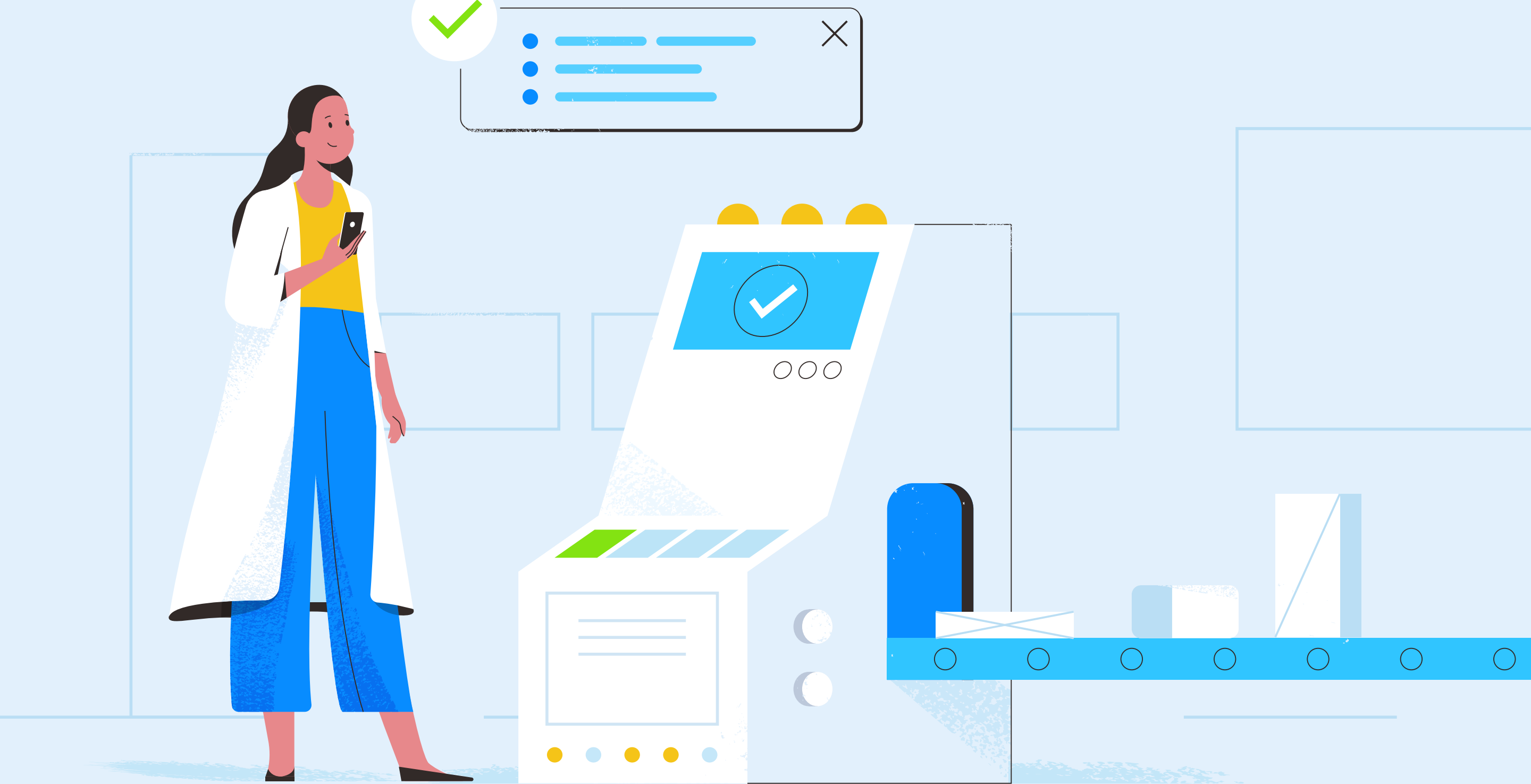


Top 3 Supply Chain Digitalization Trends

As the manufacturing sector continues its journey into the digital world, the processes and technologies that define the space continue to evolve. From increased regulatory requirements to increasingly populated marketplaces—the number of hurdles manufacturers must clear to consistently deliver the best product possible, at the highest quality possible, is only growing. When it comes to creating and sustaining optimal quality levels, traceability plays a significant role. In order to have a complete, real-time picture of traceability, the supply chain (and its optimization) must be factored in. With that context in mind, here is a list of the top three trends we have seen this year as manufacturers continue to move the various components of their supply chains even further down the road of digitalization.



Hyper Automation

Gartner defines Hyper Automation as the range and combination of advanced technologies that can facilitate or automate tasks that originally required some form of human judgment or action.¹ Including technologies like robotic process automation (RPA), machine learning, artificial intelligence, robotics, and smart machines (among others), Hyper Automation has emerged yet again as a leading trend for supply chain digitalization. As digital transformation continues to sweep across the manufacturing landscape, it is easy to see how this turn towards process automation is helping empower manufacturers by giving them the real-time, actionable intelligence they need to be as efficient and effective as possible.



Supply Chain Visibility

As industry 4.0 continues to unfold, the technologies that define this movement continue to expand beyond the confines of the factory walls. Although some areas of supply chain visibility — such as global logistics visibility — are more mature, this solution area remains a source of ongoing innovation, especially in the area of real-time visibility driven by continuous intelligence. Gartner sees a trend emerging toward the convergence of traditional applications supporting functions or domains, improving support for end-to-end business processes as well as end-to-end supply chain visibility.² With these solutions, manufacturers can monitor the creation and pick up of their raw materials. They can track when the materials arrive at their warehouses and follow them through the production process, which, subsequently, will enable quality and performance reporting to be performed on a raw material basis. Once goods are finished, manufacturers will be able to follow the goods as they arrive with upstream shipping partners, and ultimately, get delivered to customers.

With all of that in mind, it becomes clear that having access to real-time data across all critical junctures of the supply chain stands to transform how manufacturers do business.



Cyber Security

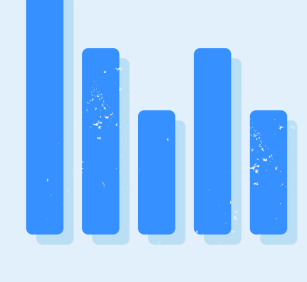
With the first two trends on this list having to do with automation and virtual environments, it makes sense to round our list out with a trend that is evolving in lockstep—supply chain security. Defined as the enforcement of security spanning physical levels (devices, machines, products, operations infrastructure, and assets) as well as information and digital data (customer information, intellectual property, proprietary coding, transactions, and personal data),¹ supply chain security is increasingly paramount. As supply chain management and operations continue to go digital, the need for niche security solutions will increase. To that end, Gartner is anticipating that a wave of new solutions will emerge for supply chain networks, especially targeting high-risk products, high-value assets, privacy, cybersecurity, and data security.¹

The evidence is clear. The future of the manufacturing supply chain is digital. With each year that passes, the technologies that enable that digital future only grow more intelligent. As more and more manufacturers adopt digital supply chain technologies, more and more manufacturers will experience higher levels of quality, throughput, and yield. To be as connected and responsive as possible—that is the future of the supply chain, and that is the future of manufacturing.

Stats



By 2025, it is estimated that at least 75% of the world's 50 leading companies will have implemented systems to enable end-to-end supply chain visibility ²



The top 3 KPIs tracked across supply chains are:

1. Daily Performance
2. Cost Reduction
3. Production Services Rates ³



41% of supply chain specialists have expressed interest in data analysis technology ³



39% are interested in exploring how IOT can be utilized to optimize supply chains ³



As recently as 2020, unforeseen weather patterns accounted for up to 41% of supply chain disruption ³



An industry report from 2017 noted that, of all interviewed companies, 69% reported not having complete visibility across their entire supply chain ⁴

Works Cited

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