WHY YOUR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS ARE NOT LIVING UP TO THEIR POTENTIAL

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"In today's world of exponential change, organizations that get too comfortable with the status quo are at major risk of disruption.

If you're not experimenting and, as a director, if you're not asking questions about how your organization is navigating and plugging into disruption, forming new ecosystems, and tapping into open markets, then your organization is at risk..."

Andrew Vaz

Global Chief Innovation Officer, Deloitte

THE ROAD TO DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Are you prepared for big, market moving strategies that can (and will) disrupt your business? A recent report by Deloitte, "The Fourth Industrial Revolution is Here! Are You Ready?" concluded that executives are not ready for this transformation in their organization.

The digital age is pressuring organizations to innovate and operate more efficiently to avoid disruption. Leading manufacturers recognize the need to transform their technology and processes to fully harness product data across the enterprise and across the product lifecycle. What's clear is that they are unsure where to start.

So what's the challenge?

PwC reports that 72% of manufacturing companies are dramatically increasing their level of digitization and expect to be considered "digitally advanced" by 2020. However, only 33% meet that classification today.

THE TAKEAWAY:
organizations may be actively investing in projects related to Digital Transformation, but more than likely they are not living up to their potential.

Is your company among those that have missed the mark on big budget, digital transformation projects? More than likely, you've been wasting time and resources by throwing technology at a problem without first getting a firm grasp on the fundamental elements required to transform in the first place.

These problems can be traced back to the difficulty in collecting and connecting data from disparate sources and processes throughout the organization and then being able to derive useful information and analytics from it.

Transformation must start with creating a Digital Thread; a framework for controlled interplay of disparate systems. This is a fundamental but high-value capability for manufacturers to ready themselves for the next decade of growth. It should be the first step in your digital transformation for market-paced innovation and growth.

WHAT IS DIGITAL THREAD?

The Digital Thread enables full product lifecycle traceability, allowing previously siloed teams across the enterprise to work concurrently with the latest product information.

Like sewing thread, a digital thread links critical information, allowing you to track a product and its digital assets, from concept, through design, manufacturing, quality, and field maintenance.

It is not simply a way to position your company to manage critical information, but can become a key enabler to determining what types of new products and services to provide in a rapidly changing marketplace.

DIGITAL THREAD DELIVERS REAL RESULTS

Digital Thread isn't simply a theoretical exercise. It's a best practice that can steer your manufacturing organization to new levels of efficiency across the product lifecycle.

For example, a large jet engine manufacturer created a traceable Digital Thread between engineering and manufacturing—resulting in:
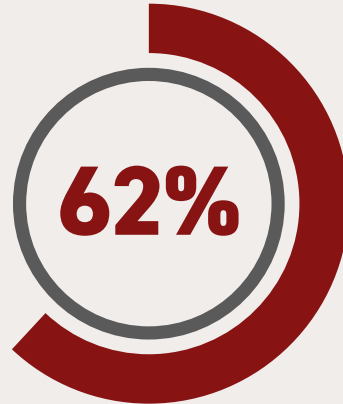
62% reduction in **CHANGES TO ANALYZE**

80% reduction in **TOOLS**

82% less **DATA ENTRY** - eliminating spreadsheets and siloed data

A SOLID PLATFORM IS KEY TO FULL PRODUCT LIFECYCLE TRACEABILITY

Though the landscape of product complexity has changed, there has not been a better way to manage an even more complex product lifecycle. It is clear that a new generation of technology is needed to support the end-to-end product lifecycle.

The answer is a Product Innovation Platform, a platform which effectively optimizes across the lifecycle by ensuring the tools, users and information are working in sync - used as the foundation to create the Digital Thread.

A platform approach connects all users and critical information, cultivating continuous creativity and collaboration in a single environment. This helps you generate process improvements and develop innovative next-generation, higher-quality products.

MEETING NEXT GENERATION CHALLENGES TODAY

Organizations that can link silos of information and add capabilities on top of legacy software investments will be able to scale the development and manufacturing of next generation smart connected equipment.

By linking information between the disciplines throughout the product lifecycle, your organization will benefit from:

Productivity gains:
Deliver on-time product launches

The ability to rapidly respond to changing customer demands: Improve product quality and support

Market expansion: Support new markets, new service business models, create new product offerings

Development of a feedback loop for Next Generation Products: Lay the foundation for next generation product development. Configuration and operating information can be shared backwards in the lifecycle to enable improved product designs, manufacturing processes and quality tests

TAKE ACTION, BUILD YOUR DIGITAL THREAD

The Digital Thread links critical information created during all phases of a product's development, manufacture, and service. It also enables you to drill down and understand how data has changed as the product moves throughout the product lifecycle. Through this approach, companies can embrace new business models, fend off competitors, and create positive market disruptions that enhance their businesses.

And, beyond manufacturing itself, Digital Thread helps embed manufacturers with their customers by providing operational information about products that were previously difficult to access. In doing so, manufacturers are able to use this "interconnectedness" to close the quality loop, gain real-time insights into the products in the field, and lay the groundwork for even more innovation—the Digital Twin.

Learn more about why Digital Thread needs to be the first step in your digital transformation plan. Download the eBook.

Aras enables the world's leading manufacturers of complex, connected products to transform their product lifecycle processes and gain a competitive edge. Aras' open, flexible, scalable, and upgradeable PLM platform and applications connect users in all disciplines and functions to critical product information and processes across the extended enterprise. Aras customers include Airbus, BAE Systems, GE, GM, Hitachi, Honda, Kawasaki Heavy Industries, and Microsoft.

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