/rules, websites, stat reporting, billing, etc. We were spending a considerable amount of time building interfaces and transformations due to the custom definitions each one of these systems had for similar concepts. The idea that all could share a single unified definition of data is what attracted me to ACORD.

Q: What do you think ACORD excels at?
A: ACORD excels at providing frameworks that we can use as is or as a base for my data integration. I'm often asked at the beginning of a project or sprint “why are we using ACORD when we can do this ourselves”? The answer is always the same: If we use ACORD, we can start with the assumption that a large portion of our data is already defined on day 1. In addition, because others are using similar ACORD frameworks, I can be confident others who come along later will be able to easily consume this message with only minor changes and/or transformations.

Q: What’s #1 on your bucket list?
A: Buying a vacation house in Maine on the water.
Q: What fuels your creativity?
A: Solving problems. I've always been a puzzle person. The more difficult the better.

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Vendors In Focus: Duck Creek Technologies

Every month, we will shine a light on a vendor who has made a positive influence on the industry. This month, we spoke to Curt Stevenson, Chief Digital Officer of Duck Creek Technologies, a leading provider of comprehensive P&C insurance software and services. Curt answered some questions to help us get to know Duck Creek Technologies a little better and hear his thoughts about the influence ACORD has in the market.

Q: What makes you proud to work for your company?
A: Our customer base. We're blessed to have customers who like to spend time with us and will advocate on our behalf.

Q: What fuels your company's creativity?
A: A common fiber in our people is a persistent curiosity - whether that is an analyst figuring out how a complex coverage works or a SaaS Ops person figuring out a better way to deploy code, it keeps people asking questions and always figuring out better ways to do things.

Q: What changes have you seen at ACORD that excite you?
A: We're very excited about the higher-level business solution offerings designed for solution providers and also like the new charter of the ACORD Solutions Group.

Q: Describe ACORD in one word.
A: Standards (Sorry, that might not be too exciting, but it was the first word that came to mind.)
## Events Calendar

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<td>June 15, 2017</td>
<td>TINtech</td>
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<td>June 20, 2017</td>
<td>ACORD Quarterly</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 22, 2017</td>
<td>ACORD Insurance Innovation Challenge</td>
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<td>July 19, 2017</td>
<td>ACORD Insurance Innovation Challenge</td>
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<td>September 6, 2017</td>
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See All Events