

Value Stream Mapping and ERP Implementations: Improving Results!

In our more than 25 years of implementing Lean in a variety of industries and sectors, we have discovered that every company or organization has a significant possibility to grow their business without investing tens of thousands of dollars. They simply need to get rid of the wasteful and useless tasks from their current procedures. By eliminating waste across the "system," the organization is able to deliver its goods and services at a significantly reduced cost, with higher quality, and with faster service.

We have worked with hundreds of companies over the years, and none of them had less than 75% non-value in their processes. Because of this lack of value, their product or service's "flow" is interrupted, and the staff is forced to spend a lot of time looking for solutions and resolving issues, which disrupts both upstream and downstream processes. Many individuals look for "quick fixes" and solutions like previously employed ones - increase the number of employees, purchase more efficient equipment, acquire more space - but some realize they must invest in an ERP system.

The problem then becomes how to determine what is actually required without a reliable baseline process or knowledge of the capabilities of the current processes. At this point, selecting an ERP solution that will require a significant investment is rather challenging. It's incredibly dangerous to think that technology can cure a faulty process. Spend some time making the current process "flow" or at the very least figuring out what the future, enhanced "flow" will include. You and your team will have the information and insight needed to make an informed technology investment thanks to this research and transformation. Don't "pave the cow path," as the saying goes.