ROBOTIC PROCESS AUTOMATION:

OPTIMISING BUSINESS PROCESSES

Robotic Process Automation technologies enable companies to automate many repetitive tasks. This application example shows which possibilities and advantages result from this.

Robotic Process Automation (RPA) systems are now becoming part of many areas in day-to-day business. They are used to support repetitive tasks that are always the same with adequate software or to replace them completely.

In purchasing, for example, RPA can compare data on purchase orders, order confirmations and delivery notes, detect deviations in delivery quantities, prices or delivery dates and inform the responsible employees independently. This relieves the professionals from often monotonous, repetitive comparison and filing activities. This is because only a small proportion of deliveries deviate from the placed orders and therefore require special attention.

This example shows that RPA has the potential to improve processes not only within but also between departments, to close gaps in the flow of data and, in the process, to significantly increase not only productivity but also job satisfaction..

"Digital colleagues"
There are numerous other possible applications for such "digital colleagues", because a lot of processes in companies today are standardised, have to be run through more and more quickly and do not require any extraordinary special knowledge in many places.

The automation and AI solutions provider Boydak Automation estimates that at least 50 per cent of large to medium-sized companies and organisations in Germany, Austria and Switzerland already have RPA systems in use.

As a rule, however, these are not yet used for all process flows, but only for individual processes with particularly high resource input.

Benefits of low-code programming
Dealing with process automation therefore pays off – even for small and medium-sized enterprises. Especially since creating RPA solutions does not usually require programming skills. "Low-code programming environments" provide a platform on which the data pools available in the company can be interconnected and the processes can be mapped intuitively with little effort. This eliminates the need for internal IT support or external consulting and configuration services completely, or at least reduces them significantly.

Applied to our example, this means that if the data on the order and the delivery note match, the invoice run can also be initiated without having to purchase a new software package and integrate it into the IT environment.

Instead, professionals can use the existing low-code platform to extend the already implemented process and integrate additional data pools or interfaces.

Every extension, including the setting up of new processes, therefore takes place in the same programming environment. The tedious search, selection and implementation of new IT systems for new areas of application is no longer necessary. This has a positive effect on the implementation time and the associated costs. New maintenance contracts, licences and expenses for integration into the company's basic systems can be saved.

Combine with edge computing and cloud
RPA systems are always particularly efficient when they are used on the basis of a low-code programming environment and combined with decentralised edge computing and a connection to the cloud. On the one hand, this guarantees the required computing power and secure availability of the programmes directly at the specialist department on site, and on the other hand, the use of existing software-as-a-service from the cloud.

If you implement such a solution, the IT infrastructure should first be adapted to your requirements and optimised with the help of a micro or mini data centre. Whether you choose an edge, on-premise, cloud or hybrid solution: Datwyler not only advises you on dimensioning, but also implements the required IT infrastructure solutions worldwide and also supports you after commissioning with a comprehensive range of services. On request, Datwyler can also provide you with operational management for the IT infrastructure and, in collaboration

with technology partner Ventus AG, can also ensure a low-code programming environment.

Lower costs, more satisfaction
The value of this low-code programming environment and IT infrastructure grows with each additional application.

Once this basis has been created, investments for new use cases are lower. Moreover, if the working time of a routine activity is reduced by just half an hour per day through robot-assisted process automation, the RPA module can pay for itself in less than a year, according to calculations by Boydak Automation.

Companies that automate repetitive tasks not only reduce process runtimes, but also increase data quality and are able to offer better customer service. Last but not least, they free their employees from tedious routine work and thus release a lot of motivation – for exciting and creative activities, further training or even for the implementation of further RPA.