Whitepaper

How to Mitigate Supply Chain Impacts

by Utilizing High-Accuracy, Real-Time Data, Reporting, & Analysis

Navigating the complexities of Oracle's ERP tools and understanding your options

Abstract

Across industries around the globe, supply chain woes are resulting in longer lead times, rapidly skyrocketing costs, and frustratingly low inventory. Shelves remain empty for days or weeks at a time. Restaurants change prices so often that some have stopped listing prices on menus while others cover prices with tape. Assembly lines are halted as organizations await the delivery of missing components. All the while, buyers and purchasers are managing product substitutions and searching for vendors who can deliver what they need.

Businesses — and their customers — feel the pain of a limited workforce, decreased cross-border movement, and the changes in demand levels and buyer behavior that have thrown the supply chain into disarray. Yet, these challenges are projected to remain throughout the year, and consumer behavior continues to change and evolve in response to these ongoing issues. To manage and adapt to these conditions, companies must adjust plans and strategies as well as ensure that technology is in place to support organizational agility and flexibility.

Making Adjustments: What to Consider and Where to Start

As you continue refining strategies, you'll need to account for the buying behaviors happening at the moment and those you anticipate in the future. Currently, many organizations are seeing increased bulk purchases, pre-orders, alternative and backup sourcing and a preference for subscription services. Understanding how these trends impact your industry and competitors is wise, but it's only the first step. You also must examine your data to identify recent, real-time, and early trends that may require you to react.

To improve overall planning and forecasting, ensure that the data you're working with is as accurate and close to real-time as possible. Having up-to-date, reliable data will allow you to analyze possible scenarios and better plan for a variety of market conditions and disruptions. To more accurately project performance, many organizations are building widespread cost increases into their cost structures.

As you explore scenarios and hone in on possible strategies, an important question is how to meet demand on time without overspending. This requires examining your product mix and adjusting inventory and procurement plans, likely so as to include more near-shore purchasing and manufacturing. Identifying and acting on opportunities to create more diversity in suppliers, vendors, customers, and other areas can help you to reduce risk.

Of course, all of this planning and analysis, on its own, is not enough. You need to be able to put your plans in place. For example, to avoid business disruption and loss of profit, you must be prepared to adjust prices, easily and rapidly update item, supplier, and vendor details.

In the following pages, we explore what's driving that shift, why so many organizations are choosing Oracle ERP, and best practices for cleaning your data in preparation for deploying and using Oracle ERP.

Another concern is ensuring that you can provide timely, accurate information and transparency to customers and business stakeholders about product substitutions, manufacturing timelines , shipment statuses, and any other disruptions or delays that directly impact these stakeholders. Being unequipped to do so can harm your relationships with these individuals and businesses.

However, if you have access to reliable, current data, you can get ahead of issues and build loyalty by offering refunds, discounts, or appropriate substitutions if orders are delayed or unfilled. By monitoring when these issues occur, you'll also be able to adjust your strategies to reduce future disruptions.

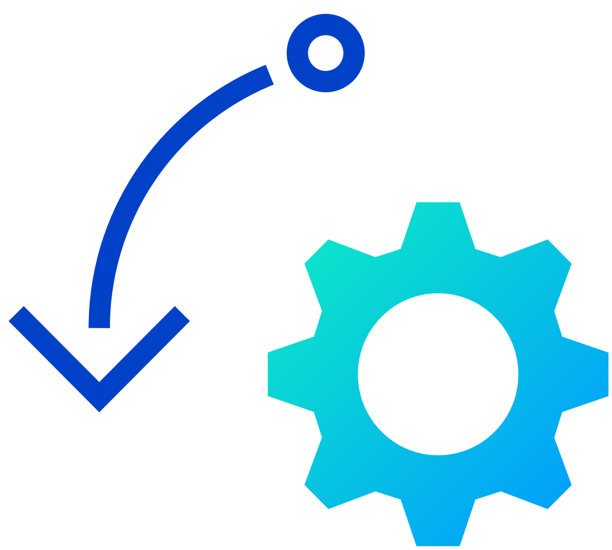
Data Roadblocks: What's Standing in the Way

As you likely noticed, the strategies for minimizing and planning for supply chain disruptions all require working closely with the data in your ERP system. It is critical that businesses can easily access and modify their data, while simultaneously being confident that their reports and data stays up-to-date and error-free. Businesses need to be able to trust their data, as outdated or low quality data drastically limits the ability to pivot and make smart, strategic decisions.

Unfortunately, Oracle's ERP tools for data uploads and downloads are notoriously complex, hard to use, and difficult to tailor to your specific needs. The process of editing and adding data is clunky and slow. Maintaining items and their various characteristics and manufacturing requirements in the ERP system is a very manual, time-consuming, and costly process. With the speed of change, by the time one round of updates is complete, it's likely out of date.

The same difficulties hamper accessing data to run scenarios and formulas. After the tedious process of downloading ERP data, users often edit data in an Excel spreadsheet. However, by the time they finish their work, the source data in Oracle may have changed, making the spreadsheet out of date without the user ever knowing. When working in spreadsheets, users often accidentally introduce errors, leading to inaccurate, unreliable data and reporting. These errors are particularly costly for businesses already dealing with a strained supply chain.

For all of the above reasons, Oracle's ERP data processing tools significantly limit businesses from reacting and adapting fast to changing marketplace conditions.



Solving Problems: How More4apps is Helping Companies React Faster

When organizations start using More4apps, their employees gain the ability to easily, quickly, and securely upload and edit Oracle ERP data via an intuitive Excel-based interface. In today's challenging environment, many of our customers have been sharing the difference More4apps makes in allowing them to manage, report on, and react to rising costs, longer lead times, and inventory issues. The software simplifies running potential scenarios and analysis, and it helps teams rapidly complete and validate bulk updates for pricing, costing, delivery details, and other crucial data in their systems.

Not only are customers using More4apps for standard recurring updates and reporting, but they're also using it to manage and easily make changes for sudden, unexpected needs like recalls or product substitutions as well as to respond to market changes.

As companies switch to new purchasing, cost, and inventory strategies, More4apps lets users manage the relevant data in bulk. For example, the Supplier or Customer wizards allow users to easily deactivate, consolidate, and set up new locations of suppliers or customers. To leverage these alternative supply locations, Purchase Order wizard helps users shift procurement (Purchase Orders) in bulk to newer, closer locations thus countering supply shortages. With Item, Bill of Materials, and Routing wizards, users can rapidly set up and assign items to new locations and warehouses.

No matter the change needed, More4apps lets companies act faster, with one user reporting that they complete these tasks an estimated 4 to 5 times faster than before. Another company saw a 70% reduction in time taken for data entry after introducing More4apps.

Beyond allowing rapid response and turnaround, More4apps gives users peace of mind and trust in the quality of their data. For starters, using More4apps eliminates the possibility of working with outdated data. With a More4apps wizard, all of the data you are manipulating is live, real-time data from Oracle, so you're always working with and reporting on current information.

Additionally, because the More4apps software is constantly communicating back to your ERP, the data is automatically validated. Users get notified if any inaccurate data occurs within any cell, thereby helping you find and fix errors immediately, increasing overall accuracy.

This accuracy enables businesses to introduce automation into their processes, gain more useful insights, create more informed plans, and provide more accurate information to all stakeholders on everything from shipping and lead times to product costs and revenue.

More4apps

To learn more about how More4apps can help you, connect with our team at www.more4apps.com/contact-us

More4apps lets you plan and pivot fast

- Upload and edit Oracle ERP data via an Excel-based interface
- Work with live, real-time data that is validated automatically
- Complete and validate bulk updates to align with market changes
- Deactivate, consolidate, and set up new locations of suppliers or customers
- Shift procurement (Purchase Orders) in bulk to closer locations
- Set up and assign items to new locations and warehouses
- Manage sudden, unexpected, time-sensitive needs like recalls or product substitutions
- Run potential scenarios and analysis for strategic planning
- Facilitate easy reporting on master data such as supplier or customer locations as well as transactional data such as open Purchase and Sales Orders, costs, lead times, inventory levels among others
- Introduce more automation into your daily work