

The leading global withholding tax oversight and reclaim platform

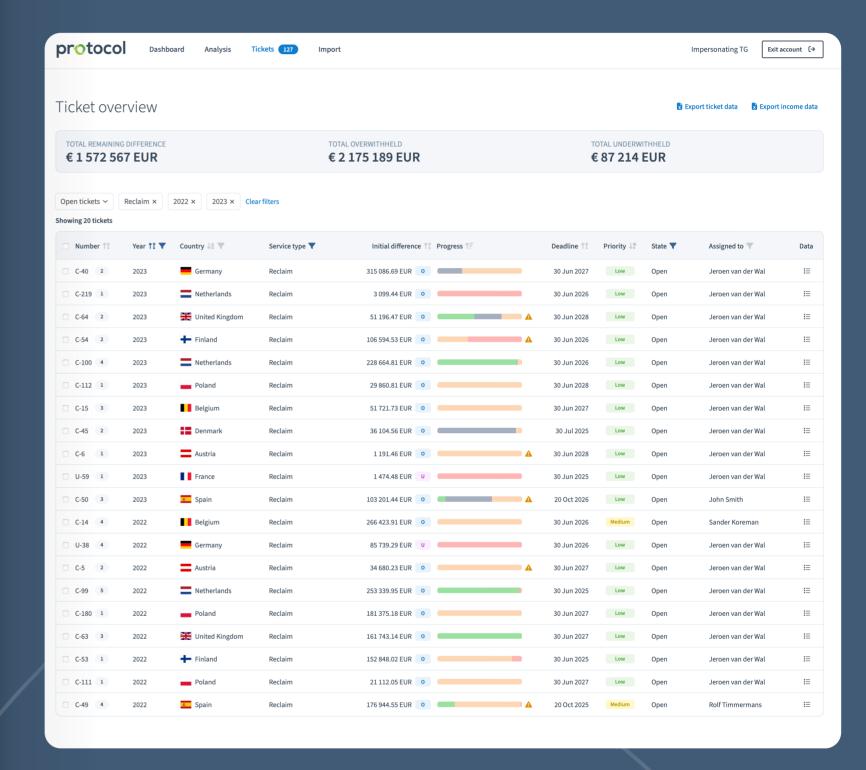


Introduction

Increased Withholding Tax Recovery

Managing withholding tax on global public equities and fixed-income portfolios is critical for investors and investment managers. Ensuring the application of optimal tax rates can significantly reduce tax leakage, improving net returns by up to several basis points annually.

A comprehensive global withholding tax management strategy involves both monitoring the custodian's withholding tax recovery services and identifying reclaims outside the custodian's offerings (non-custody tax reclaims). Manually operating such a strategy is complex and time-consuming. Protocol, a cloud-based software solution, automates and streamlines global withholding tax management and recovery, ensuring maximum efficiency and full control.



Key Benefits



Increased Withholding Tax Recovery

Reclaims often have statutes of limitations ranging from 1 to 5 years, depending on the investment market. While this may seem ample, the time needed to collect relevant documentation often makes it tight.

Protocol identifies custody tax services gaps and non-custody tax reclaims early, ensuring timely actions are taken to avoid forfeiture. With automated ticket prioritization and reminders, Protocol helps ensure all deadlines are met. This proactive approach leads to a significant increase in withholding tax recovery.



Save Time, Resources, and Costs

Protocol dramatically reduces the time investment operations and tax teams spend analyzing custody tax data and preparing reclaims. By automating data analysis, reconciliation and reclaim workflows, it frees up resources for other critical tasks. This productivity boost lowers operational costs related to manual withholding tax management processes.



Full Oversight and Control

Protocol consolidates all withholding tax data and documentation in one place, serving as a single source of truth. This centralized cloud repository enhances data security and simplifies access and retrieval. The platform allows users to generate comprehensive reports, track ticket histories, and ensure critical information is readily available when needed.



Transparency, Security, and Compliance

All actions within Protocol are logged and timestamped, ensuring transparency and compliance. The platform employs robust encryption and access controls to safeguard sensitive tax data. This strong security framework ensures compliance with regulatory standards, building stakeholder confidence in the safety of their data.

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Improved Team Collaboration and Workflow Efficiency

Protocol eliminates the need for lengthy email chains or spreadsheet analysis by allowing direct collaboration within the platform. Team members can easily communicate, share documents, and update tickets in real-time. This integrated workflow fosters better team coordination, reducing miscommunication and speeding up decision-making.

How protocol works

Data Import

The process begins by importing all custody account information, tax profiles, and custody tax rate matrices. Rate matrices specify applicable tax rates per investment market for each year. Tax profiles determine eligibility for reduced rates or reclaims.

Next, global dividend and interest income records and custody tax data are imported. This includes reclaims received and outstanding reclaims. Since custody service gaps from prior years may still be recoverable, importing data from the previous 3 to 5 years is highly recommended. Ongoing data updates ensure an accurate overview of the global withholding tax position.

Custody tax service gaps captured by protocol

Protocol helps identify relief-at-source (RAS) failures and missed reclaims. If RAS is expected but not applied, Protocol instantly identifies the affected accounts and securities, providing the context needed to assess and resolve the issue. The system tracks over- and under-withholdings separately, preventing accidental offsets between the two.

When reclaims are not executed as expected, Protocol helps users log, track, and resolve the issue through its ticketing workflow. By pinpointing the problem's source—be it missed documentation submission, misinterpreted tax rates, or other errors—Protocol ensures timely resolution.



Non-Custody Tax Reclaims identified by Protocol

Protocol identifies tax reclaims outside the scope of the custodian's service.

These include:

- Markets where the custodian offers no service.
- Tax treaty or domestic law reclaims the custodian does not support.
- Specialty reclaims, such as those based on the EU treaty's free movement of capital (ECJ reclaims).

Protocol provides the necessary insight and data to process these reclaims, ensuring opportunities outside the custodian's coverage are not overlooked.

Ticket Creation

Protocol automatically generates tickets for all identified custody tax service gaps and non-custody reclaims.

Ticket progress is updated with each data refresh and displayed in an intuitive table showing reclaimed, refunded, forfeited, pending, and unclaimed amounts. The system highlights tickets that require user action, while other tickets are flagged for custodian follow-up.

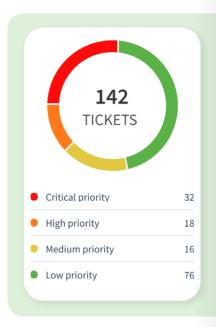
C-24	4	2022	+ Switzerland	Reclaim	1 126 549.67 EUR	0		30 Jun 2025	Low	Open	Jeroen van der Wal
C-39	2	2022	Germany	Reclaim	374 169.22 EUR	0		30 Jun 2026	Low	Open	Jeroen van der Wal
C-99	5	2022	Netherlands	Reclaim	253 166.44 EUR	0		30 Jun 2025	Low	Open	Jeroen van der Wal
C-180	1	2022	Poland	Reclaim	184 515.65 EUR	0		30 Jun 2027	Low	Open	Jeroen van der Wal
C-49	4	2022	Spain	Reclaim	176 944.55 EUR	0	A	20 Oct 2025	Medium	Open	Rolf Timmermans
C-63	3	2022	United Kingdom	Reclaim	161 781.96 EUR	0		30 Jun 2027	Low	Open	Jeroen van der Wal
C-53	1	2022	┿ Finland	Reclaim	152 848.02 EUR	0		30 Jun 2025	Low	Open	Jeroen van der Wal

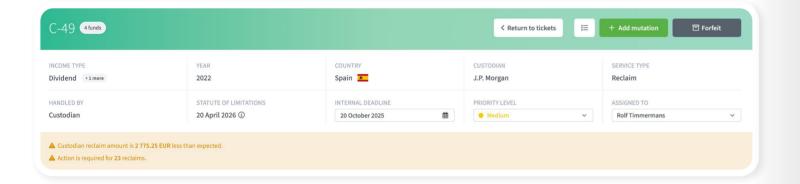
Ticket Resolution

Each ticket contains information necessary to resolve custody tax services gaps or to initiate non-custody tax reclaims.

This includes applied and expected tax rates, actual reclaim amounts, and the last known reclaim status.

Tickets are prioritized based on urgency, with deadlines automatically updated as they approach their statute of limitations. Users can leave processing notes, attach documents, adjust priorities, assign tasks to team members, and receive weekly notifications for tickets nearing their deadlines.





Additional Features



Automated Currency Conversion

Since the income and custody tax data are imported in local currencies, Protocol automatically converts all values to the user's preferred reporting currency. This makes cross-market analysis more insightful, while ticket details retain both local and converted currency values for clarity.



Data Integrity and System Safeguards

Protocol is designed to maintain data integrity across multiple imports. It prevents duplicate income records and corrects errors from previous imports. Users can import the same data multiple times without risking duplication, and Protocol automatically identifies inconsistencies, such as discrepancies between expected and actual income rates, during the data import process.

Start optimizing your withholding tax recovery today!

Protocol revolutionizes global withholding tax management by automating data workflows, improving collaboration, and providing complete oversight and control. Its ability to optimize recovery processes while reducing manual effort makes it an indispensable tool for modern investment operations.

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