Optimal OT SOLUTIONS

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USA, AUSTRALIA

CONVERTING TECHNICAL DEBT TO VALUE CREATING ASSETS

TECHNICAL DEBT ('TEK-NI-KEL' DET)

Technical Debt originated in the software industry where software is deployed as fast as possible without considering future operational improvements. It is generally understood that some debt is acceptable (retaining current algorithms or deferring future capabilities) in exchange for deliverable deadlines.

HOW MUCH DEBT IS TOO MUCH?

Industrial process companies often release RFQ's for automation upgrade projects. Too often these are piecemeal efforts and address only a subset of the broader automation ecosystem. Companies have been conditioned to invest in technology to address obsolescence issues. This mindset is creating "Technical Debt" for the company. In a business sense, it is creating a technical and financial liability for the business and detracting from the automation asset's potential to contribute to the business economics.

In process automation you can easily extend this concept across the Operational Technology spectrum of instrumentation, control platforms, HMI, historians, process applications, Manufacturing Executions Systems, and integration into the business ERP. As you look at Technical Debt you start to realize you are accumulating interest (and additional debt) in three distinct areas; People, Process & Technology.[1]

People Debt

lack of workforce skills to negotiate new trends and technological opportunities

Process Debt

lack of appropriate frameworks to operate in a modern way using modern systems

Technology Debt

legacy disparate toolsets, possibly obsolete. unable to meet demands of digital transformation

1. Kunaparaju, V. Forbes Technology Council. How IT Operations Can Dig Itself Out of Technical Debt

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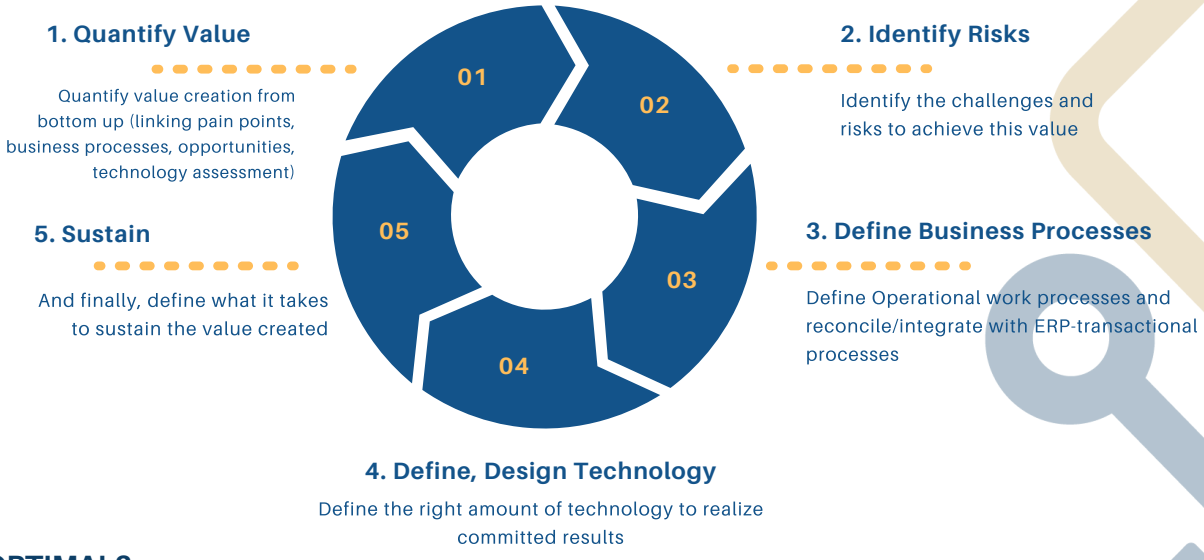
WHY SHOULD YOU BE CONCERNED?

- Digital Transformation is an opportunity for companies to take advantage of new technology and practices to be more efficient and competitive.
- Too often, digital assets are viewed as a cost to the business and minimized, as opposed to viewing them as a change agent for value creation to the business.
- Companies allocate funds to address the technical debt associated with Operational Technology (OT) equipment obsolescence. In some cases, this "patch on a patch" approach creates more technical debt unintentionally.
- Technology and performance continue to evolve as do the costs associated with cyber security, integration, and subject matter expertise. Underinvesting will increase the technical debt.

OPTIMAL'S APPROACH

The team at Optimal has many years of experience working with industrial process customers to assess and define Operations Technology debt today, identify the potential value of tomorrow's future state, and jointly work as a team to transition you to the future state. Our proven approach has been deployed with several customers and automation providers with each program closely aligned with the customer's specific business needs.

We can help you quantify your technical debt, define a plan that not only updates your current state but establishes a competitive advantage moving forward.



WHO IS OPTIMAL?

Optimal is a consulting business working with industrial process clients. We act as your embedded partner to effect change and help transform the business from an operational perspective. Our approach takes a bottoms-up review of opportunities to identify the business and operational improvement areas. We then define what it takes to design, implement, and support the work. This results in new and sustained business value throughout your operations.

For additional information on how we can help you with your OT Digital Transformation concerns, please contact us at info@optimalot.com.