10 ways MANUAL TASKS are costing your business.

How to deploy robotic process automation (RPA) for routine, repetitive activities to save time and money.
Which one would you choose to get to your destination the fastest way?

It’s a 24/7 business environment and we have an app for everything.

But, despite all of the technology at our disposal, many organizations still rely on manual, repetitive tasks for vital business processes—which is like using a compass or paper map instead of a GPS.
Many organizations still rely on manual tasks to collect, review and input data.

Manual tasks are often used to copy and paste data between internal and external systems - such as websites, portals, enterprise applications, legacy systems, and desktop applications like Excel.

These repetitive, remedial tasks require workers to log in and out of multiple systems. Often referred to as “swivel chair integration,” it is best illustrated with employees reading data in one computer screen and keying it into another.

1 Cognizant Center for the Future of Work
2 Wired

50% of all automation opportunities are being missed.2
Manual tasks exist in every industry.

**Transportation and Logistics**
32% of transportation and logistics companies rely on manual steps in more than 50% of their processes.³

**Manufaturing**
Half of companies still use manual processes for monitoring changes, exceptions, and disruptions to their supply chain and plan activity.⁴

**Financial Services**
34% of financial organizations rely on manual processes.⁵

**Insurance**
The top or #1 efficiency challenge for CFOs is manual processes.⁶

**Finance and Accounting**
47% of AP professionals consider manual data entry and inefficient processes their biggest challenge.⁷
Why haven’t these manual tasks been automated?

- Old legacy systems are difficult to integrate with modern applications
- External data sources like web sites and portals don’t always have APIs to connect to
- Core business processes often have numerous exceptions that fall outside of normal automated processes
- And, IT is overburdened by business requirements and simply can’t get to all project requests
Manual tasks hold your business back.

Enterprises that rely on manual tasks for repetitive, mundane activities are behind the times. This impacts productivity, performance, customer satisfaction, employee satisfaction, compliance and revenue.
Automating manual tasks is vital to delivering results.

By automating routine tasks, you can increase workflow efficiencies – freeing up your staff for higher value work, driving down costs, and boosting your revenue.

Companies that automate their processes are more competitive, responsive, and agile.

You gain quicker insights into your business and market – so you can better meet customer needs and outpace your competitors.

Automation of knowledge work will have an economic impact of $5-$7 trillion by 2025.26

Automation will touch more than 230 million knowledge workers, 9% of the global workforce by 2025.26

98% of IT professionals view the automation of business processes as vital to driving business benefits in today’s corporate environment.27

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26 McKinsey Global Institute, Disruptive Technologies (Les technologies révolutionnaires)
27 2014 PMG IT Survey
Leading organizations leverage process automation.

**Transportation and Logistics**
Are 1.1 - 2.4x more likely to automate basic daily tasks, such as shipment scheduling and tracking than laggards.²⁸

**Manufacturing**
Achieve 96% perfect orders across their supply chain, versus 71%-73% perfect orders for laggards.²⁹

**Financial Services**
Realize 15% overall process cost reduction by eliminating manual steps and rework.³⁰

**Insurance**
Process claims 5x faster and are nearly 3x - 4.5x more cost effective than worse in class. Just 5.6% of claims require rework, versus 29% for worst in class.³¹

**Finance and Accounting**
Process invoices on average in 4.1 days, versus 16.3 days for laggards.³²

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²⁸Aberdeen
²⁹Edge Research
³⁰pwc
³¹Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare
³²Kofax Software
Here are **10 ways** that **MANUAL TASKS** are costing your business time and money.
Reduced productivity.

Your employees may need to copy data from one system and paste it into another system to approve an application or answer a customer question.

Multiply this repetitive activity by the number of times they do this in any given day/week, and it quickly adds up to lots of wasted time.

A business with 1,000 knowledge workers loses $10 million a year from poor productivity tools in search alone.9

22% of an employee’s time is spent on repetitive tasks.8

40% of a knowledge worker’s time is spent looking for and organizing information.9

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8 Cognizant
9 IDC: Bridging the Information Worker Productivity Gap (Pallier le manque de productivité des travailleurs de l’information)
Inefficient, manual tasks cause a ripple effect that impacts customer service and the speed at which you can respond to inquiries.

Customers often need to provide information repetitively, even though customer service representatives (CSRs) should be able to easily find it in their system.

If you rely on manual tasks to input information between systems, it’s hard to give customers fast, convenient service and support.

In the U.S., the estimated cost of customers switching due to poor service was $1.6 trillion in the past year.10

52% of consumers have switched a provider the past year due to poor customer service.10

73% of consumers expect customer service to be easier and more convenient, while 61% want it to be faster.10

10 Accenture
Data entry errors.

The more manual tasks you have, the more you need to reinvent the wheel.

For example, in the logistics sector, using EDI and standardized data exchange formats for shipment scheduling is not always an option.

You may have this scenario:

1. Customer emails a shipment request.
2. Customer service representative (CSR) monitors email, prints and files the shipment request when received.
3. CSR logs into scheduling systems and manually enters the shipment details.
4. CSR logs into shipper’s portal and manually re-enters the pickup date, location and time.

All of this manual repetition can cause errors that lead to delays and unhappy customers.

Out of every 100 steps, a human is likely to make 10 errors, even when carrying out somewhat redundant work.\(^\text{12}\)

In a UNLV study, students who manually entered six types of data for 30 data sheets made an average of 10.23 errors.\(^\text{11}\)

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\(^{11}\) Ungerboeck Software

\(^{12}\) Institute for Robotic Process Automation
Increased labor costs.

When you factor in training, payroll, facilities, equipment and benefits, you’re paying a lot for people to copy and paste data.

Rework and data re-entry due to manual errors can slow your operations down, leading you to hire more people just to keep things moving.

Manual and paper-based processes during a typical onboarding process can cost up to 20 times more than computer-assisted, electronic document processing.  

Labor represents a median of 60% of the total costs of invoice processing.

Low-level tasks eat up 30% of IT departments’ time.
Every employee has their own workflow. Reconciling these workflow variations across dozens or hundreds of employees can be costly.

Manual variations and errors within critical tasks such as claims processing, mortgage lending, accounts receivables, and shipment tracking can directly impact your profitability.

Most banks see a completion rate of about 30% for new account opening and 10% for loan applicants.

The administrative costs of processing insurance claims add up to as much as $210 billion a year in the U.S.16
5 COSTLY WAYS DOWN
+5 more to go
(not that we’re counting.)
Increased compliance risks.

When you perform critical tasks manually, it’s easy to jeopardize compliance.

For example, when banks use manual tasks to onboard a new customer, employees may key in inaccurate information when verifying and authenticating a person’s identity for Know Your Customer requirements.

Failure to follow regulations and requirements can result in hefty penalty and fines.

Banks have paid over $300 billion in fines since 2010.\textsuperscript{17}

Due to the financial crisis and increasing regulations, as well as manual efforts to ensure mortgage investor and regulatory compliance, mortgage origination costs in the U.S. are three times higher than they were just a decade ago.\textsuperscript{19}

As part of the ongoing pursuit of compliance IT spending is set to rise 20\% over the next four years, and is predicted to hit $150 billion in 2018.\textsuperscript{18}

\textsuperscript{17} Capco
\textsuperscript{18} Ovum
\textsuperscript{19} US Consumer Lending Forecast June 2014–Mortgage Bankers Association
Lack of visibility into processes.

Manual tasks are inconsistent and much harder to track than automated activities. Because you’re not starting with 100% accurate data, the insights you gain from manual processes will be inherently flawed.

Lack of visibility also impacts customer service. It’s hard to fix process bottlenecks and delays that frustrate customers if you can’t pinpoint where the problems exist.

41% of senior finance executives cited improved visibility into invoices and payables information as the biggest benefit of AP automation.21

45% of controllers surveyed identified lack of visibility into invoices and payables information as their top payables challenge.21

Only 24% of logistics/manufacturing executives had implemented automated processes for visibility of order and shipment status, yet stated their key focus was on reducing risks that affect customer relationships.20

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20 Industry Week
21 Institute of Financial Management
Lack of business elasticity.

Manual tasks can slow you down if you’re trying to rapidly scale.

When repetitive tasks depend on human workers to complete them, scaling up during seasonal or peak times is extremely difficult to manage from a resource and cost perspective.

You must find, hire, and train new employees – taking time to guide them throughout the learning curve.

You may lose growth opportunities due to a lack of trained staff or the inability to quickly adapt to changing demands.

In short, it’s easier to scale software than people.

Institute for Robotic Process Automation
Heavy reliance on outsourcing to meet labor needs.

You can’t afford for your staff to waste time on mundane, repetitive tasks, and may need to outsource many of these routine activities.

But outsourcing has many drawbacks, including delays, errors and loss of control of quality and operations that may hurt your customer service.

Outsourcing also puts your compliance and security at risk when you hand your data to an outside firm.

Outsourcing may cost 13%-65% more than expected.22

The cost of wages in India and the Philippines is projected to increase 8% by 2020 driving up outsourcing costs.23

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22 The Real Cost of Outsourcing (Le coût réel de la sous-traitance), OFS Global Services 2012
23 PWC Global Labor Projections, septembre 2015
Inability to innovate.

Mundane administrative work takes time away from your employees and knowledge workers more valuable business-building, customer oriented and strategic activities.

This is particularly critical in IT, where the department is valued by how much it leverages technology to drive business innovation.

When you devote 70%-75% of your IT time and budget to keeping the lights on, you can’t innovate.

85% of executives believe that achieving technological transformation is critical to driving innovation.

But, 70% said they haven’t taken advantage of new technology.²⁴

70% of businesses say a focus on everyday IT tasks is holding them back.²⁴

73% of activities in an average process do not add value.²⁵

²⁴ Information Age
²⁵ Deloitte
Here’s how to fix it **QUICKLY** and **EASILY**.
Robotic Process Automation (RPA) is an emerging, cost-effective technology that automates repetitive, manual tasks that waste your time.

RPA uses software robots and intelligent business rules to mimic the actions your employees take while performing tasks within applications.

These tasks can include looking up and verifying information, and copying and pasting between:

- Back office systems
- Public websites
- Web portals
- Legacy mainframe systems
- Microsoft Excel and other desktop applications
- Other data sources

In essence, RPA creates a digital workforce that works side-by-side with your employees.
It’s easier than you think.

RPA can be deployed in a matter of weeks, not months, as it does not rely on the use of complex APIs and coding.

RPA integrates with (rather than replaces) your existing technology, so it is both complementary to core systems and non-disruptive to your day-to-day operations.

RPA also augments and complements business process management (BPM) and case management automation platforms. A diversified approach that includes software robots, human workers and BPM or case management solutions is an ideal, forward-thinking option.

In short, robotic process automation solves data integration and automation challenges that never seemed to get solved.
Remember those manual, repetitive steps on #3?

**Step 1**
Customer emails a shipment request

**Step 2**
Customer Service Representative (CSR) monitors email and prints and files the shipment request when received

**Step 3**
CSR logs into scheduling system and enters shipment details

**Step 4**
CSR logs into shippers portal and enters the pickup date, location and time

CSR sends customer email confirmation

**END**
That’s all automated with RPA.

**Robot Step 1**
- Monitors email
- Extracts new shipment request data from email

**Robot Step 2**
- Logs into transportation management system
- Checks availability
- Schedules pick up day and time

**Customer Service Rep (CSR) handles exception**

**Étape automatisée 3**
- Logs into shippers portal
- Enters pickup date, location, and time

**Exception?**

- YES
- UPDATE SYSTEM
- NO

**Robot sends customer email confirmation**

END
This all sounds **GREAT**, but can it help me?
RPA can be deployed for virtually any business activity involving users, data and systems.

For example...

**Transportation and Logistics**
- Shipment scheduling and tracking
- Invoicing and credit collections
- Researching and closing out loads

**Insurance**
- Claims processing
- Compliance and risk management

**Healthcare**
- Member eligibility and management
- Provider credentialing and contract management

**Manufacturing**
- Supply chain automation

**Cross-Industry**
- Finance and accounting
- Sales operations

**Financial Services**
- Mortgage lending
- Compliance and risk management
- Customer service

A typical rules-based process can be automated by 70-80%.$^{33}$
What are the quantifiable benefits?

- Creates an immediate **25%-50%** cost savings by automating tasks at a fraction of the human equivalent\(^ {34}\).
- Increases staff productivity, service levels, and capacity by **35%-50%**.
- Consistently delivers **100%** accurate data.
- Decreases costly errors for a **0%** error rate.
- Slashes processing times by up to **90%** (réduction oscillant entre 30%-50% pour un processus standard)\(^ {35}\).
- Lowers average handling time by **40%**.
- Reduces reliance on multiple systems/screens to complete a process by **14%**\(^ {36}\).

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\(^{34}\) Institute for Robotic Process Automation

\(^{35}\) Virtia

\(^{36}\) Cognizant Center for the Future of Work
Work smarter, not harder with RPA.

- Drives more value and **profit** for your business
- Allows you to **respond faster** to customer and business needs
- Enables **24/7/365** operations (a robot never sleeps)
- Frees up your skilled staff to work on **high-value projects**, not waste their time on mundane administrative tasks
- Provides audit trails and **improves compliance**
- Enables **greater elasticity** and **scalability**
- Allows you to **gain insight** with analytics,
- **better understand your processes**
  and continue to improve operations
RPA ‘robots’ are revolutionizing the way we think about and administer business processes, IT support processes, workflow processes, remote infrastructure and back-office work.

Frank Casale, Founder and CEO of the Institute for Robotic Process Automation (IRPA)

Consider robotic process automation as a lower-cost, less disruptive way to rapidly automate processes [sic] that have been previously “out of reach” to more cap


Finally, thinking of RPA as a stand-alone panacea rather than an important technology lever among several others also limits unlocking strategic value.

Seizing the Robotic Process Automation (RPA) Market Opportunity (Saisir l’opportunité du marché de l’automatisation robotisée des processus), Everest Group
Customers tell the best RPA story.

Enabled expansion of the program to drive revenue

Reclaimed 90% to 95% of a CSR’s time for higher value work

Automated the handling of premium service requests within seconds of the initial email

Saved 850+ hours per month of manual work required to process quotes and invoices.

Shortened cycle times and assured 100% data accuracy

Product specialists have more time to work closely with customers and suppliers
Yes, there are more.

Reduced turnaround time for digitalizing loan documents from 15 days to 5 days.

Gained ability to gather all required loan documentation for quality control or audits with files within seconds.

Accelerated speed to revenue, improved cash flow and reduced cost per fund.

Streamlined workflow allows two people to do the work without the need for temporary employees.

Saved time while ensuring applications and renewals are processed quickly and efficiently.

Removed bottlenecks and improved efficiencies with a deeper understanding of how processes performed.
So, what’s NEXT?

Download our ePaper, Digitally Transform the Way You Work: How to Deliver Big Results in Six Small Steps with Process Transformation

Get informed with The Ultimate Guide to Choosing the Right Robotic Process Automation Solution

See the power of Kofax Kapow for yourself: Request a personalized demo.

Power Your Processes.
Empower Your Business.

Also, go to Kofax.com for more RPA success stories.