



## Your ERP and Other Software Can't Do What [Notiphy](#) Can Do

Our team has met in person and virtually, with hundreds of owners, heads of operations, plant managers, EHS personnel, and shop floor workers of manufacturing and fabrication companies, big and small, over the past couple of years. Even

with all of the different systems they have in place, there are a consistent set of issues they have experienced for many years:

- **Lack of real-time data on the shop floor and the top floor.** They don't have real time data around the status of jobs and what percentage of a job is complete, what tasks or processes workers have accomplished (whether related to a job or not), the whitespace time between workstations, and more. Additionally, workers on the floor don't have information at their disposal to complete their tasks effectively or the ability to easily get the assistance they need. All of this impacts productivity on the shop floor and management's ability to truly understand the cost of a job. The only thing worse than a decrease in productivity is not understanding why it is happening. Having this knowledge will allow management to make more intelligent business decisions.
- **Lack of skilled workers and training effectiveness.** Companies are having difficulty finding good, skilled workers. Often times they bring on people with no experience and take them through training, but these workers still struggle. They need assistance, training refreshers, or a supervisor has to spend a lot of time in their area which takes them away from other responsibilities.
- **Difficulty attracting a younger workforce.** Companies want a younger workforce, however, getting millennials interested in manufacturing and fabrication is a struggle. The lack of certain technologies on the shop floor contributes to this issue. The addition of a new and effective technology system will only make these jobs more attractive to the younger generation.
- **Lack of communication with shop floor workers.** Often times, unless there is face to face communication, there is a lot of difficulty communicating with workers on the shop floor. Workers don't use their cell phone on the floor, are not provided tablets or computers near their workstation, and many don't even have company email addresses.
- **Loss of company knowledge as an aging workforce retires.** Baby boomers have started to retire and when that occurs, company knowledge goes out the door with them. This results in shop floor workers needing to solely depend on old manuals to get the information they need. This often takes a lot of time and sometimes doesn't even have the information they need. Workers lose the ability to use a more experienced worker as a quick resource.
- **Impacts of COVID-19.** Companies have had more and more people out sick with COVID so there is a need to figure out how to maintain production (or even do more) with less. Additionally, on the floor and throughout the company there is a need to reduce face-to-face interaction and the common touching of paper and other items.

With all of that, the biggest issue is the desire and need to reduce or get rid of paper. It's all over the place. Paper orders, job travelers and work instructions get lost and find their way in the wrong files or job jackets. Paper travelers and processes hanging from a clipboard or a binder clip provide

very little use but continue to be the backbone in many companies. There is a desire to change, however, it's tough to break long-time habits when everyone is busy, budgets are tight, and staff is limited. The other significant problem with paper is management can't effectively use the



information recorded on it. There is no way to accumulate that information and use the totality of it to make intelligent decisions efficiently or economically. Some companies have a person take the information from the paper and enter it into some software (which is an extra step and cost) but often times they don't, and the paper just goes into a file and the information on it goes unused.

Generally, Industry 4.0 is the ongoing automation of traditional manufacturing and industrial practices, using modern smart technology. Large-scale machine-to-machine communication and IoT (Internet of Things) are integrated for increased automation, improved communication, and the production of smart machines that can analyze and diagnose issues without the need for human intervention. It is also about integrating software, equipment, and people but the solutions are more about machine technology, machine data, and operating the business. People are involved and become connected through technology, but they are not the focus.

Most long-term projections suggest over 70% of the work will still be done by people. That said, with over 90% of manufacturers and fabricators being fewer than one-hundred people and most fewer than fifty, how much of an investment is being made in Industry 4.0, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software, Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES), shop floor automation, or other software systems by these size companies? Additionally, these technologies might "involve" people, but do they make people better, faster, more accountable, more efficient, or more productive? The answer is no.

[Notiphy](#) digitally connects manufacturing, fabrication, and other industrial workers using applications that enable digital job and work instructions, standard work, communication, and collaboration. [Notiphy](#) is the "last mile" or "execution platform" by connecting and visualizing data. We make the data from workers and other systems more robust by offering important applications enterprise systems, ERPs, or MESs lack. [Notiphy](#) doesn't automate tasks or jobs away from people but enables people to be better and do more. This simply makes the company more productive and profitable.

Most ERPs and other software systems do not help companies in these areas. A few have some applications or modules that attempt to, however, you obviously have to be a customer of the core solution, which is not only costly, but forces you to change ERPs – not something a company wants to do if they don't have to. Even if you are a customer of that ERP, these applications are offered separately through modules which is typically an additional cost.



Finally, whatever application being offered by ERPs or those other solutions, do not adequately solve the problem. Compare what [Notiphy](#) can provide versus what an ERP can provide. An ERP tells you when the job started and ended. [Notiphy](#) tells you what happened and when, how long was the white space or waiting time, which person inspected the work and where you can make progress to reduce the time of a job. Often, the digitalization's answer for these solutions focuses on providing a digital checklist but that is only one small part of the equation.

[Notiphy](#) is the most flexible, configurable, and easy to use solution in the market and can work with the ERP and other systems you have today. We can take information from those systems and pass information to create real-time dashboards specific to our customers' businesses.

Because [Notiphy](#) focuses on a "people first mentality", the reduction of paper, and accumulation of data, there are many use cases throughout a single company's operations and workflow for an opportunity to improve the entire supply chain from the start of raw materials and processing to shipping the end product. The impact to the business can be very impactful including significant reductions in the amount of paper used, downtime, waiting time, shadowing time, training, and the number of meetings.

Safety will also be positively impacted with the number of accidents and the cost of accidents being reduced. Improvements will be made in collaboration, knowledge transfer, quality, productivity, profitability and also something people don't often consider – employee confidence and morale. Workers on the shop floor expressed to me that lack of confidence keeps them from asking



questions they need to know but if the information is at their disposal, confidence in what they are doing increases, while also impacting job satisfaction and morale.

[Notiphy](#) incorporates both the ability to digitize workflow, tasks, and jobs while also allowing workers to collaborate. It's the combination of these two elements and that ability to alert or message a worker or management when human

activity happens or doesn't happen. McKinsey & Company highlighted in their May 5, 2020 article, "Digital Collaboration for a Connected Workforce", that digital collaboration tools are primed to play a critical role in enabling workers to tap into the collective knowledge of the enterprise and turn data from the shop floor into lasting value. "Embedding digital collaboration into process workflows can enable faster, better decisions that improve key performance indicators and drive bottom-line value."

They further went on to state "digitally connecting workers drives quantifiable productivity gains across manufacturing, engineering, and supply chain operations. People are at the core of how things get done."

McKinsey recognizes the value of what [Notiphy](#) is already providing its customers and their workers:

1. Tools that connect workers both to other workers and data and the ability to turn the data into actions that generate real value.
2. A clear view of end-to-end workflow for better work planning. There is a decreased back and forth between stakeholders since all information is available on one platform.
3. Immediate access to expertise and documents relevant to each process or task improves problem solving and decision making.
4. A real-time view of changes and needs, aiding quick decision making and streamlining processes.

[Notiphy](#) is the right SaaS-based solution to be the last mile or as a starting point for companies to make a move towards digital transformation. Of course, all software, no matter the type, are all different with advantages and disadvantages. In general, without being custom software, configurability, and flexibility to allow companies to tailor solutions to their needs are extremely important. [Notiphy](#) is easy to deploy, usually in weeks versus many months. [Notiphy](#) is also budget friendly so you can make a move into digital transformation cost effectively and without having to dedicate a lot of staff for administrative time.

For more information on the benefits of [Notiphy](#), check out our new video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prUbNnCWBLw>

Work Safe. Work Smart. Work Better.