Before participating in the derivatives markets, investors should learn as much as they can about the firms and individuals with which they’re considering doing business. NFA’s BASIC system can be a powerful resource for conducting that due diligence.

Conduct a BASIC search at www.nfa.futures.org/basicnet.
Registration & Membership Information
BASIC contains registration and membership information about all pending, current or former CFTC registrants. Most firms and individuals who do business with customers or counterparties in the derivatives industry (futures, options on futures, over-the-counter derivatives (swaps) or off-exchange retail foreign currency (forex)) must be registered with the CFTC and NFA Members.

Regulatory Actions
BASIC provides information about regulatory actions taken by NFA, the CFTC and the U.S. exchanges. Regulatory sanctions can range in severity from a small fine to a permanent bar from conducting industry business.

FCM Financial Information
BASIC contains four financial data reports for FCM Members: the Net Capital Report, the Customer Segregated Funds Report, the Customer Secured Funds Report and the Cleared Swaps Customer Collateral Report. These reports provide investors transparency with regard to an FCM’s financial condition.

Dispute Resolution Information
BASIC contains information about certain NFA arbitration cases involving disputes between investors and NFA Members, as well as summary data about CFTC reparations proceedings.