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RPA TOP 10 USE CASE

Manufactoring, Supply Chain & Logistics

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Manufactoring, Supply Chain & Logistics are one of the most rapidly moving industries towards business automation. Every year the new technologies offeragile solutions for corporations to improve their business processes. Since Logistics and Supply Chain consist of primarily back-office operations (which are often monotonous, repetitive, and prone to mechanical accidental humanerrors) it can lead to inefficiency and productivity loss.

Therefore, one of the best modern cost-effective solutions for digitalisation is Robotic Process Automation (RPA). RPA is a contemporary technologicalsolution that allows companies the ability to customer build a "software robot" according to their needs. The robot can assist in capturing and interpreting and delivering data between existing applications by processing a transaction, manipulating data, triggering responses, and communicating across multiple digital systems. There are numerous benefits that RPA can provide for supply chain and logistics companies, including:

- RPA tools work 24/7 without getting tired or overloaded.
- Software robots strictly follow the rules of every workflow and doesn'tmake errors or wrong subjective decisions.
- Due to manual processes being delegated to bots, employees will have more working time to perform more valuable and rewarding tasks instead of wasting dozens of hours on copy-pasting or re-keying data.
- RPA will be most useful when integrated into existing well-streamlined business-processes that are characterised as repetitive, mind-numbing and do not involve complex analysis or deep thinking.

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TOP 10 RPA USE CASES FOR THE SUPPLY CHAIN AND LOGISTICS INDUSTRY:

1. **SHIPMENT SCHEDULING & TRACKING**
   RPA can automate manual shipping tasks—from the initial pick-up request to checking to reporting shipment status between internal systems and portals. Bots can also extract shipment details from incoming emails, log jobs in your scheduling systems, and provide pick-up times in customer/carrier portals.

2. **INVOICE MANAGEMENT**
   Invoice management requires high-volume tasks involving tracking and entering a significant amount of data, making it suitable for automation. RPA can process invoice documents from suppliers much easier, faster and reduce the risks of error to zero.

3. **INVENTORY MANAGEMENT**
   Inventory monitoring is another important element of supply chain and logistics. Since inventory management often requires tracking a large amount of data, RPA can monitor the remaining quantity of the products, send a notification to the responsible employee, and simultaneously order new shipments as needed. RPA can optimise the whole inventory management process by tracking inventory from the time products are received, to storage, and then shipping not only to a customer but through an entire distribution channel.

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4. **INVOICE PROCESSING & CREDIT COLLECTIONS**
One of the major challenges for businesses is getting paid after work has been invoiced. The regular follow-ups are often complicated by multiple systems and employees involved in the process. RPA can integrate with shipping bill payment systems to automate complete order-to-cash processes for hundreds of large carriers.

5. **CAPTURING, RESEARCHING & CLOSING OUT LOADS**
Third-party carriers and suppliers undoubtedly give an opportunity to grow your business--but it also increases the necessity to manually track in your shipping in multiple systems. For example, having to use couriers or fleets of vans for less-than-load (LTL) shipments. An RPA bot can automatically scan and capture carrier website data like a PRO number, track/trace related data, and invoice the amount--streamlining the capturing, researching, and closing loads.

6. **ENHANCE CUSTOMER RESPONSIVENESS WITH AUTOMATED ORDER/INVENTORY TRACKING**
RPA Bots can regularly query carrier tracking systems/websites and retrieve proof of delivery information. They can also link data to the original order record in a warehouse management system for better tracking and faster responses to customer inquiries.

7. **ORDER MANAGEMENT**
In the supply chain and logistics industry, every process has to be precise to achieve overall success, therefore order management has a vital role. Depending on the size of the company, hundreds or even thousands of orders have to be reviewed daily before proceeding with the shipping and invoice processes. But doing this manually can turn into a nightmare fairly quickly. Adding RPA, this whole process can be automated by using a bot to

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sort through a wide range of criteria such as pricing, quantity, and regularity of a purchase. In case of any mismatches, the RPA software can send notifications to employees to review an order.

8. PURCHASE ORDER MANAGEMENT

The backbone of purchase order management is having a thorough review process. But having to manually review every order can be labour-intensive and lead to bottlenecks. With RPA supporting this process, you can run purchase orders through an automated criteria such as pricing, quantity, and regularity of purchase. When an approval matches optimisation criteria, it gets sent through. When it doesn't, the RPA uses notifications to run the remaining purchase orders through procurement managers for a formal review. By utilising automated approval workflows, RPA allows you to closely review a smaller number of more important or problematic orders.

9. PRICE LOOKUP & COMPARISON

The fastest way to cut expenses in supply chain and logistics is to optimise pricing of sourced materials—but manually conducting price lookups on multiple options for hundreds of products can prove unwieldy. This is why price lookup is a prime candidate for automation. RPA software can routinely search for pricing data on specified materials and ingest this data in a way that makes conducting comparisons easier. This translates to getting better prices more efficiently.

10. SPEED UP INVOICING BY INTEGRATING SYSTEMS WITH CUSTOMER PORTALS

RPA can eliminate re-keying, cutting-and-pasting, and manually attaching data to invoices. In addition it can automatically extract shipping data, attach scanned PODs and invoices, and update customer portals in seconds, rather than days.

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CONCLUSION

RPA is emerging as a cost-efficient way for supply chain and logistics companies to optimise their operations—while also cutting costs. Now that you have a clearer idea of where you can implement RPA in these types of operations, the next step is finding a service provider to help make it possible. This is where Autonomate with years of development expertise, can easily analyse, train, support, and provide an efficient turn-around time for supply chain firms to deploy the most cutting edge software in the technology industry.

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