

Fund Switching or Fund Rebalancing?



基金转移

或

基金平衡



基金转移是专为保护那些在面对股市崩盘及市场持续波动的投资者。

举例而言，在2008年及2009年期间，全球股市在这期间见证了不确定的大幅波动。

在这期间的股市在同一个交易日内飙升10%，也可以急挫10%。

在这期间，通过基金转移，投资者可以从波动中获得解脱，从而让现金及投资基金更为安全。

旨在提高回报

尽管如此，对于一些投资者而言，基金转移(特别是自由转移)也意味着将一个基金转至另一个基金，旨在可提高效率。

而一些投资者更采取极端的投资策略，即完全投入或完全出投资。

因此，这投资者的资产配置可以是100%现金或100%的股票，或介于两者之间。

筛选及时机最关键

在资产配置策略准备就绪之后，基金筛选及时机就是最大的因素。

就像在股市投资一样，你可以是完全对的，也可能是完全错的。

保持资产分配水平

投资者或可能过早离开股市或是无法抽离，或也有可能把基有表现的基金转至没有表现的基金。

而单位信托基金也可透过好时机、良好筛选及卓越的管理而取得交易良机。

那是否有更好的选择，有的，即是基金再平衡。

再平衡即是重新调整资产组合的程序，涉及的步骤包括买卖组合资产，以保持你所求的资产配置水平。

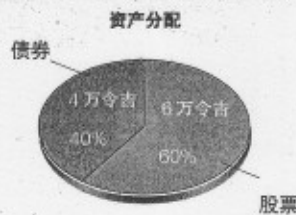
举例而言，林先生的原本组合分配为股市60%，及债券40%。

如果他的股票在该时期内表现良好，成果就是，提高组合内的股票比重至80%，他或决定过后脱售股票的价值(价差为60%的股票及80%的股票)，及购买债券，以重返原有的分配目标，即60/40。

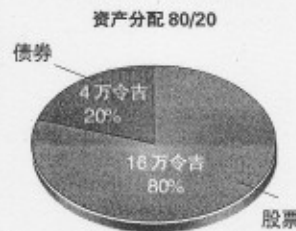
以下的图表显示，一些基金再平衡策略涵盖特定基金转移的成份，但是以更合理的进行，而非仅是受到股市的激烈波动即进行惊慌抛售。

这是以更适度的调整策略进行，即较小的调整会依时进行。

图表 A 为林先生原本的资产配置 (40岁)

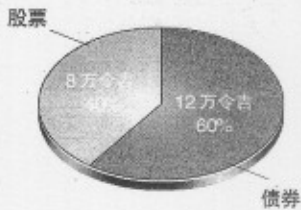


图表 B 显示林先生的资产配置 (40岁) 在6个月时间内因股市扬升所出现的变化。他的持股现价值16万令吉，相比原本的6万令吉，获利达167%，而整体的组合则劲升100%。



那投资者的选择在哪儿？投资者可以进行以下的行动，赎回、转移或重新平衡投资组合。即林先生已是一名长期投资者，而其实际的资产配置为60/40，他应重新平衡如图表C一样的组合，即将在股票所持，转移至债券。

回到原本资产配置 60/40



成功从持股中套利

在进行这项重新平衡行动之后，林先生已成功从持股架构中套利，并一贯保持长期投资者的角色，最重要的是，他的整体资产已有所成长。对于林先生来说，这小小的调整非常的重要，因他的风险组合并没有在过去的6个月内出现改变。

虽然如此，股市在这段时期有所上扬，他的持股有所增值，导致他的资产配置并没有完全在风险组合中反映出来，因此他需要重新平衡。



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Fund Switching or Fund Rebalancing?

If you dust off any old finance or investment management book that was written after 1986 you would inevitably come across this landmark asset allocation study by Brinson, Hood, and Beebower (BHB). In this study, 91 large pension funds quarterly returns were tracked and measured from 1974 to 1983. They replaced the pension funds' stock, bond, and cash selections with corresponding market indexes. The indexed quarterly returns was found to be higher than pension plan's actual quarterly returns. Very simply, the study demonstrated that replacing active choices with simple asset classes worked just as well as, if not even better than, professional pension managers. Also, a small number of asset classes were sufficient for financial planning. Financial advisors often pointed to this study to support the idea that **asset allocation** is more important than all other concerns, which the BHB study lumped together as 'market timing'.

Since the release of this study in 1986 and a follow-up study in 1991, many market practitioners have challenged the validity of some of the claims but to this day, the BHB study survives and is still highly regarded. What has this got to do with Fund Switching or Fund Rebalancing? Everything!

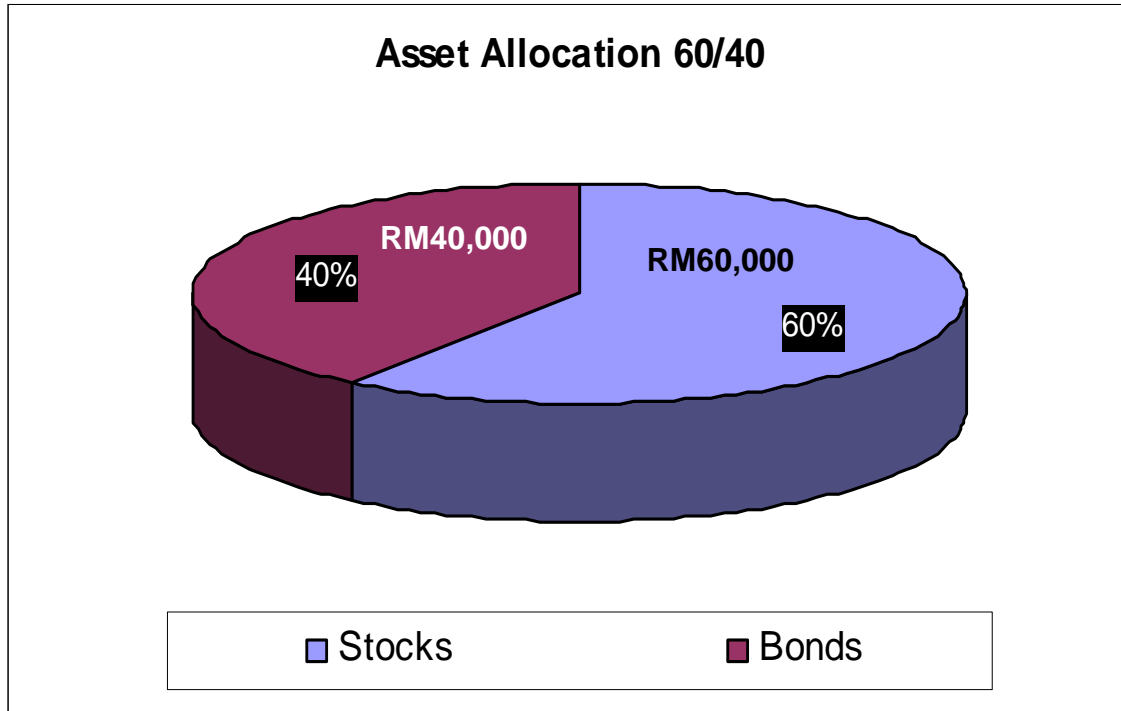
Fund Switching is designed to protect the investor especially in a plunging stock market and in an environment of increased volatility. For instance, during the September 2008 to March 2009 period, stock markets around the world were witness to some unprecedented volatility. Stock markets became so volatile that on a few occasions, ten percent swings either way i.e. +10% & -10% in the same trading day were giving investors sleepless nights. In times like these, through fund-switching, investors can get a reprieve from the volatility when they seek out (switch to) the safety of cash or income funds.

However, for some investors, Fund Switching (especially free switching) means the ultimate passport to switch from one fund to another, in the hope to maximize their returns. Sometimes, the investor adopts the extreme strategy i.e. to be completely IN or OUT of his units. Therefore, his asset allocation is a dynamic one, it can be 100% cash or 100% stocks or in between. The asset allocation decision takes a back seat, while fund selection and timing are the main drivers. Just like trading in stocks, you can be dead right or dead wrong. Investors can come out of markets way too early and lose out, or switch from a performing fund into a non-performing one. While unit trust may lend itself to some trading opportunities through the good fortune of timing, fund selection and superior fund management it is usually not sustainable. Is there a better way then? Yes, Fund Rebalancing.

Rebalancing is the process of realigning the weightings of one's portfolio of assets. Rebalancing involves periodically buying or selling assets in your portfolio to maintain your original desired level of asset allocation. For example, Mr Lim's original target asset allocation was 60% stocks and 40% bonds. If his stocks performed well during the period, and as a result, increased the stock weighting of his portfolio by value to 80%, he may then decide to sell the value of his stocks (value difference of 60% stocks and 80% stocks) and buy bonds to get it back to his original target allocation of 60/40. See illustrations below. Fund re-balancing incorporates certain elements of fund-switching, but it is done in a more methodical and thought out manner, rather than

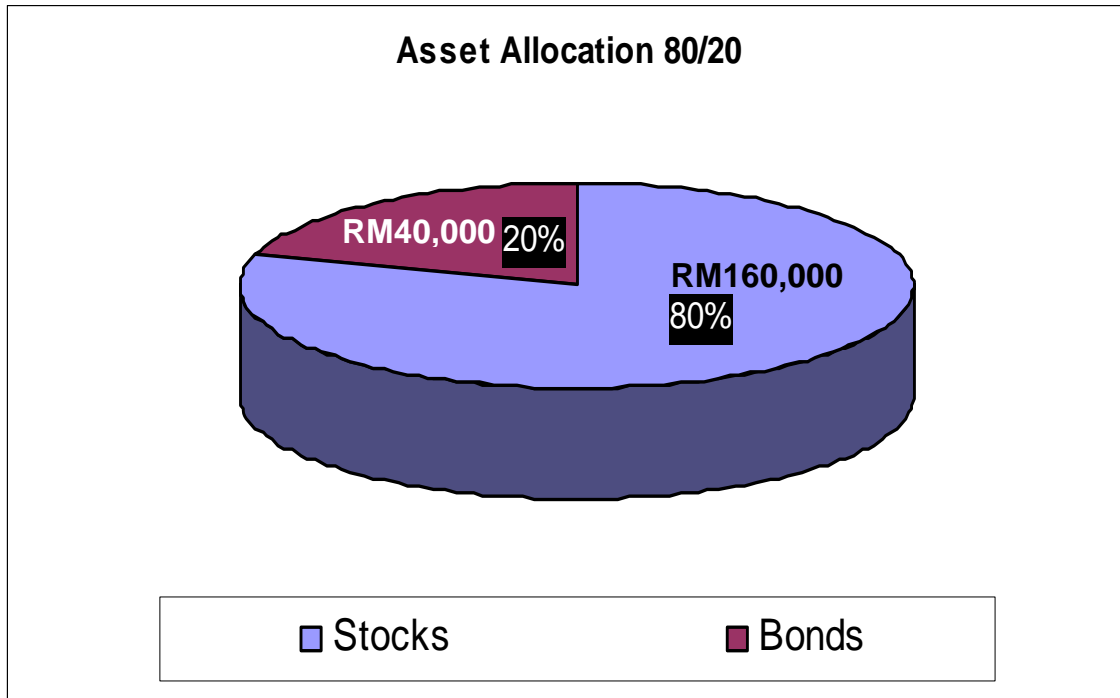
responding in a knee jerk manner to stock market movements per se. Think of it as more of a fine-tuning process where small adjustments are made periodically.

The Pie Chart A below shows the original asset allocation of Mr Lim (40 years old)



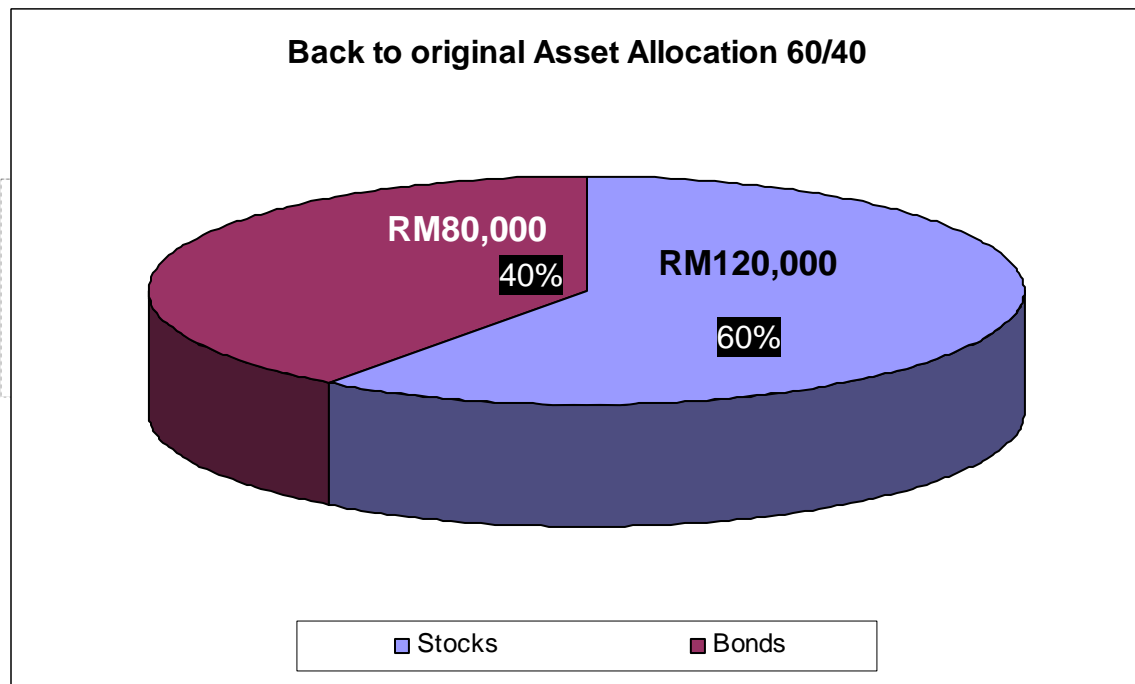
Pie Chart A

The Pie Chart B (below) shows the asset allocation of Mr Lim (40 years old) after the stock market has gone up, say over a period of six months. The value of his stock holdings is now RM160,000 instead of RM60,000 for a gain of 167%, whereas his overall portfolio has gone up by 100%.



Pie Chart B

What are the options available for the investor? The investor can do the following; redeem, switch, or rebalance his portfolio. Since Mr Lim is a long-term investor and true to his asset allocation of 60/40, he should Re-Balance his portfolio to look like Pie Chart C i.e. switch RM40,000 from stock holdings to bond holdings.



Pie Chart C

By doing this re-balancing, Mr Lim has successfully ‘taken profit’ on his stock holdings and still remained invested in the market for the long-term while most importantly, his overall assets size has also grown. Think of it as doing small refinements to your portfolio rather than making drastic or sweeping changes. Fund Rebalancing was important for Mr Lim because his risk profile did not change over the six months period. However, the stock market did go up and as a result, the stock holdings in his portfolio appreciated, causing his asset allocation not to be reflective of his risk profile and therefore needed to be Re-Balanced.



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