

# Future Work - Solutions

## HOW TO MODERNIZE YOUR BUSINESS BY DIGITIZING ESSENTIAL PROCESSES

Construction businesses are on the hunt for solutions as consumer demands and newly passed legislation become increasingly more complex. Customer change requests, evolving permit requirements

developers to create self-serve portals connected to secure repositories that contain up-to-date information, architect renderings, permit applications (and approvals), schedules, purchase orders, and just about anything a team member needs.

Should a foreman need to know if a permit was filed or whether trades have been scheduled for a specific jobsite, status can be checked on-the-fly and on-the-go. With the demand for instant data comes the reality that data itself ages quickly. Reports become “old” the minute they hit paper or as they get emailed given that in that short span of time, a permit application may receive approval, a warranty uploaded, or a request for repair placed. The industry is poised for more live data feeds and once that becomes commonplace, it is unlikely any will return to historic practices.

Any time during which contractors are not actively working on a job literally eats away at profits. No one enjoys the waiting game. The demand for instant data has driven software

## 2. COMMUNICATION WITHOUT UNNECESSARY CONVERSATION

In construction, time is money. A 15-minute conversation each with a supplier, foreman, inspector, tradesperson, and permit office adds up to a full hour. What if all the questions asked and answered during those calls could have been managed within a web-based portal in 95% less time?

Software applications streamline access to information. Need to know the status of a site permit? Curious if a new piece of equipment has arrived on-site? Need to shuffle trades to avoid slack time? SaaS options allow teams to communicate without unnecessary conversation. Information can be posted, manipulated, adjusted, updated, downloaded, and accessed from a centralized database from any location.

### **3. TAILORING ISN'T EXCLUSIVE TO FASHION**

The most innovative software solutions are designed to be easily tailored to a business' unique needs. Software developers are today using universal application programming interfaces (APIs) and coding structures which serve as the foundation for individual customization. These details are important at different stages of build and communicating or sharing it with one or more individuals takes time.

Homebuilders have consistently requested centralized portals in which critical documentation, scheduling templates, and workflows can be stored, accessed, and updated in real-time. Further, those portals can be designed so that others that require access can see if permits have been filed, documents signed, inspections completed, escrow opened, and more. Software developers can create portals to provide an instant, live view of necessary data so that they can fulfill their responsibility along a project timeline.

### **4. SAAS MEANS BOTH SOFTWARE & SERVICE**

Dependency on digital has revealed tremendous possibility, however without proper support, users may never fully grasp the full capability of their investment. The transition toward more consistent use of SaaS also increases the need for, and value of, customer service. Software designers and engineers exist in order to problem solve. For example, should your business depend on older spreadsheets that everyone has grown accustomed to using, the problem may be how to transform that spreadsheet into something that can be easily updated, manipulated, and shared. Many contractors purchase



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### About the Author

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### About the Article

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