Unifying Your Supply Chain

A Platform for Better Logistics

Manhattan

The Path to a Unified Supply Chain

In today's increasingly complex and interconnected world, an efficient and well-managed supply chain is critical to maintaining a competitive advantage. Businesses are facing relentless pressure to streamline processes, improve operational efficiency and reduce costs across their operations.

As companies grow and evolve, they often find themselves relying on a patchwork of disparate solutions to manage complex supply chain processes. Typically, one manages transportation, while a separate technology — often from a different vendor — handles distribution. They may have still another solution for inventory management and at least one more for retail processes. While this approach may have been sufficient in the past, fragmentation inevitably leads to lower agility and lower profitability.

Today, businesses can choose to follow another technology path. Consolidating your supply chain management on a single platform leads to better performance, visibility and control — ultimately positioning your organization for long-term success in this demanding market landscape.

The Challenges of a Fragmented Supply Chain

The rise of omnichannel commerce and new fulfillment methods have resulted in more shipments, tighter delivery windows and higher expectations. World events, labor changes and unpredictable product shortages mean supply chains must be agile, efficient and intelligent. Siloed technologies create a host of obstacles in the way of those goals.

Complexity of managing multiple systems

Using different software to handle each supply chain function can quickly lead to disjointed execution, creating barriers, operational inefficiencies and gaps in visibility. In addition, each system likely has its own user interface, data format and operational processes, making it difficult for employees to navigate and access the information they need. The lack of cohesion between systems can also lead to increased errors and miscommunication, hindering your organization's ability to make informed decisions and respond to changes in the market.

Data integration and visibility issues

When your supply chain software is fragmented, data integration becomes a significant challenge. Critical information is often isolated within individual systems, making it impossible to get a comprehensive, real-time view of your supply chain. This lack of end-to-end visibility results in suboptimal decision-making, missed opportunities and increased risk. Moreover, manual data entry and integration challenges can be time-consuming and expensive, further exacerbating the problem.

Increased costs and staffing requirements

Running disparate solutions often results in higher expenses and staffing requirements. As your organization invests in multiple technologies and vendors, the price of licensing, maintenance and support can quickly add up. Additionally, the complexity of managing multiple systems can necessitate hiring additional staff and spending extra resources on specialized training to ensure your team has the expertise to navigate and maintain each one.

Vendor management challenges

Working with multiple vendors creates its own set of challenges. Negotiating contracts, maintaining relationships and coordinating support and maintenance for each can become time-consuming and burdensome. The more providers you have, the more complex and resource-intensive this process becomes, detracting from your organization's core objectives and goals.

The Benefits of a Unified Approach

Supply chain convergence occurs when functional silos are broken down and business processes span, synchronize and optimize across traditional functional domains. Once operations like distribution, transportation and planning optimization are finally collaborating, you can start thinking in terms of inbound and outbound, instead of WMS versus TMS. Doing so unlocks a host of new possibilities and benefits.

Streamlined operations and improved efficiency

A unified supply chain solution puts all necessary functions on a single platform, eliminating the need for multiple systems and reducing the complexity of managing and synchronizing data between them. This streamlining of operations leads to greater efficiency, as your team spends less time navigating disparate systems and more time focusing on strategic decision-making. A unified solution also simplifies communication and collaboration between departments, leading to faster, more informed decisions.

Enhanced visibility across the entire supply chain

Another major advantage is the ability to provide end-to-end visibility across your supply chain. By consolidating all data and processes, you can finally access a comprehensive view of your operations. This enables your team to identify bottlenecks, optimize inventory levels and uncover new opportunities. Increased visibility also allows you to better anticipate demand and respond to exceptions or changes in the market. When everything is coordinated, your operation becomes exponentially more agile, ultimately leading to better performance, improved customer satisfaction and sustained competitive advantages.

Reduced costs and simplified vendor management

A unified approach reduces costs in several ways. By eliminating the need for multiple software licenses, you can reduce your overall expenses. Additionally, you will only need to work with a single vendor for support and maintenance. This saves your IT resources time spent managing multiple provider relationships — allowing them to focus on more strategic initiatives — and creates the potential for more favorable contract terms with that one vendor.

Greater scalability and customization options

A unified supply chain solution is designed to grow with your business, offering scalability and extensibility that can adapt to your changing needs. As your company expands or develops, the right software automatically scales up to accommodate new requirements and can be easily modified and customized to suit new business processes. This flexibility ensures that your software investment remains valuable and current — even as your business, and the marketplace, evolve.

Implementing a Unified Supply Chain Strategy

Moving from disparate systems to unified operations requires a deliberate, well-thought-out approach. **Here are keys steps in that journey.**

STEP 1

Assess your current technology landscape

The first step in implementing a unified strategy is to thoroughly evaluate your current portfolio of solutions. This involves examining existing software systems, processes and workflows to gain a clear understanding of how your supply chain operates. Analyzing key performance indicators (KPIs) and benchmarking your operations against industry standards can also help you identify areas where your supply chain is underperforming.

STEP 2

Identify gaps and areas for improvement

Once you have a comprehensive understanding of your current operations, you can identify gaps and areas for improvement. This may include outdated or disjointed software systems, inefficient workflows or a lack of visibility across your supply chain. By pinpointing these shortfalls, you can create a targeted plan for removing barriers, streamlining functions and improving performance through unification.

STEP 3

Develop a roadmap for consolidation

With a clear understanding of your supply chain's strengths and weaknesses, you can develop a plan for software consolidation and unification within the platform. This roadmap should outline the steps necessary to transition from your current software systems, taking into account factors such as data migration, third-party integrations for resources like automation and robotics technologies, and employee training. A detailed plan will help ensure a smooth and successful transition to a more efficient and cohesive supply chain.

STEP 4

Partner with Manhattan for implementation

As you embark on your journey towards a unified supply chain, it's critical to work with the right partner. Our team of supply chain experts will work closely with you to understand your unique business needs and tailor solutions to meet those requirements. We'll also provide guidance and support throughout the implementation process — and afterwards — to ensure that your transition to a unified supply chain is seamless and successful.

The Manhattan Difference

Manhattan is the only provider named a Leader by Gartner and Forrester analysts for supply chain solutions that are on a single, cloud-native platform. We are the sole software vendor that can offer true unification and unlock the benefits it can offer.

A comprehensive solution

Manhattan offers software across every aspect of supply chain management. Our industry-leading suite includes solutions for warehouse management, transportation management, inventory optimization, labor management and more. We provide a truly end-to-end solution, ensuring you can optimize your entire operation — every function, every process, every day.

The power of a cloud-native platform

As mentioned previously, our solutions are built on a cloud-native platform, offering numerous advantages over traditional, on-premises systems. The power of the cloud gives our technology greater flexibility, scalability and extensibility. This means that you can easily flex your supply chain operations up or down with demand. You can also tailor the solutions at every level, adding your innovation to ours. Additionally, a cloud-native approach means you get access to new innovation and capabilities every 90 days. So, your business — and your software — is always current without the need for costly and time-consuming upgrades.

Unified operations

At Manhattan, our solutions are designed to work together harmoniously across functions and processes. Data flows effortlessly between different components of your supply chain, ushering in new opportunities for efficiency. For example, when trucks are arriving early, the workforce in the distribution center is notified and ready. When exceptions occur during picking, the outbound plan is automatically modified with new orders that maximize both throughput and trailer utilization. Every part of your logistics operation shares the same information in real-time, meaning there is constant coordination and optimization. The result is streamlined operations with unprecedented agility and efficiency.

The advantage of advanced technologies

As complexity in supply chains grows, advanced technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are helping to automate processes, provide real-time insights and integrate deeper intelligence throughout the system. Manhattan's solutions leverage these tools, enabling you to maximize efficiency, reduce costs and optimize decision-making.

Future-proof operations

Manhattan's supply chain technology does more than help you today, it establishes a platform for sustained success. As the only industry-leading solutions that are cloud-native, they offer full extensibility to customize as needs arise or integrate new partners as your business changes. In addition, with new innovations being added every 90 days in perpetuity, you are assured of having the capabilities you need as markets and demands evolve.

A record of customer success

At Manhattan, we make our customers' missions *our* missions. It's why the world's best companies trust us to help them work better. That includes: seven of the world's top 10 retailers; 37 of the top 50 U.S. retailers; all of the top 10 global sportswear brands; the top three pharmaceutical distributors; and 31 of the top 50 3PLs. Across industries and around the globe, we deliver tangible results for our customers.

7 of the world's top 10 retailers

37 of the top 50 U.S. retailers

10/10 of the top global sportswear brands

3 the top three pharmaceutical distributors

31 of the top 50 3PLs

Embrace the Power of a Unified Supply Chain

The logistics landscape is rapidly evolving, and businesses must adapt to stay competitive. By choosing a unified supply chain approach, organizations can achieve greater efficiency, visibility, agility and control over their operations. Manhattan offers an end-to-end suite of solutions designed to work seamlessly together, unlocking new synergies and driving sustained operational excellence.

As you begin this journey, it's crucial that you assess your current landscape, identify gaps and areas for improvement, develop a roadmap for software consolidation, enable automation technologies and robotics orchestration, and partner with a trusted provider like Manhattan. By doing so, you can ensure a successful implementation that meets your organization's objectives and sets you up for long-term success.

No longer do you have to endure silos and inefficiencies in supply chain management. It's time to break down those barriers. In an increasingly competitive and unpredictable global market, you can build a more streamlined, powerful and resilient supply chain.

Just tell us what you want to achieve and where you want to go, and Manhattan will get you there.

To start on the road to unification, visit us at **manh.com/contact-us** or call **+1 (877) 596-9208**.

To learn more visit
manh.com

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