The Cloud’s Silver Lining for Paperless ERP

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Business transactions and accounting systems today are moving at ever accelerating broadband speeds, and businesses that continue to use paper in their accounts payable and receivable processes soon may show the economic and competitive strains of trying to keep up with the pace, accuracy and efficiencies demanded by suppliers and customers alike. The good news is that switching to paperless ERP with automated AP and AR capabilities has become simpler than ever with low-cost, cloud-based ERP platforms and automation software.

The latest cloud versions of Microsoft Dynamics AX, GP and SL offer deep accounting and business-management functionality and enable accounting departments to eliminate the need to work with paper invoices, purchase orders and other documents when the ERP technology is integrated with the a document management system like MetaViewer. In fact, cloud-based paperless AP and AR automation allows businesses to significantly improve their accounting processes while slashing their technology investment costs.

When companies move to paperless ERP with AP/AR automation, they immediately enhance their operations in a number of ways:

1. **They improve the accuracy and speed of their processes.** The right paperless document management solution will offer built-in technology to convert paper invoices submitted by vendors into digital versions that can be managed easily and accurately. These solutions can also provide workflow automation to expedite approvals and processing of invoices so that paper invoices no longer sit in a manager’s inbox or get lost during inter-office delivery. Once entered into the system, every invoice can be tracked, and management gains a complete view of payments due, allowing for much more accurate financial planning.

2. **Digital data in the system can be trusted.** Information is entered just once, and that same data can be accessed at anytime from anywhere in the world. Everyone is working from the same version of the data, so everyone can rely on the paperless ERP platform to furnish consistent, timely reports.

3. **Costs drop dramatically.** A combined Microsoft Dynamics/paperless document management solution saves all the people-cuts of moving and managing stacks of paper documents, allows the organization to take advantage of vendor discounts for on-time payments and can eliminate penalty fees for late payments.

The benefits of Paperless ERP become supercharged when a business adopts a cloud-based combination of Microsoft Dynamics and a paperless document management solution.
First of all, the investment costs for ERP technology plunges. Instead of buying, installing, maintaining and constantly upgrading its own technology infrastructure, a company can reach for the cloud to gain access to all the applications, storage and automation that it needs. The document management solution is already there, integrated with the Microsoft Dynamics cloud platform. Instead of buying servers, software and network devices, companies simply pay a low monthly, per-user fee for Microsoft Dynamics with the document management solution, minimizing up-front costs for hardware and software licensing.

Moreover, the cloud-based service always makes the most current version of software available to all users the moment it is released. Upgrades are implemented automatically without company personnel needing to do anything but log in as usual.

Additionally, cloud-based Paperless ERP makes the process of scaling up operations as the company grows a simple matter. No longer does the accounting department need to call on IT to buy more highly capable software and servers and hire more people to manage the technology. The cloud stretches as far as the company needs it to reach; simply add users to the subscription, and the cloud handles the back end on its own.

Furthermore, the cloud makes access to accounting data and reports an easy process for all authorized personnel, anywhere across the globe. Microsoft Dynamics with a cloud-based paperless document management solution furnishes remote access to the company’s ERP software around the clock from any location as a benefit of the monthly subscription fee.

Another advantage of placing AP and AR data in the cloud is that it is automatically backed up in the cloud as well. In the event of a disaster that impacts the company—computer hacking, fire, tornado, flood—all of the organization’s accounting data remains intact and available in the cloud. Users can simply access a computer anywhere, log in and continue working.

Finally, cloud-based systems are far more secure than the typical company’s own server room or a paper-based system. Data centers in the cloud host capabilities and data from all types of businesses of all sizes, each of which requires confidentiality and safety. Therefore, these hosts use the world’s most advanced security systems to protect data, a security level that is maintained across the cloud. And, of course, since all the data is digital, paperwork cannot get lost, damaged or illegitimately copied.

Some businesses may want to keep some of their data on their own premises simply because of the special procedures they must use to protect it and/or the need to severely limit access. Microsoft Dynamics and a paperless document management solution like MetaViewer can meet that need through a hybrid cloud solution, allowing the most sensitive data to remain in the company’s servers while other functions are managed in the cloud.

If your business is ready to reach for the cloud—or if it wants to maximize its use of a cloud-based Microsoft Dynamics ERP platform—check the opportunities and savings available through Paperless ERP with Metafile at www.metaviewer.com/cloud-computing.

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