

Leveraging Digital Transformation and ERP for Enhanced Operational Efficiency in Manufacturing Enterprises

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The process of making the most of digital tools in the workplace to support an organization's success is known as "leveraging on technology." By automating manual tasks more quickly, modern ERP systems free up time and funds for other important projects. Data can be aggregated by contemporary ERP systems for simpler management, access, and analysis.

Method: Systems for enterprise resource planning, or ERPs, have become a vital component of contemporary manufacturing processes. These integrated software solutions are essential for improving, streamlining, and controlling many aspects of manufacturing, including financial control, customer service, production and inventory management. Manufacturers can effectively manage vital resources like labor, equipment, and materials with the help of ERP systems. ERP helps eliminate waste, minimize production delays, and maximize resource utilization by offering real-time visibility into resource allocation and availability.

Result and Conclusion: Manufacturing process synchronization and automation are made easier by ERP software. Work orders, production schedules, and quality control can all be managed by it, resulting in seamless and effective manufacturing processes. In manufacturing, keeping the proper amount of inventory on hand is a difficult task. ERP systems give producers insights into demand trends, order lead times, and reorder points, which helps them optimize inventory levels. In addition to lowering carrying costs and preventing stockouts, this minimizes superfluous inventory.

Implication of Research: An organization's operational model is altered by digital transformation. This process involves systems, workflow, processes, and culture. Every level of an organization is impacted by this transition, which unifies data from different departments to collaborate more successfully.

Originality/Value: Enhanced Efficiency: Businesses are able to allocate resources more effectively thanks to automation and streamlined processes, which also lower operational costs and increase productivity.

Keywords: ERP, operational efficiency, digital transformation, leveraging.

1. Introduction

Defining the Digital Transformation Landscape

In the contemporary business environment, the term "digital transformation" has become ubiquitous, representing a paradigm shift that is reshaping the way organizations operate. Digital transformation encompasses a profound

and comprehensive reimagining of business processes, organizational culture, and customer engagement through the integration of digital technologies. It is not merely the adoption of new tools or systems; rather, it's a holistic approach that drives fundamental changes in the way enterprises create value and stay competitive. Digital transformation operates at the intersection of technology, data, and people, driving the convergence of these critical elements for achieving strategic objectives. To understand the digital transformation landscape, it's essential to consider several key components:

Technology Integration

At the heart of digital transformation is the seamless integration of cutting-edge technologies. These include cloud computing, the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, blockchain, and more. Leveraging these technologies enables organizations to automate processes, gain real-time insights, and create innovative products and services.

Data-Driven Decision-Making

The abundance of data generated in today's digital world provides organizations with a wealth of information. Digital transformation leverages data analytics and big data tools to turn this information into actionable insights. These insights empower informed decision-making, enabling companies to identify trends, optimize operations, and improve customer experiences.

Customer-Centric Approach

Digital transformation places the customer at the forefront of business strategies. Enterprises are using digital technologies to personalize customer interactions, deliver seamless omnichannel experiences, and gain a deeper understanding of customer preferences and behaviors. This customer-centric approach is fundamental to building brand loyalty and driving growth.

Agile and Collaborative Culture

Embracing digital transformation often necessitates a cultural shift within organizations. It encourages agility, adaptability, and a willingness to experiment and innovate. Collaboration across departments and with external partners becomes essential to harness the full potential of digital technologies.

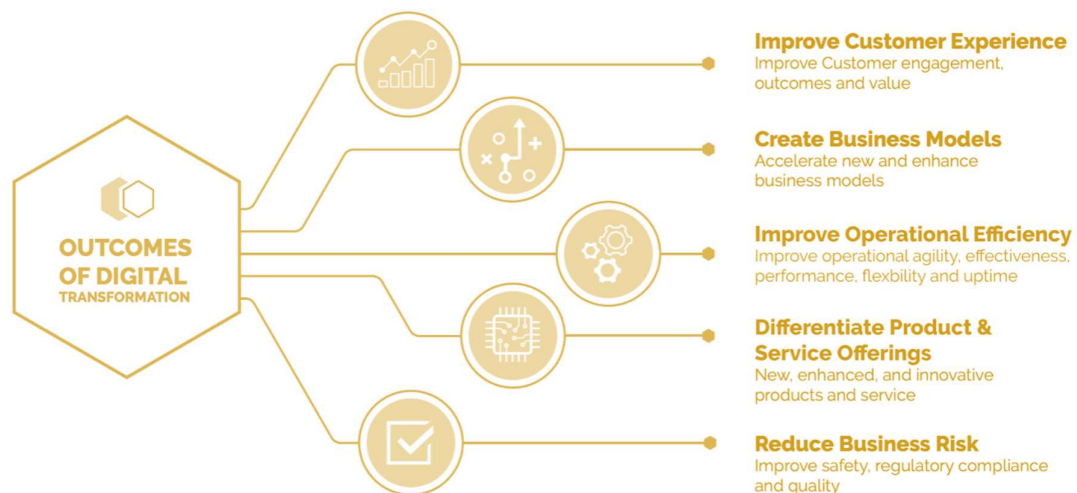


Figure 1. Several keys of digital transformation

Security and Compliance

As digital operations expand, security and compliance take center stage. Ensuring the protection of sensitive data and adherence to regulatory requirements is a critical aspect of the digital transformation landscape. Cybersecurity measures and data privacy become paramount concerns.

Strategic Objectives

Digital transformation should be guided by clear strategic objectives. Whether it's improving operational efficiency, expanding market reach, or fostering innovation, organizations must align their digital initiatives with overarching business goals.

Change Management

Digital transformation invariably involves change at various levels of the organization. Managing this change

effectively, providing the necessary training and support, and ensuring buy-in from employees are essential for a successful transformation.

Measuring Success

To evaluate the impact of digital transformation efforts, organizations need to define and track key performance indicators (KPIs). Metrics such as ROI, customer satisfaction, and operational efficiency provide insights into the effectiveness of digital initiatives.

Understanding the digital transformation landscape is not a one-size-fits-all endeavor. It varies from industry to industry and even from one organization to another. However, it's clear that digital transformation is no longer optional; it's a strategic imperative for businesses looking to thrive in the digital age. This manuscript will explore how manufacturing enterprises can leverage digital transformation, along with ERP systems, to optimize their operational efficiency and adapt to the evolving business landscape.

The Role of ERP in Modern Manufacturing

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems have emerged as an indispensable cornerstone of modern manufacturing operations. These integrated software solutions play a pivotal role in streamlining, optimizing, and enhancing various facets of manufacturing, from production and inventory management to financial control and customer service. Here's a brief overview of the role of ERP in modern manufacturing.

Efficient Resource Management

ERP systems allow manufacturers to efficiently manage critical resources, including materials, labor, and equipment. By providing real-time visibility into resource allocation and availability, ERP helps minimize waste, reduce production delays, and maximize resource utilization.

Streamlined Production Processes

ERP software facilitates the automation and synchronization of manufacturing processes. It can manage work orders, production schedules, and quality control, ensuring that manufacturing operations run smoothly and efficiently.

Inventory Control

Maintaining the right level of inventory is a complex challenge in manufacturing. ERP systems help manufacturers optimize inventory levels by providing insights into demand patterns, order lead times, and reorder points. This minimizes excess inventory, reduces carrying costs, and prevents stockouts.

Supply Chain Optimization

Modern manufacturing often involves complex global supply chains. ERP systems help manufacturers coordinate and optimize their supply chain operations, enabling real-time communication with suppliers, tracking shipments, and ensuring timely deliveries.

Quality Control and Compliance

Maintaining product quality and adhering to industry standards and regulations are critical in manufacturing. ERP systems incorporate quality control features that track and manage quality parameters at various stages of production. They also aid in compliance by generating accurate documentation and audit trails.

Financial Management

ERP systems integrate financial modules that provide visibility into the financial health of the manufacturing enterprise. They help with cost tracking, budgeting, and financial reporting, ensuring that the organization's financial operations are aligned with its business objectives.

Data-Driven Decision Making

ERP systems capture and store a vast amount of data about manufacturing processes. With robust reporting and analytics capabilities, they transform this data into actionable insights, aiding decision-makers in making informed, data-driven choices.

Customer Relationship Management (CRM)

Some modern ERP systems include CRM functionalities to manage customer interactions, sales orders, and after-sales service. This comprehensive approach enhances customer satisfaction and loyalty.

Scalability and Adaptability

ERP systems are designed to grow with a business. As manufacturing enterprises expand or adapt to new market conditions, ERP solutions can be scaled and customized to meet evolving needs.



Figure 2. Role of ERP in marketings and implementation

Real-time Visibility

Perhaps one of the most critical advantages of ERP is real-time visibility. This means that managers and employees have access to up-to-the-minute information on various aspects of manufacturing, allowing them to react promptly to changes and challenges.

Enhanced Collaboration

Modern manufacturing often involves collaboration across various departments and with external partners. ERP systems provide a centralized platform for sharing information, documents, and communications, fostering collaboration and improving efficiency.

In summary, ERP systems have become integral tools for modern manufacturing enterprises. They promote operational efficiency, cost reduction, quality assurance, and agility in a highly competitive and rapidly evolving industry. Manufacturers who harness the full potential of ERP technology are better positioned to adapt to market dynamics, meet customer expectations, and stay at the forefront of their respective industries.

Legacy Systems and Inefficiencies

Manufacturing enterprises often grapple with outdated legacy systems that hinder agility and efficiency. These systems may lack integration capabilities and require manual data entry, leading to errors and delays. Modernizing and upgrading these systems is a pressing challenge.

Market Pressures and Customer Expectations

The manufacturing landscape is highly competitive, with rapidly changing market dynamics. Customer expectations for product customization, quick delivery, and quality are escalating. Manufacturers must continuously adapt to market demands to remain competitive.

Scalability and Globalization

As manufacturing enterprises expand, they encounter challenges related to scalability and globalization. Operating in multiple locations or serving global markets requires streamlined processes and the ability to manage complex supply chains while adhering to regional regulations and customs.

Quality Control and Compliance

Maintaining consistent product quality and compliance with industry and government standards is paramount. Achieving this while reducing costs and increasing efficiency presents a complex challenge.

Supply Chain Disruptions and Risk Management

Manufacturing enterprises are vulnerable to supply chain disruptions caused by factors such as natural disasters, political instability, and supplier issues. Developing robust risk management strategies is essential to ensure uninterrupted operations.

Workforce Management and Skill Shortages

Attracting, training, and retaining skilled workers is a persistent challenge in manufacturing. As older generations retire, there's a shortage of skilled labor, and manufacturers must invest in workforce development and training programs.

Environmental Sustainability and Regulations

Sustainability and environmental regulations are becoming more stringent. Manufacturers face the challenge of reducing their environmental footprint while complying with evolving regulations and consumer demand for eco-friendly products.

Technology Integration and Industry 4.0

Embracing Industry 4.0 technologies, such as IoT, automation, and data analytics, is vital for competitiveness. However, integrating these technologies into existing systems and processes can be complex and requires substantial investment.

Cost Pressures and Profit Margins

Manufacturers face constant pressure to reduce costs while maintaining profit margins. Achieving cost efficiency without compromising quality and customer satisfaction is a significant challenge.

Intellectual Property and Cybersecurity

Protecting intellectual property and maintaining robust cybersecurity measures is critical, especially in an era where cyber threats and data breaches are prevalent. Understanding these challenges is a crucial first step for manufacturing enterprises looking to enhance their operational efficiency through digital transformation and ERP integration. Each challenge requires a tailored strategy, and addressing them effectively is essential for achieving long-term success in the competitive manufacturing landscape.

The Nexus of Digital Transformation and ERP

Unpacking the Digital Transformation Paradigm

In this section, we delve into the core concepts of digital transformation, explaining its holistic nature, which encompasses cultural shifts, technology adoption, and process optimization. Understanding these fundamentals is crucial for recognizing how ERP systems can complement and enhance digital transformation efforts.



Figure 3. ERP Systems Facilitate Digital Transformation

How ERP Systems Facilitate Digital Transformation

This section explores how Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems serve as the technological backbone of digital transformation. ERP systems integrate various functions, departments, and data sources, creating a unified platform that supports digital initiatives. We discuss how ERP bridges the gap between legacy systems and modern technologies, facilitating the flow of data and insights.

Benefits of Integrating ERP and Digital Transformation

Here, we highlight the numerous advantages that result from the synergy between digital transformation and ERP. These benefits encompass improved decision-making, streamlined operations, enhanced customer experiences, increased agility, and the ability to harness emerging technologies for competitive advantage.

By discussing the nexus between digital transformation and ERP, this manuscript will shed light on how manufacturing enterprises can leverage these combined forces to optimize operational efficiency, enhance innovation, and remain agile in an ever-evolving business landscape.

Digital Transformation in Manufacturing

Smart Factories and IoT

This section delves into the concept of smart factories, where the Internet of Things (IoT) plays a central role in connecting and orchestrating machines, sensors, and devices. The integration of IoT technology into manufacturing processes enables real-time data collection, predictive maintenance, and the automation of routine tasks.

Big Data and Analytics

Big data analytics is transforming manufacturing by processing vast amounts of data generated in production, supply chain, and customer interactions. In this section, we explore how advanced analytics provide actionable insights, optimize processes, and facilitate data-driven decision-making.

Cloud-Based Solutions

Cloud computing is enabling manufacturers to store, access, and analyze data and applications from anywhere. We discuss how cloud-based solutions enhance scalability, reduce infrastructure costs, and facilitate collaboration within and beyond the organization.

Robotics and Automation

The integration of robotics and automation into manufacturing processes is driving efficiency and consistency.

This section explores how robotics and automation technologies are enhancing tasks like assembly, quality control, and material handling. By examining these aspects of digital transformation in manufacturing, this manuscript will demonstrate how embracing these technologies can lead to improved efficiency, competitiveness, and agility in an increasingly digital and data-driven industry

ERP as a Catalyst for Operational Excellence

Streamlining Production Processes

This section explores how ERP systems optimize production by automating workflows, managing work orders, and providing real-time visibility into manufacturing operations. It highlights how ERP reduces bottlenecks, enhances resource allocation, and accelerates time-to-market.

Inventory and Supply Chain Management

Effective inventory and supply chain management are critical for manufacturing enterprises. ERP systems offer advanced tools for demand forecasting, order tracking, and supply chain optimization. This section discusses how ERP enhances inventory control and reduces lead times.

Quality Control and Compliance

Maintaining product quality and regulatory compliance is central to operational excellence. ERP systems help manufacturers implement quality control measures, generate audit trails, and ensure adherence to industry standards. This section emphasizes the role of ERP in achieving operational consistency and compliance.

Financial Management and Reporting

Sound financial management is vital for any manufacturing enterprise. ERP systems integrate financial modules that streamline budgeting, cost tracking, and financial reporting. This section outlines how ERP assists in financial management, helping organizations maintain a healthy bottom line. By examining these facets of ERP as a catalyst for operational excellence, this manuscript demonstrates how ERP systems can be instrumental in optimizing manufacturing operations and achieving higher efficiency, quality, and profitability.

Characteristics of a Modern ERP System:

Cloud-Based: Modern ERP systems often leverage cloud technology, making them more accessible and flexible. This allows users to access the system from anywhere with an internet connection, enhancing mobility and scalability.

Integration Capabilities: They seamlessly integrate with other software and systems within the organization, such as CRM, HR, and supply chain management. This integration ensures data flows smoothly between departments, improving efficiency.

Real-Time Data: Modern ERPs offer real-time data access and analytics, providing decision-makers with up-to-the-minute insights. This capability enables quick and informed decision-making.

Mobile Compatibility: They are designed to be mobile-friendly, allowing users to access and manage data on smartphones and tablets. Mobile compatibility enhances user productivity and responsiveness.

User-Friendly Interface: A modern ERP system typically features an intuitive and user-friendly interface. This simplifies training, reduces user errors, and promotes adoption across the organization.

AI and Machine Learning: Many modern ERPs incorporate artificial intelligence and machine learning to automate tasks, predict trends, and offer recommendations. This enhances decision support and efficiency.

Scalability: Modern ERPs are designed to grow with the organization. They can adapt to changing needs, whether the business is expanding, diversifying, or downsizing.

Enhanced Security: Security features are robust, protecting sensitive data from cyber threats. Encryption, role-based access, and regular security updates are common features.

Characteristics of Modern Manufacturing Enterprises:

Smart Manufacturing: Modern manufacturing enterprises adopt smart manufacturing concepts, incorporating IoT devices and sensors to monitor equipment, optimize production, and predict maintenance needs.

Automation and Robotics: Automation is a fundamental characteristic. Robotics and automation technologies are used to improve productivity, reduce errors, and enhance consistency in manufacturing processes.

Advanced Data Analytics: These enterprises rely on big data and analytics to gain insights into their operations, helping them make data-driven decisions for process optimization and product quality control.

Customization and Personalization: Modern manufacturers cater to customer demands for customized and personalized products. This requires flexibility and agility in production processes.

Sustainability and Green Practices: Manufacturing enterprises today often prioritize sustainability and eco-friendly practices, seeking to reduce their environmental footprint and meet regulatory requirements.

Collaborative Supply Chains: They have collaborative supply chains, working closely with suppliers and partners to ensure timely and cost-effective procurement of materials and components.

Quality Control and Compliance: Stringent quality control measures are implemented to ensure that products meet industry standards and customer expectations. Compliance with regulations is also a priority.

Lean Manufacturing: The principles of lean manufacturing, including minimizing waste and optimizing processes, are integral to modern manufacturing enterprises.

Agile Workforce: Manufacturing enterprises promote an agile workforce, providing training and development opportunities to keep up with technological advancements and improve workforce efficiency.

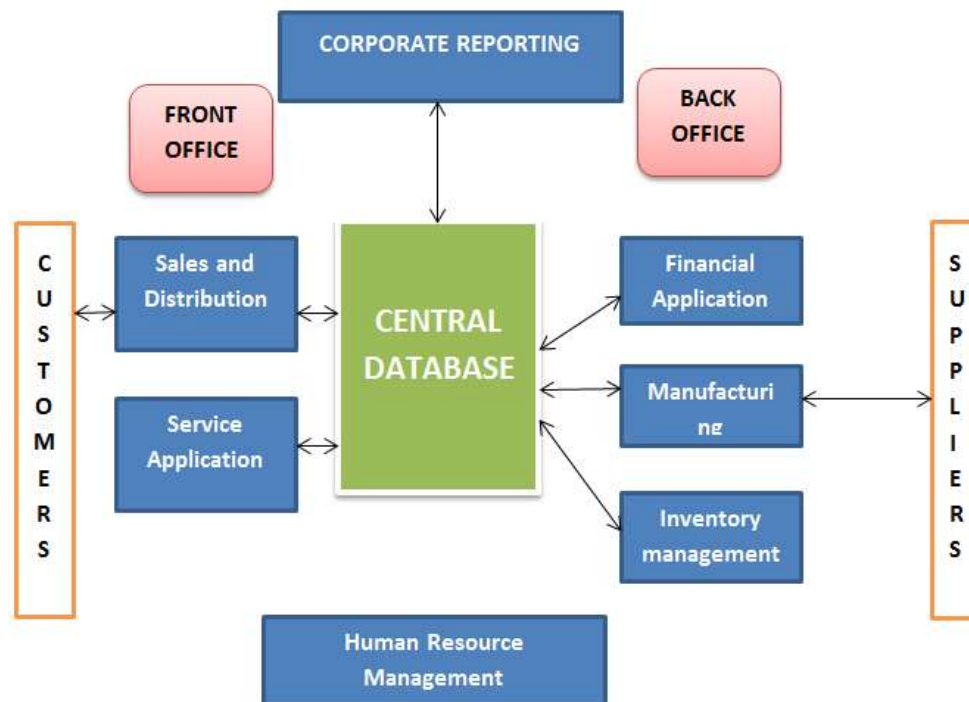


Figure 4. Achieving Digital Transformation with ERPS Methods

Global Presence: Many modern manufacturing enterprises have a global presence, operating in multiple geographic regions and navigating the complexities of international markets and regulations.

These characteristics represent a snapshot of what defines a modern ERP system and a contemporary manufacturing enterprise. The integration of a modern ERP system into a manufacturing operation can enhance and complement these characteristics, providing the foundation for operational excellence in today's dynamic business environment.

Streamlining Operations with a Modern ERP System

Kia a car Manufacturing is a mid-sized manufacturing company specializing in the production of automotive components. The company faces several challenges, including inefficient production processes, limited real-time visibility, and a lack of integration between different departments. In response to these challenges, KIA Manufacturing decides to implement a modern ERP system to enhance its operational efficiency.

Challenges:

Inefficient Production Processes: The company experiences bottlenecks and delays in its production processes due to manual data entry and outdated systems.

Inventory Management Issues: Inventory control is a significant problem, with excessive stock in some areas and shortages in others, resulting in high carrying costs.

Lack of Real-Time Visibility: The management lacks real-time visibility into production status, inventory levels, and financial performance, making it difficult to respond to market demands effectively.

Quality Control: Maintaining consistent product quality and meeting industry regulations is a challenge.

Solution: KIA Manufacturing decides to implement a modern ERP system with the following features:

Cloud-Based ERP: The chosen ERP system is cloud-based, providing anytime, anywhere access to data for employees across the organization.

Integration with Production: The ERP system seamlessly integrates with the company's production machinery and systems, automating data capture and monitoring production in real-time.

Inventory Optimization: The ERP system includes advanced inventory management tools that use predictive analytics to optimize inventory levels, reducing carrying costs and eliminating stockouts.

Real-Time Dashboards: The ERP system offers real-time dashboards, providing management with instant insights into production status, inventory levels, and financial performance.

1. **Quality Control Modules:** The ERP system incorporates quality control modules that track quality parameters throughout production, generating comprehensive reports for compliance.

Results:

Efficient Production

With the ERP system's real-time monitoring and automation, production processes become more efficient. Bottlenecks are reduced, and the company can produce more with the same resources.

Inventory Reduction: By optimizing inventory levels and reducing carrying costs, the company saves significantly on operational expenses.

Improved Visibility

Real-time dashboards offer management an overview of operations, enabling them to make quick, informed decisions. This agility enhances the company's ability to meet customer demands.

Enhanced Quality Control

The quality control modules integrated into the ERP system result in consistent product quality and compliance with industry regulations.

KIA Manufacturing's adoption of a modern ERP system transformed its manufacturing operations. The company experienced cost savings, increased production efficiency, and a boost in customer satisfaction. By addressing the key challenges, KIA Manufacturing improved its operational excellence and competitiveness in the automotive component manufacturing industry. Certainly, here are brief descriptions for each of the sections you've mentioned:

Challenges and Risks

This section delves into the potential obstacles and risks associated with implementing modern ERP systems in manufacturing enterprises. It discusses common challenges, such as data security concerns, change management issues, integration challenges, and cost considerations. The section also addresses risk mitigation strategies and best practices to minimize the impact of these challenges on ERP implementation.

Best Practices for Implementation:

In this section, best practices for successfully implementing ERP systems in manufacturing enterprises are outlined. It covers the development of a comprehensive digital transformation strategy, phased implementation approaches, post-implementation monitoring and optimization, and the importance of change management. It also discusses selecting the right ERP vendor and creating an efficient implementation team.

Measuring and Demonstrating ROI

This section focuses on how manufacturing enterprises can measure the return on investment (ROI) from their ERP implementation. It details the key performance indicators (KPIs) that can be used to quantify the impact of ERP on operational efficiency, cost reduction, and customer satisfaction. It also discusses how to effectively communicate these achievements to stakeholders and demonstrate the value of the ERP investment.

Future Trends in Manufacturing and ERP

This section explores the emerging trends and technologies in manufacturing and ERP. It highlights the role of artificial intelligence, machine learning, augmented reality, and sustainable manufacturing practices in shaping the future of manufacturing enterprises. The section also addresses how these trends will impact ERP systems and their integration into manufacturing operations.

Conclusion

The conclusion section summarizes the key takeaways from the manuscript, emphasizing the critical role of modern ERP systems in enhancing operational efficiency in manufacturing enterprises. It provides a concise overview of the benefits of digital transformation and ERP integration, the challenges and risks that organizations should be aware of, and the future trends that will continue to shape the manufacturing industry. The conclusion reinforces the importance of a strategic approach to digital transformation and the central role that ERP plays in driving operational excellence in the manufacturing sector. This manuscript will explore the intricate relationship between digital transformation and ERP systems in the context of manufacturing enterprises, providing insights into how these technologies can optimize organizational efficiency, streamline operations, and foster innovation in a highly competitive industry. Each section and subheading will delve into specific aspects, considerations, and practical steps for manufacturing enterprises to harness the power of digital transformation and ERP to stay ahead in today's fast-paced business landscape.

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