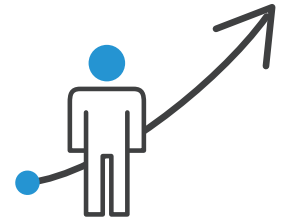# How an ERP solution can improve employee productivity

Running a company can be challenging at times. If building a prosperous business were easy, everyone would do it. Entrepreneurs and CEOs will tell you that one of the biggest hurdles is finding a way to maintain a productive employee base. A business person in any industry knows that, if employees fail to make effective use of their office hours, the bottom line will suffer. This is true even with brilliant business plans, creative marketing schemes, regular staff meetings, and a positive work environment.

Employees are rarely to blame for wasted or ineffectively used time. The blame often lies with outdated, malfunctioning, or inefficient software. Without the proper tools, even the most ambitious workers can miss the mark. When this wasted time gets compounded throughout the company, management winds up watching time and money go down the drain. User-friendly enterprise resource planning (ERP) that is in line with the needs of modern-day businesses can be a game-changer. Here are ways an ERP solution can improve productivity.

An ERP solution reduces time-consuming manual labour

In today's world, employees shouldn't waste company time on labour that can be done by a computer program. Modern ERP systems can take care of tasks such as data entry and automate processes such as payment, treasury management, and report production. They can also predict data entry and set up accounts and subaccounts for employees. Those working in the accounting department will breathe a collective sigh of relief when they learn that the company's new ERP system can do month-end financial activities, automate pay, and even close the books. This will allow them to spend their time tending to more important items on their to-do list.

An ERP solution makes it easy for employees to work remotely

Today's workforce abounds with digital nomads. Telecommuting is becoming increasingly popular in Canada, the US, and Europe, especially among workers in their twenties and thirties. To attract young talent with up-to-date skills, companies must be competitive. Allowing employees to work outside of the traditional office setting—for instance, by implementing a management solution that can be accessed from any device with a browser—is one way to remain relevant.

Studies have found remote workers to be more effective. In a two-year study that examined 500 employees, Stanford professor Nicholas Bloom found a 13% improvement in performance and a 24% increase in productivity among those who worked from home.

Not only does the option to work remotely attract new talent but it also improves employee retention. In fact, Bloom found that quit rates dropped by 50%. Say, for example, an employee needs to relocate because his spouse has accepted a promotion elsewhere. With a modern cloud-based ERP solution, he wouldn't have to quit his job, and his manager wouldn't have to spend time advertising a new position, going through applications, interviewing candidates, and training a replacement. And should a company want to set up shop abroad, an ERP solution makes the transition simple.

An ERP solution saves your IT department time and headaches

Many companies operate with different types of software, each with its own designated job and set of regular updates. Each software must be installed and updated on every computer, which is a lot of work for your IT department. If these programs malfunction, employees have to wait for the issue to be rectified, which quickly adds up to hours of lost productivity. This is not the case when you have a single cloud-based ERP system.

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An ERP solution helps you get work done faster

An ERP solution keeps everything in one place so that employees don't waste time bouncing between systems. It's very user-friendly and operates the way it's supposed to. When the job is easier, it gets done quicker.

In fact, this streamlined and efficient technology simplifies many processes. It even checks items off employees' lists for them. And who doesn't want that? An ERP system can track actual project costs versus estimates; display real-time activity reports; show revenue based on progress; work with multiple currencies; automate sales, order processing, and shipping; and so much more.

An ERP solution can be accessed anywhere

North American work culture isn't always rooted at the desk. It's not uncommon for people to work while en route to an important business meeting, waiting for a flight for a business trip, sitting in the lobby before a meeting, or at home late into the night.

Working on the run has become the norm, and yet many software systems on company computers don't allow flexible access. Wise management teams who have made the switch to a cloud-based ERP solution are giving their employees more flexibility during the work week. By removing barriers to software access, they're also opening the door to how work is done and therefore maximizing opportunities for employees to be more effective.

An ERP solution allows quick access to more data

Acumatica and other management solutions make it easier for employees to communicate and share data because project management, distribution, customer service, and financial management are all on the same platform.

In addition to streamlining work, this capability helps companies meet industry standards. Pharmaceutical companies in Canada must comply with Health Canada's quality control and traceability requirements. For Quebec's Pharmapar, this means closely tracking batches, monitoring, and being in full control of batch changes; however, the old system could not handle all the data. By using Acumatica, Pharmapar is able to track data and link financial management to operations. As well as meeting Health Canada's requirements, Pharmapar can now see data in real time and generate traceability reports. The company is also able to use this data to reduce stock-taking time by 83%.

A proper ERP system helps businesses run smoothly and efficiently. It is the easiest way to enable employees to do their jobs without unnecessary setbacks. In many senses, it acts like an assistant for each employee by simplifying standard day-to-day tasks. Implementing an ERP system requires preparation, time and effort, but the positive results across the company will be undeniable.

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