

# Automating the Supply Chain



4 steps toward a more resilient and proactive supply chain

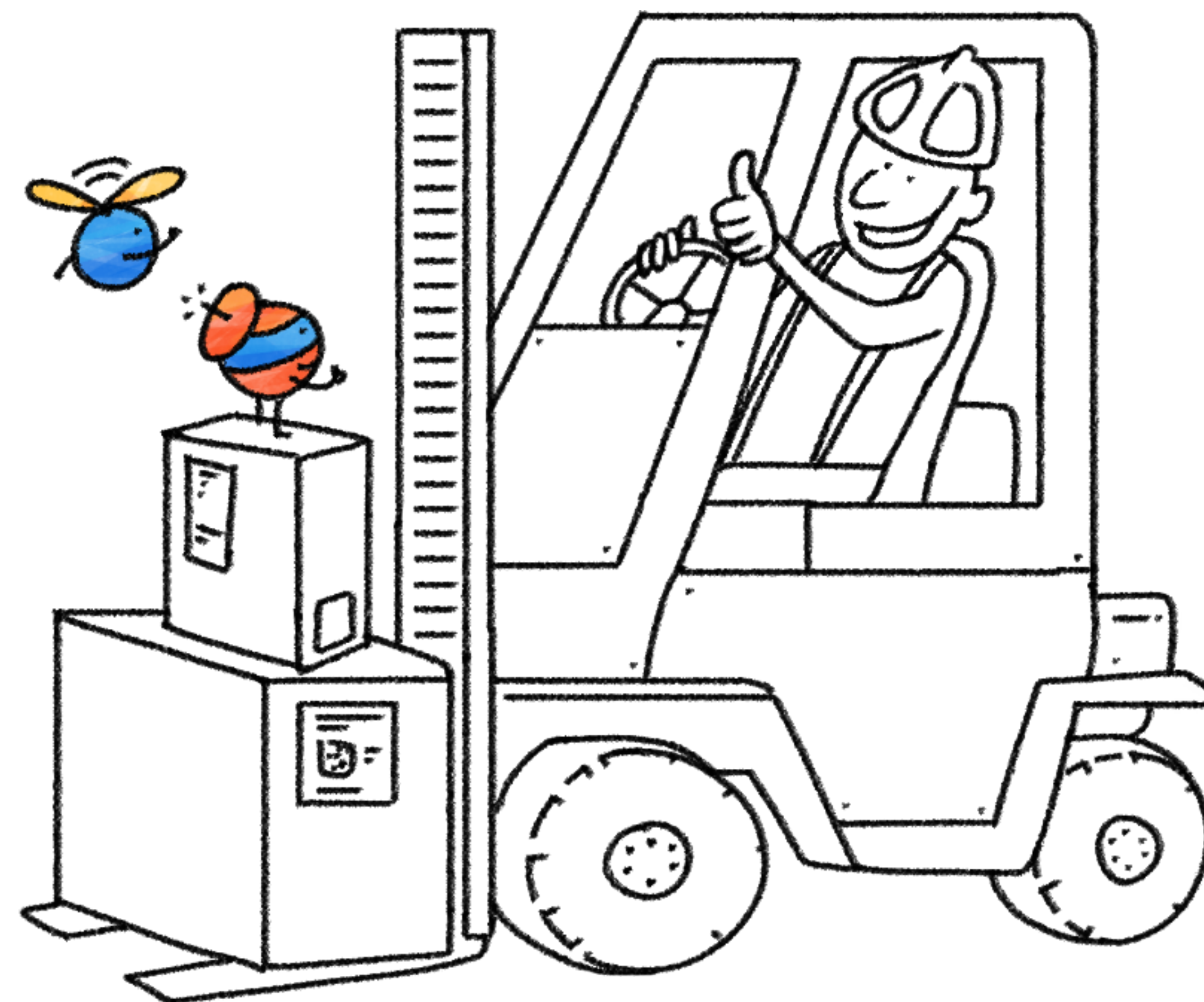
Factory floors, warehouses, loading docks . . . they're the dictionary definition of coordination and synchronization. Materials, machines, people, and finished goods move as if they're following a well-rehearsed script. That efficiency is the foundation of a well-run supply chain.

But look behind the curtain and you'll find even more online processes to automate. More tasks to streamline. More information to collect, analyze, and distribute. **Software robots can take supply chain optimization to the next level.**



Software robots can't pilot cargo ships or drive forklifts —but they can make the processes in ports and warehouses more efficient. They can create a master dataset that helps optimize effort and processes. They can streamline the flow of data across a network of supply chain partners. They can help analyze activity and provide recommendations for greater efficiency. They can even take action to keep materials, goods, and information moving.

Efficient supply chains created the world we live in. And with automation, they can become even more efficient in creating the world we'll live in tomorrow.



## 1. Planning: building a data-rich framework for decisions

For effective supply chain planning, companies need data. Data on past sales. Data on future demand. Data on existing and potential suppliers. And that data comes in multiple formats from multiple sources and systems. Some of it is structured, some unstructured. And collecting it involves a lot of back-and-forth with partners. It's a critically important process.

Why? **Supply chains need a single, reliable version of the truth to evaluate suppliers, coordinate shared processes, and anticipate bottlenecks.**



The smoother information flows within a partner network, the more accurate, and resilient the planning process. And that's where automation adds a real value. **Software robots accelerate the collection and reconciliation of data that feeds processes like forecasting and trend analysis.** And they do it faster and more accurately than their human counterparts. That leads to smarter planning, easier collaboration, and greater flexibility.

Let the robots collect the data. Humans can make the decisions.



# Planning: automation targets for fast ROI



Raw report extraction



Multi-source report aggregation



Rules-based adjustments



Automated communication



Automated report publication



Rules-based report scrubbing

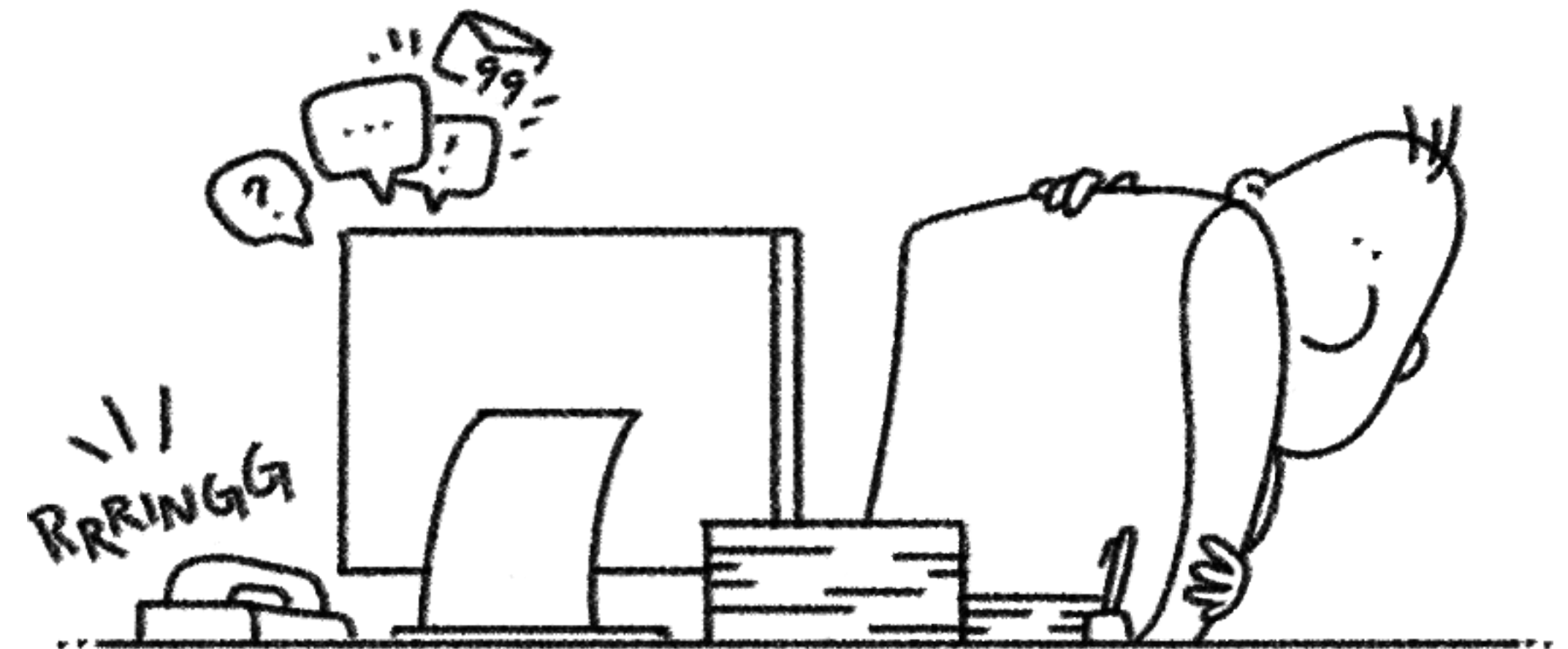


Multi-source data validation



## 2. Source and procure: ensuring a reliable flow of materials and parts

Sourcing the right materials at the right price point is the key to protecting margins. But it's not easy. **There's a lot of manual, repetitive work involved with lining up suppliers, finalizing contracts, and executing purchase orders.** And that manual work takes a lot of time for people to complete. And that drives up costs and eats into margins.



When organizations assign repetitive work to robots, they can keep sourcing costs in check—and that protects margins. Robots can tackle master data management requests. Secure approvals. Update ERP and other systems. Generate replenishment requests. Create and transmit purchase orders. And that frees people to troubleshoot issues and build relationships with suppliers.

Automation makes an organization more competitive and efficient, because robots do that work faster and more accurately. And the human workforce can focus on more complex issues. Like they should.





## Source and procure: areas to automate for big impact

 Automatic Vendor Activation

 Catalogue creation and update

 Contract/entitlement creation

 Purchase requisition processing

 Purchase order processing

 Advanced shipment notification generation

 Goods receipt creation/correction



### 3. Warehouse management: optimizing visibility and movement

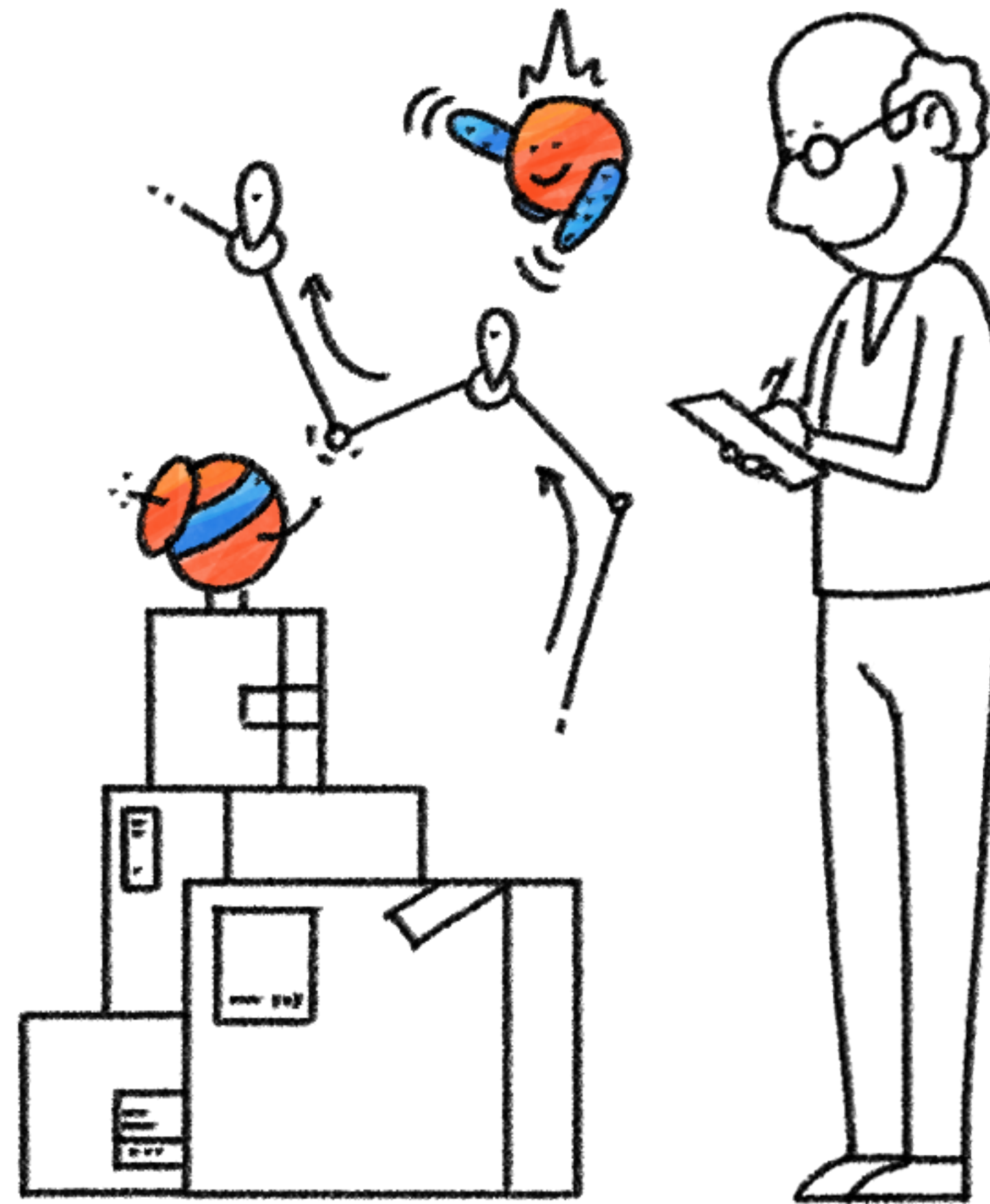
In the typical warehouse, data moves around as much as products and people. Inventory comes in through one door and leaves through another. Items get picked and shelved in a blur of constant movement. And the data to track that movement has to be accurate and up-to-the-minute.

**Reliable inventory data is the key to managing shipments and tracking their status.** It's also the cornerstone of smarter space management and optimizing movement within the warehouse.



Software robots are great at generating and matching goods receipts. They're excellent at generating pick lists.

Robots can make sure that inventory management system updates occur **instantly**—so everyone knows exactly what's in the warehouse, what's coming, and where it's all going.



# Warehouse management: processes ready for automation transformation

 Good receipts updates and amendments

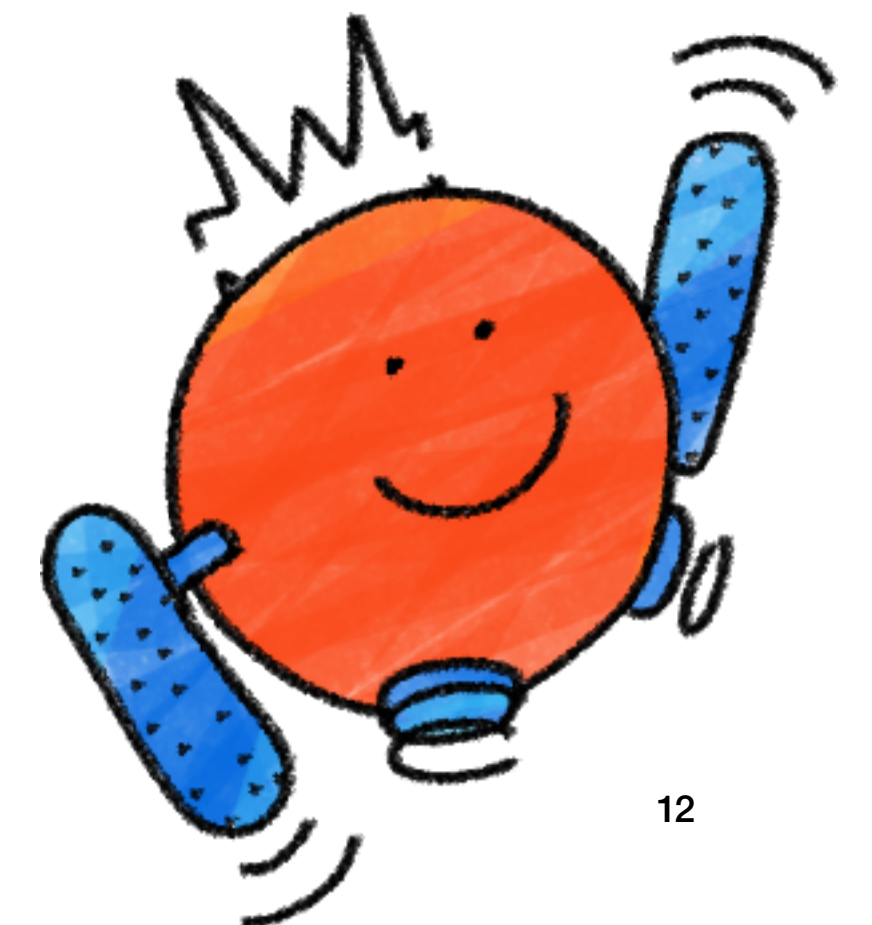
 Good receipts matching

 Batch/serial number updates

 Pick list generation

 Inventory planning and optimization

 Shelf life/quality checks



## 4. Logistics: delivering as promised

There's more to great logistics than just getting shipments from Point A to Point B. You have to select the right carrier. Create bills of lading. Allocate orders. Schedule and manage returns. And throughout all of it, you have to keep the customer informed. You want the loading dock to be a conduit, not a bottleneck. And that's just as true for the flow of information as it is for the flow of shipments.















Automation can help transform all of the related and co-dependent logistics tasks into a smoothly integrated whole. **Software robots can gather and consolidate information on inventory, carriers, shipment status, and other factors.** They can ensure that vital production, warehousing, and shipping systems stay up to date. They can help anticipate potential delays and find workarounds. And they can keep customers informed.

Automation helps companies deliver as promised, when promised.



# Logistics: an automation to-do list for meaningful results

-  Store ledger updates
-  Inventory check and requisition trigger
-  Rules-based carrier selection
-  Shipment track and trace
-  Bill of lading creation/updates
-  Quote creation/updates
-  Inquiry receipt and processing
-  Order entry/modification/ cancellation
-  Return merchandise authorization processing
-  Return shipment creation
-  ERP order closure
-  Pick-up scheduling



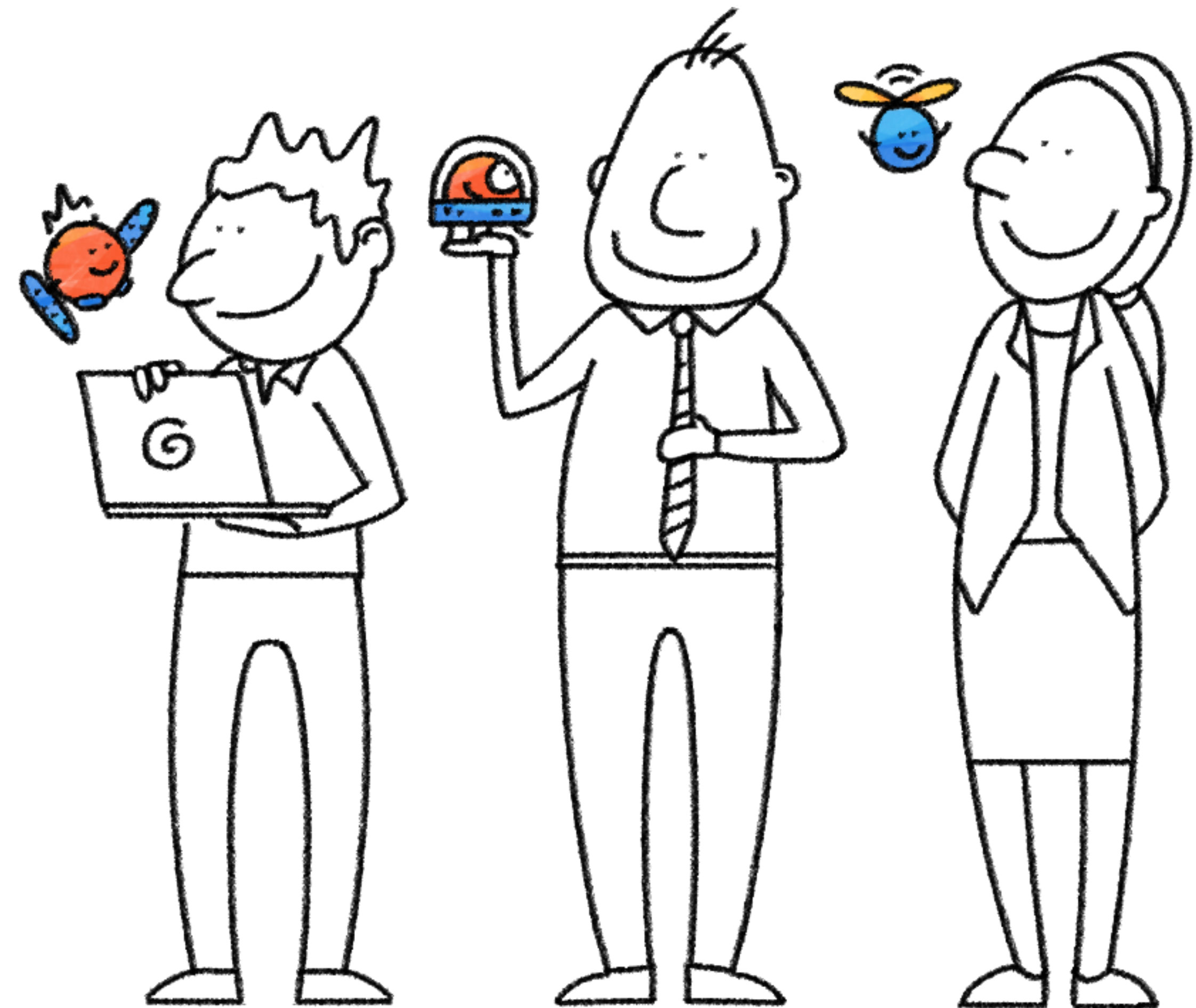
## Creating a future-ready supply chain with automation

Supply chain professionals spend a lot of time on repetitive, rules-based tasks. In that way, supply chain planning and management is just like any business activity. It can be manual, error-prone, and slow. But when supply chains get bogged down, it can slow down entire economies. We've all seen how.

Even as the cost of labor, fuel, and machinery keeps going up, automation softens the blow. It helps keep materials, shipments, and information moving. **Automation helps supply chains be more proactive, more predictable, and more flexible.** It helps the world keep running and get ready for a new tomorrow.

**Ready to see how?**

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# Supply chain by the numbers

**79%** of organizations with superior supply chain capabilities see significantly above average revenue growth.

Source: Invesp, *The State of Supply Chain Management*, May 2021

**83%** of surveyed organizations are using automation to build agility, diversity, and resilience into their supply chain operations.

Source: Forrester Consulting, *The Future of Work – A Pandemic Spotlight*, June 2020

## CUSTOMER RESULTS

### Hudson Bay

- Over \$300k/year in savings
- 15+ executive reports validated daily
- 1.5 million POs processed over 3 months

### NTT Communications

- 100% accuracy processing payment and transfer slips
- 3x productivity from robots over human employees
- 30% expected workload reduction
- 60k expected hours saved annually

