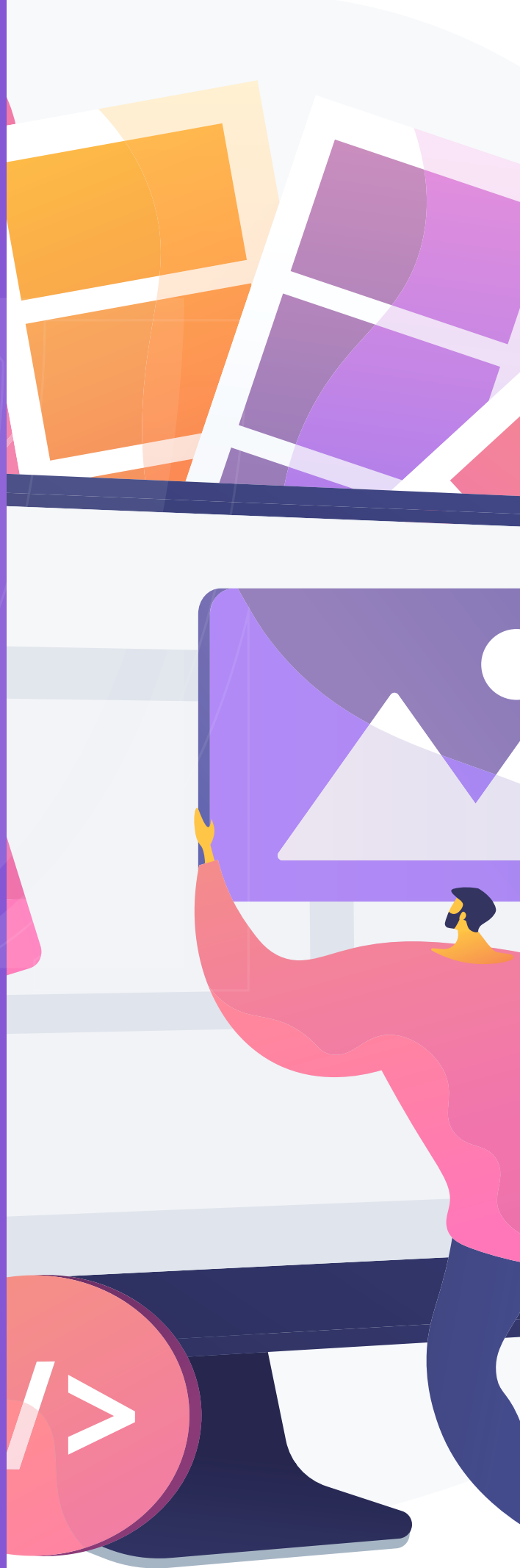agilepoint.

Why Low-Code/ No-Code in Supply Chain?

agilepoint.

Supply Chain Automation

Background: The AgilePoint Perspective

In the aftermath of COVID-19, supply chains are in a state of disruption and the economic shocks have been felt everywhere, from chip manufacturing and retail to construction and automobiles.

However, there are areas that supply chain companies need to solve irrespective of the pandemic, such as solutions to circumvent increased trade barriers, shifting customer service expectations, and managing supplier/partner relationships. Seasonal issues like port congestion, high container rates, and trucker shortages make matters more complex. Usually, one problem, say rising costs, has a spillover effect in another area of a logistics business, like the profitability of operations.

Though there is no dearth of ERPs and packaged IT solutions, what logistics companies might give an edge inthe current circumstances is to enhance their ability to perform against the unplannable. How well you perform and execute in ongoing uncertainty might be the competitive advantage in the future.

Based on our discussions with customers:

Prior to contracting AgilePoint, they used a mix of technology solutions to manage operations including:

- Excel/Spreadsheets
- Off-the-shelf or pre-packaged software
- ERP Software
- Custom Apps

An enterprise-grade low-code/no-code platform becomes the agile technology platform that molds itself to your flexible and fluid needs.

It allows you to build apps, automations, and integrations both at the customer side and vendor/partner side.

Connecting current-state audit, roadmap, and key initiatives

Any effort to come up with new solutions typically starts with auditing the existing state of affairs. It then moves to develop a roadmap for transformation which ultimately is tied to key initiatives that have the potential to improve KPIs.

Audit

- Gap Analysis
- Low-Hanging Fruits

Roadmap

- KPIs
- Tools, training, and guidelines, to empower business & IT teams mapped against KPIs

Key Initiatives

- Digital Transformation Initiatives
- Multi-Tier IT Competencies (Pro-Developers, Citizen Developers)

Using the same tech stack to do things differently

A dynamic and responsive low-code platform allows supply chain leaders to use the same platform for their new needs.

For instance, pre-pandemic, they might have needed a rapid application development (RAD) platform whereas post-pandemic, new market conditions might compel them to build their own partner/supplier portal that they can then use as a SaaS (Software-as-a-Service).

Rather than building such a SaaS platform as a Greenfield project, they might use the same application platform and build a complete new customer facing software still using 80% of the processes/patterns and workflows already used in the firm.

Hence, a single platform that lets you redefine workflows and processes across manpower, vendors, suppliers, customers, and external stakeholders.

Intelligent Automation

Using the same tech stack to do things differently

A key differentiator of a platform like AgilePoint comes from the time its lashes from all processes and workflows of traditional IT.

For example, in traditional IT, designing a new platform, application, or workflow and then digitizing it to the point that it yields significant efficiencies require dedicated professional developers.

However, with a low-code/no-code (LCNC) automation, you can cut down the time it requires to design, test, deploy, and governance (the part that deals with maintenance, compliance, and cyber-security) your application.

"Storm Proofing the Digital Transformation Journey", a detailed analysis of the difference between hand-coding, traditional low-code platforms, and true enterprise-grade low-code platforms.

LCNC helps by increasing speed at two levels

Essentially, an LCNC platform helps logistics firms to move fast in innovating by addressing their needs at two levels:

- **Core IT processes (Design, Test, Deployment, & Governance)**
- **Collaboration**

How a logistics provider ends up using the platform is unique to its current needs, however, some mix of uses we've seen includes:

- **Augmenting CRM suites: Using AgilePoint to build processes automation and activity monitoring for business development and sales teams**
- **Extending core capabilities of ERP solutions already in use by the logistics provider**
- **Greenfield apps like payment cycle management that leverage both process automation and data**

In the end, what determines a logistics provider's competitiveness is its ability to ensure two things:

- **Visibility into the supply chain**
- **Response times (both internally within teams/departments and externally to customers)**

An LCNC platform helps tackle both fronts as the agility to tackle just-in-time innovation needs is baked into the platform architecture and feature set.

To understand how the architecture of an LCNC platform impacts a supply chain firm's capability to innovate, feel free to read the white paper a link to which is given below:

e-Book

"Top 10 Characteristics of an Enterprise Low-Code./No-Code Platform"