

5 reasons

WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS ADOPT A CLOUD ERP



For wholesale distributor companies that have outgrown their current accounting system, moving to a cloud-based (or SaaS) platform can make a lot of sense. They bring scalability, reliability, and low maintenance costs, all of which help companies be more profitable and better positioned for the future. Below are 5 benefits specific to the industry that come from a move to a cloud-based platform.

Inventory Accuracy

Managing inventory across multiple teams and locations can be difficult, especially for companies working in an accounting system not designed to handle requirements like inbound shipments, inventory transfers, backorders, and predicted demand. Cloud-based ERPs allow for accurate visibility into stock levels across locations and statuses, giving companies confidence that they are managing their largest asset – their inventory – effectively.



Reports



Cloud-based ERPs allow for a single data set and centralized reporting across multiple physical locations and business units. Reports can easily be customized and distributed to the appropriate personnel, data consistency can be maintained across the entire organization, and the ERP system can function as a single source of truth for the business.

Demand Planning

Finding the perfect balance between on-hand inventory and sales is often more art than science. A SaaS ERP system can help take the guesswork out of demand planning by providing accurate insights into inventory levels, sales trends, seasonality, and lead times across multiple locations, vendors, and sales territories. Avoid unhappy customers and costly over-stocks by taking advantage of the advanced analytics offered by a platform such as NetSuite.



3PL Integration



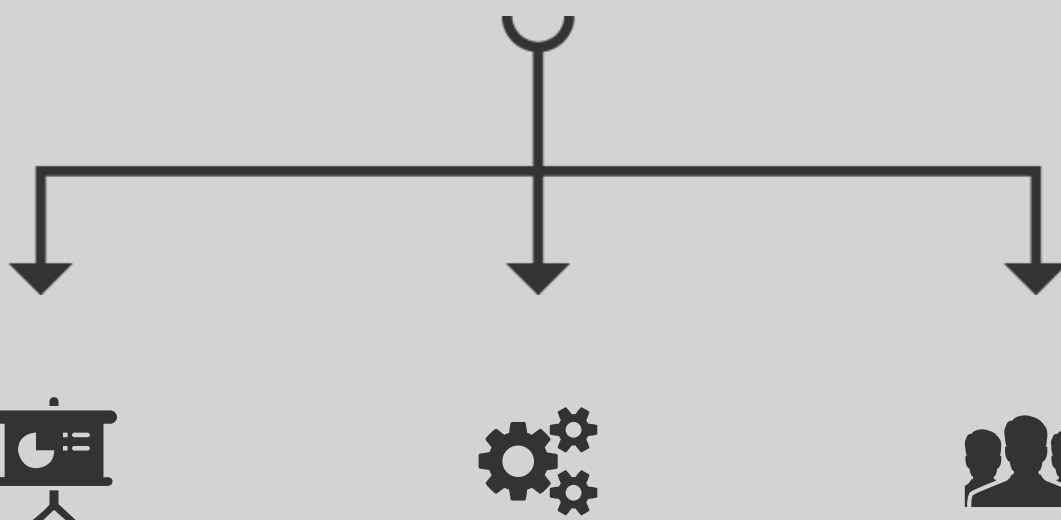
Cloud-based ERPs offer easy integration with third party logistics (3PL) companies, allowing businesses to manage shipping more effectively from within their core system. With built-in connectivity and a large range of third-party integrations available, cloud-based ERPs make managing warehouses and logistics simple and intuitive.

Access / Ease of Use

Because SaaS ERPs run entirely within a standard internet browser, they offer an immediate familiarity and ease-of-use not typically found with on-premise solutions. Users are free to employ the browser of their choice, on the hardware of their choice, and can access the system virtually anywhere at any time. In addition, software maintenance and upgrades happen automatically, reducing direct IT costs and down-time associated with maintaining on-premise systems.



Before moving to a Cloud ERP, consider



REPORTING

Identify the key financial and operational reports that your company needs in order to make effective business decisions. Making sure that the cloud ERP can produce these reports will be a critical success factor for your implementation.

INTEGRATIONS

Determine with which systems you will need to integrate your ERP, and then verify that the system you choose can accommodate those requirements. Examples of systems typically integrated include WMS, 3PL and shipping/logistics platforms.

INTERNAL RESOURCES

Full internal alignment and executive support are critical to any implementation. Ensuring that all team members coordinate, that expectations are set correctly, and that goals are clearly defined will help to make your project, and the ongoing optimization of your chosen solution, a success.

The right cloud ERP is one that will allow you to easily analyze your business from a financial and operational standpoint so that you can continue to scale your business.

If you need advice, contact your consulting partner or reach out to SquareWorks Consulting at bernardo.enciso@squareworks.com.

