

# Modernizing Supply Chain Data:

Evolve From Data Visibility to Data Transparency

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## Data visibility vs. data transparency

Legacy systems, in the best-case scenario, offer visibility into data across the supply chain. Teams can download data, organize it manually and update other departments on a schedule. Because this is all supply chain leaders have known, 90% say they are equipped to make accurate, real-time visibility into their inventory.

However, only 33% of them actually do so.

Frequently, data stays sequestered to each individual system unless someone intervenes and proactively shares it. In other words, teams can see data from across the supply chain, but they can't use it.

Data transparency, on the other hand, puts every stage of the supply chain on the same system, using the same data at the same time. An update to planning numbers are immediately reflected in the warehouse management system. Changes in customer behavior can be identified and assessed in real time. No decision is made based on off-base assumptions.

Data transparency overcomes silos to create a better experience for every worker on the supply chain.

But even companies that recognize the need for data transparency find it difficult to make the switch to a more modern system because of regulations. Across the globe, countries are implementing new data policies to protect their citizens.

For example, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which applies to any organization that gathers, stores or handles the personal data of people living in the European Union, charges fines up to €20 million or 4% of global annual revenue for noncompliance. The financial risk, as well as the operational risk, of changing data policies and operations make companies hesitant.

Ultimately, any hesitation about modernizing supply chain data must be overpowered by the need for agility and growth. The benefits far outweigh the risks at this point.



# The risks and benefits of data transparency across the supply chain



Supply chain operation	Under data silos	With data transparency
Supply planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Delayed customer trend reports</li><li>✗ Late updates to supplier disruptions</li><li>✗ Reactionary planning to shortages</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Real-time customer demand data</li><li>✓ Immediate supplier inventory across multiple suppliers</li><li>✓ Proactive planning</li></ul>
Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Scheduling delays</li><li>✗ Inefficient production schedules</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Real-time delays and action plans</li><li>✓ Agile, AI-powered production schedules</li></ul>
Warehousing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Inventory surpluses and missing inventory</li><li>✗ Increased holding costs</li><li>✗ Unexpected labor shortages</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Immediate inventory reporting</li><li>✓ Accurate labor planning</li><li>✓ More efficient warehouse management</li></ul>
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Miscommunicated weather delays</li><li>✗ Half-loaded trucks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Pre-planned alternate routes based on AI-powered insights</li><li>✓ Efficient pallet loading and planning</li><li>✓ Proactive suggestions delivered in real time</li></ul>
Returns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ Misreported shelving space</li><li>✗ Unknown logistics delays</li><li>✗ Incomplete customer data</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Accurate demand planning</li><li>✓ Quality control and efficiency</li><li>✓ Real-time updates to customer profiles</li></ul>





▶ Three steps for making the switch to data transparency

• The transition away from data silos requires slightly more preparation than breaking down labor silos. But neither need to be an all-or-nothing process. In fact, the most successful attempts at modernizing the supply chain occur when companies compose their own adoption journey.

▶ NO MATTER WHAT THE JOURNEY LOOKS LIKE, THE THREE FIRST STEPS WILL ALL LOOK THE SAME:



# Step 1

## Understand where you are now

Start with where you are right now. Take an inventory of the various solutions that run throughout your supply chain. Understand how the data is organized between the different solutions, plus how that data is (or is not) shared between each team.

The more solutions your supply chain runs on, the more complicated it will be to modernize your data. But it will be much easier to face when you know exactly what data you're collecting right now and how it's used.

Make sure to go beyond the most obvious connections and consider how data can move throughout the supply chain. It's not enough that

warehousing and transportation solutions can collaborate. They also need to talk to production and supplier solutions.

The beginning stages are also a great opportunity to get input from various leadership throughout the supply chain. Identify where decisions take the most time, where teams make decisions based on the most incomplete data and where teams would like the most support. Gather as much information as possible, so you know the most immediate needs. Adopting new solutions without end-to-end buy-in won't bring about the changes necessary to make your company successful.





# Step 2

## Identify standardization opportunities

With the preparation work done, look at the quickest wins for standardizing data across the supply chain. When it comes time to transfer to new solutions or implement new processes, standardization practices will help everything switch more smoothly.

Start with small changes with minimal disruptions to current workflow. Start with how the teams will benefit from the changes. And maintain realistic

expectations of all employees. Those who need to learn new skills, share their historical knowledge and adapt to new requirements will need support and time to adjust. Pressuring employees to meet demands immediately can put their employee satisfaction (and the entire modernization process) in jeopardy.

The more transparency, the better — in data and in the transition stage.





# Step 3

## Create a composable modernization plan

Finally, with all the necessary data collected, make a plan to adopt a modern, end-to-end supply chain solution that provides accurate data transparency. Collaborate with your solutions partner to create a realistic timeline that leaves room for the unexpected.

With employee and customer feedback, as well as changes in tariffs or other regulations, your team might find that you need to update your plan. That's to be expected. Nothing in the modern supply chain should be fixed. The end goal remains the same: achieve data transparency for a more efficient, faster and more profitable supply chain.





## Give your supply chain maximum certainty — modernize today

Modernizing your supply chain data for maximum certainty will require investments of time and money. It won't be simple, but it doesn't have to be overwhelming. In fact, the process can be seamless with the right partnership. If you want to talk to an expert to learn what's possible for your team, contact Blue Yonder today.





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