Enterprise Applications For Optimizing Your Existing Business Processes
Enterprise/Business applications for optimizing your existing business processes

In 2014, still organizations are struggling with manual interventions and redundancies in their business processes. These manual processes involve collecting, processing and controlling of data from multiple sources. Some of them might even have repetitive information to be processed, giving enterprises more headaches.

On the brighter side, organizations are talking about big data, going paperless, being smarter and reducing Total Cost of Ownership (TCO). The brighter scheme of things can happen, when organizations streamline their business processes. And precisely tap into the goldmine of data, these business processes offer.

To streamline business processes, organizations must welcome enterprise applications into their IT ecosystem. Enterprise applications not only automate monotonous tasks but offer higher productivity and better business outcomes. These applications streamline and efficiently self-regulate business processes. The business processing application leads to minimum manual interventions and fewer errors.
A look at pitfalls of manual business processes

**Manual data entry:** Prone to errors, repetitive, redundant, and boring

**Age-old data:** Time consuming, difficult to sort and organize, data keeps growing

**Incomplete data:** In manual business processes, only the data that is most required is entered. While the other significant part of data is forgotten. *In age of big data and analytics, it can prove expensive to leave any data behind.*

Blind data entry can negatively disrupt organizations. Data from a single source can offer tons information. Organizations need the right information from the gathered data to strategize, predict and forecast.

For example, public organizations at large depend on manual business processes. These processes are very manual, bare-basic and for the sake of records. Many of them receive paper bills from multiple vendors. And send these paper bills to business processing centres to manually enter data. Then there are manual scans, faxes and emails to each vendor or supplier for the record. So much of manual interventions exist in the businesses processes, *we forget we are in 2014.*

Consider the bills generated from these public organizations. These bills even though they mean the same. Branch divisions of the organization will generate these bills in different data formats. This makes optimizing business processes extremely complex.

One of more reasons for staying manual is due to frustrations that occur when they try to automate. Adding to woes is a huge organization with thousands of vendors and suppliers, legacy data systems and outdated infrastructure. The problem is all of them speak in different languages and formats. With the advent of SaaS and PaaS, these complexities can be easily overcome. *Manual business processes can be completely standardized and optimized with the right technology partner.*
Why it’s time to automate and streamline business processes??

Moving away from public organizations, let us consider the example of automotive spare manufacturer. Considering the extremes to show business process optimization is required across industries. A spare part manufacturer invoice can consist of almost 50 data elements. Each data element can give insight on the type of spare part in demand, their sizes, and demand at specific geographies. Let’s go little deep into the history of invoices. We can further know at which time of the year the demand is more and which vehicle requires more spare parts.

At first, to analyse millions of invoice data and extract information business processes needs to be automated. Information needs to structured and organized. Highly organized information can be easily sorted. When organization can easily sort data and pick the right information. They will make effective analytical decisions. This happens when we have standardized and centralized business processes in place. By using enterprise applications to optimize business processes, organizations can reduce manual interventions, redundant information. Increase transparency and greater visibility at all levels.

*When organizations automate and optimize business processes, they can streamline their operations and enhance productivity.* In this example, the automotive spare parts manufacturer can have structured information of invoices. Structured information of invoices will help to meet compliances and audits. Further, the manufacturer can optimize production lines and meet demand vs supply. Again automotive manufacturers can buy and analyse structured data from their vendors and suppliers. Analysed information will lead into an array of findings. These findings will help vehicle manufacturers to iron-out existing defects and further improve overall build quality of the vehicle. *All these improvements will reduce the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) for end users.*
Enterprise/Business application forecast

Looking at the expected revenues generated by business applications between 2011 and 2016, we can say that organizations are looking forward to optimize their business processes to a greater extent.

SaaS for Business applications

Software as a Service is rewriting the landscape of business applications. With everything on cloud, organizations today just make use of a browser based application to run their business operations. With SaaS, business applications offer greater flexibility and latest features that makes processes quicker. And IT staff can run business processes from anywhere. All that is required to keep them up and running is internet.

A new survey of 3,000 companies with between two to 250 employees conducted by Microsoft shows that a shift to cloud applications is well under way.


SaaS business application benefits for small organizations

- Easy deployment
- Hosting in cloud
- Higher productivity
- Easily upgrade to new tools
- Highly scalable
- No additional infrastructure investment
- No additional resources required
- Access to wide-array of business applications through Marketplace

Business applications (17%), databases (14%) and e-mail (12%) are the top three application spending categories today in hosted and cloud applications.

http://softwarestrategiesblog.com/category/saas-economics/

Benefits of using Business applications

- Meet compliance and Audit requirements
- Integration capabilities with other applications
- Greater transparency
- Business analytics
- Structured information
- Encouraged Mobility
- Accelerating processes
- Reporting
- Creation of dashboards
- Project management
According to Forrester Research “Most organizations whether it is SaaS or On-premise are heavily investing in Enterprise applications”. Organization success depends on its business processes. For many of the small businesses and ISV’s, business applications are the partners in success. Most of the small organizations adapt these applications as soon as they get started. Cost is no more a factor and these applications being expensive are mere a myth. Custom developed applications to optimize business processes can be extremely cost-effective and tailored-made.

By optimizing business processes gain reliable insights and reduce operating costs. It is well-known fact that valuable information is the mother of effective decisions. It’s time for organizations to have a standardized business processes across its divisions to have a consolidated view. And Enterprise/business applications go a long way in transforming business processes.