

Do Small Businesses Really Need an Integrated ERP System?

An integrated enterprise resource planning (ERP) system is a software platform that lets you manage many of your business's functions in a single interface. Instead of using individual programs to manage your orders, track your customer data, and track your marketing campaigns, you can use one system to handle everything.

This versatility makes ERP systems essential to large corporations, but small businesses can also take advantage of their many benefits. Read on to find out how these platforms can improve your company.

Integrated ERP System Benefits

Even though your business is small, you can still benefit from an integrated ERP system. You've probably already noticed inefficiencies in your processes, and these problems can only increase as your company grows. You may have difficulty sorting through spreadsheets, filing cabinets, and email chains to find the information you need. Valuable data may even get lost in the shuffle. These communication problems can have a severe impact on your company, and they can even have adverse effects on your business decisions.

Other problems can develop as your company grows. Communication is easy when all your employees are sitting in the same room, but it can break down when you hire more people and move to a larger office space. Engaging with other departments can be like speaking a new language, and when information is shared, key details may get left out.

An integrated ERP can solve these problems. Since your business's information is stored within the same system, you don't need to go hunting for the data you need; it's right in front of you, and it's easy to find.

Few small companies use ERP systems, so incorporating one gives you an advantage over your competition. While your competitors continue to lose data with inefficient

systems, your fully integrated ERP system will allow you to quickly find the information you need.

Reasons to Use an ERP Now

Business growth requires preparation. An influx of customers can damage a business that doesn't have the infrastructure in place to handle the orders. If you have an integrated ERP in place, you'll be ready to efficiently handle any sudden growth that comes your way.

But what about long-term growth? After all, a system that suits your company today may not offer the same benefits five years on. Thankfully, you won't have to invest in a different system if you adopt an ERP platform. These solutions scale with your business, so the system you use today still meet your needs years down the line. This scalability means there's no reason to wait and see how large your business can grow before you start using an integrated ERP system.

ERP Systems Are Affordable

Small businesses don't have the same resources as their larger counterparts, so cost plays a big part in any software acquisition decision. Many businesspeople assume they can't afford ERP systems after they see how efficient and adaptable these solutions can be. However, these platforms are actually a lot more affordable than you might think.

Cloud-based ERP systems are available for small businesses, and you don't need to spend a bundle on up-front costs and installation charges. Instead, you simply pay a monthly subscription fee to access the system. The fee varies based on factors like how many users you have, but you may be surprised to see how affordable a supportive cloud-based system can be.