

The background of the slide is a dark blue, semi-transparent image of a shipping yard. It shows stacks of blue and grey shipping containers. In the center, a forklift is visible, lifting a container. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting an industrial or warehouse environment.

**DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**, CROSS-COMPANY  
COLLABORATION, AND SUPPLY CHAIN

# THE FUTURE OF SUPPLY CHAIN

The world of supply chain has experienced astounding change over the past decade and, incredibly, as a result of what has unfolded over the past few months, it's only going to continue at an even more dramatic pace. Traditionally, supply chains would be highly segmented, going through a straightforward step-by-step set of processes to get their product to their customers.



# THE FUTURE OF SUPPLY CHAIN

The modern supply chain is something very different. It's dynamic, agile, transparent, digital, has a high degree of visibility throughout all its processes, and is geared around consolidation of supply chain data from its various operations. This dramatic shift stems from a number of factors that supply chains face today.

Having said all that, here is why the supply chain has and continues to experience considerable change, why cross-company collaboration is central to that change, and how it is facilitated by digital transformation.



# WHY CHANGE IS NECESSARY

There are a number of reasons why the supply chain had to undergo significant change. One such reason comes via the consequences of globalization. Due to globalization, supply chains are a great deal bigger than they once were, meaning greater complexity and possibility of supply chain impediments. Such large chains require greater oversight in order to operate smoothly.



# WHY CHANGE IS NECESSARY

Another notable reason supply chains have had to transform has resulted from customer expectations. Customers expect their products delivered much faster than before, which means supply chains have to be far more streamlined than they once were. Moreover, customers want to be able to be kept up to date on the status of their orders. This means companies have to be able to track their products and have a high degree of visibility running through their supply chains.

# WHY CROSS-COMPANY COLLABORATION IS KEY

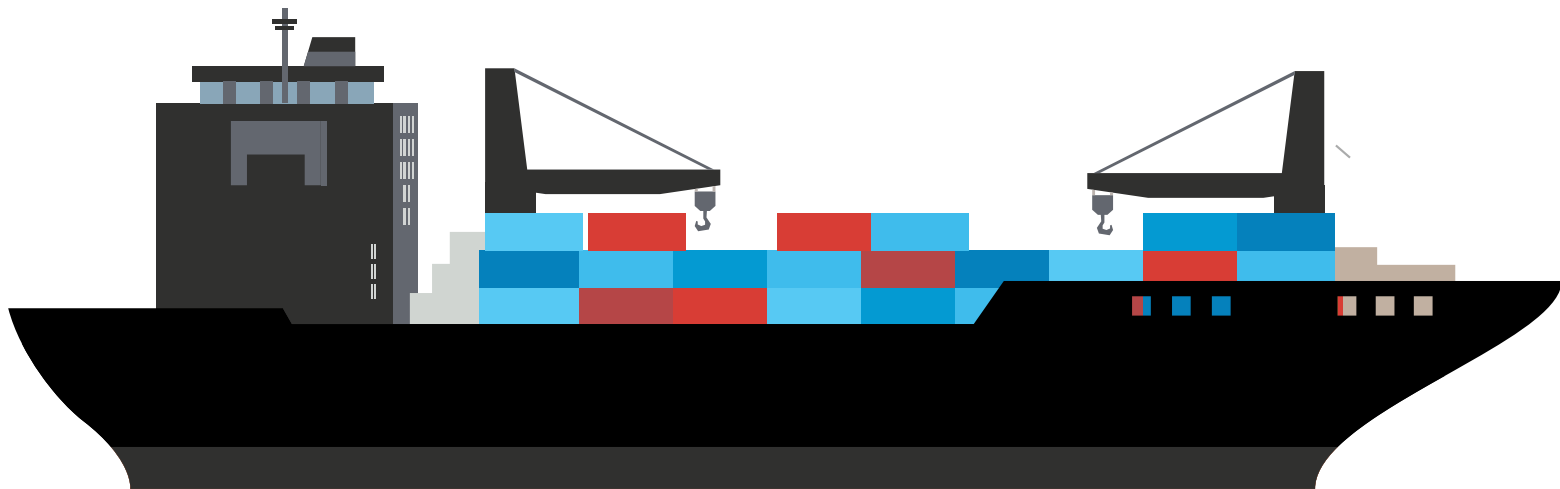
Given the impediments that the traditional supply chain faced, it was clear that it needed innovation injected into its system. There were, of course, numerous ways in which supply chains were modernized through ingenuity but none more so than cross-company collaboration.

Cross-company collaboration is simply people with differing focuses within a company working together for the larger end goal. It certainly isn't unique to supply chains but rather a methodology that applies synergy to company objectives in order to gain as much as possible from each of a company's individual sectors/departments/operational units.

# CROSS-COMPANY COLLABORATION

## NOTABLE ADVANTAGES

- Breaks down information silos
- Avoids inefficiency since all supply chain participants work hand-in-hand
- Increases visibility in the supply chain in order to best facilitate collaboration



# HOW DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IS INTEGRAL

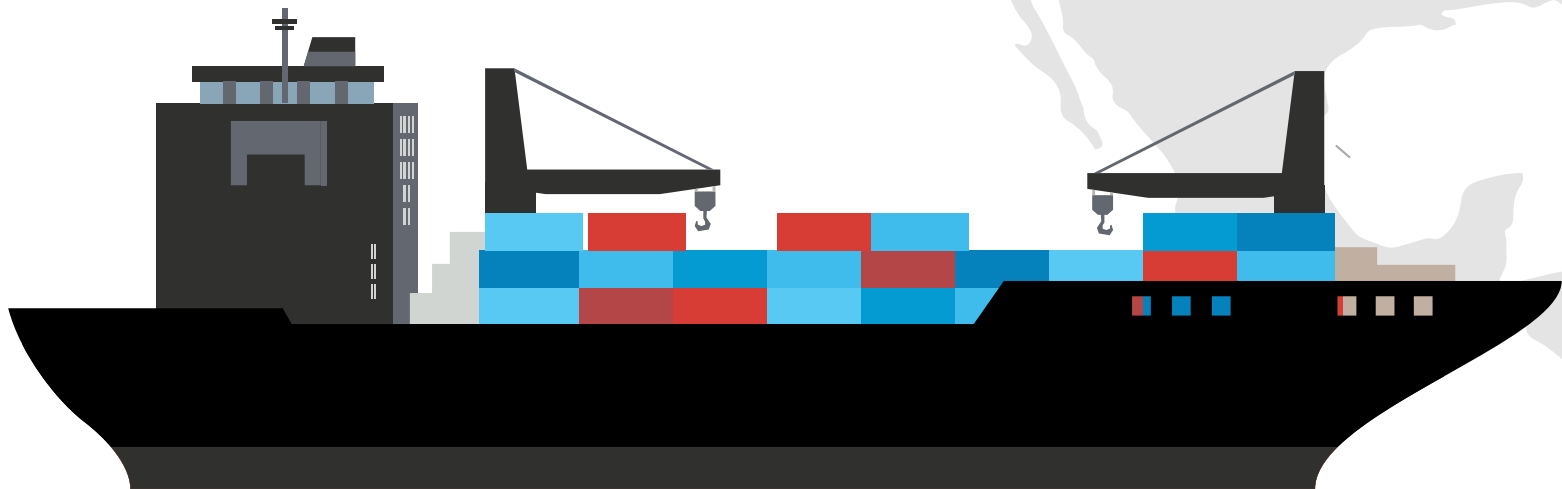
Certainly, cross-company collaboration is critical, but given all that it delivers, it's clearly not a straightforward process. This is where digitization comes into play. It is only through digital transformation that quality collaboration is possible. By utilizing digital assets, companies can make the most of each of their operations throughout their supply chains while gaining greater cohesion between those operations.

Digital platforms in particular allow supply chains to consolidate all their data, making all their various supply chain assets plugged into a single, unified system. Only when every aspect of a supply chain is integrated and interacting online can optimal collaboration take place.

# WHAT'S NEXT?

The focus of this ebook has been on cross-company collaboration and digitization. But, of course, there are so many more components to the modern supply chain and the supply chain of the future that are unlocked via digital transformation. Machine learning, for example, is becoming increasingly important in locating the secrets of the data companies gather.

That is, perhaps, the most notable thing about supply chains going forward. There isn't any one technology that will perfectly address the needs of a supply chain. Rather, the success of a supply chain will come down to data—how much of it is being collected, what's the quality of it, and how is it being harnessed?



# SOURCES

<https://www.supplychaindigital.com/supply-chain-management/how-cross-company-collaboration-fuels-supply-chain-change>

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<https://www.cdsltd.ca/traditional-vs-modern-supply-chain-management/>

