

Transforming Finance with Agentic Automation

Four high-impact use cases



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AUTOMATION

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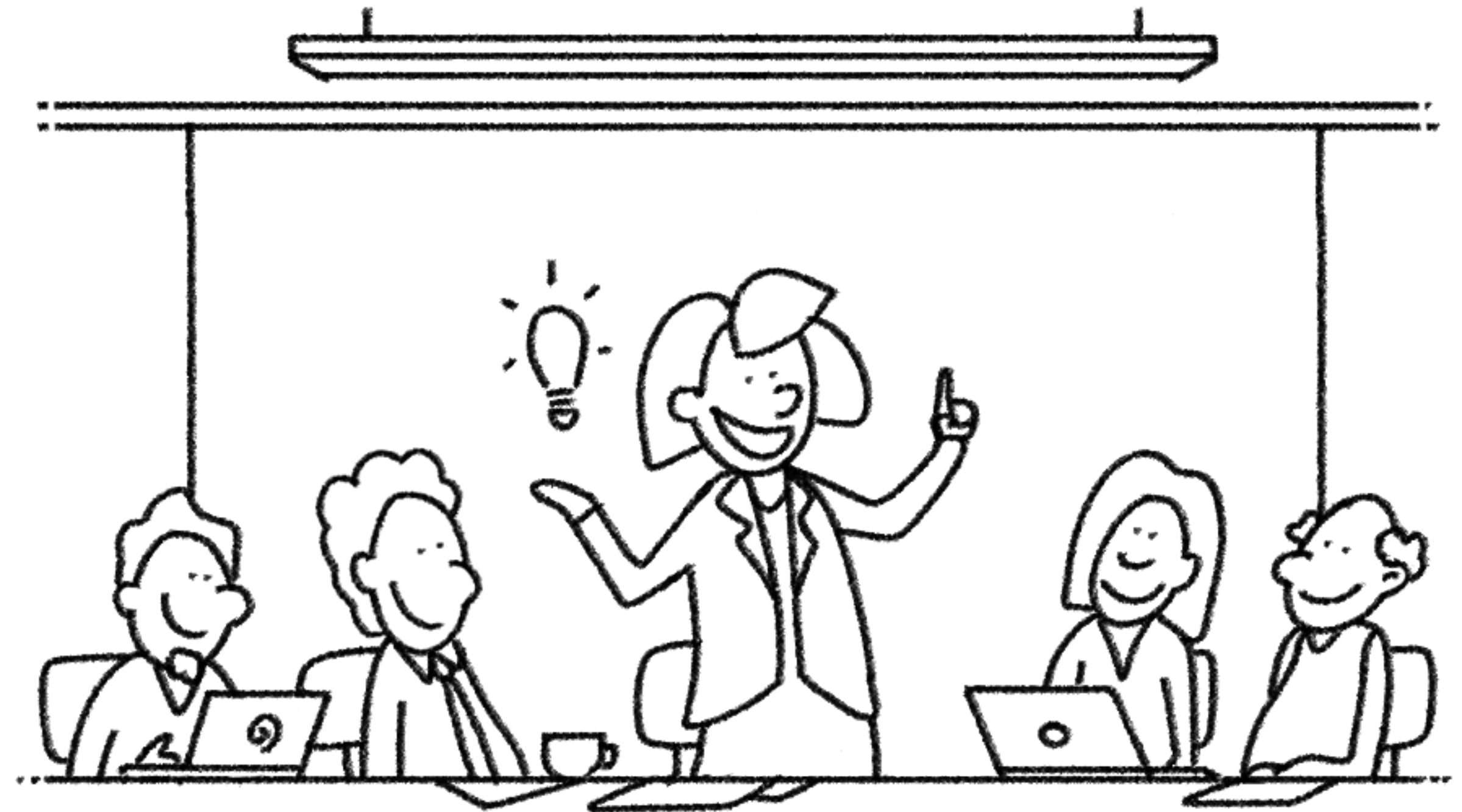


Today, the spotlight is on CFOs and their expanding roles

The CFO's role has evolved far beyond traditional financial management. Today—in addition to managing a high-performing finance function—CFOs are expected to provide forward-looking, strategic insights that can drive critical business decisions.

It's a tall order, but one ideally suited to the strengths and capabilities of agentic automation. Today's AI agents can autonomously take on many complex finance tasks that once only trained professionals could do. And as AI agents work alongside robots and finance teams, they create powerful synergies that enhance decision making and enable real-time data-driven insights.

Read on to discover four high-value agentic use cases that can help you transform your finance department into a proactive powerhouse capable of guiding your organization toward sustainable success.



The agentic opportunity for finance

McKinsey estimates that 40% to 60% of finance processes can be automated. And the advent of AI agents can push that percent even higher. Here's how:

Agents think, robots do, people lead. With agentic automation agents, robots, and people work together to get the work done. Agents can take on many complex analyses and decisions occurring throughout the purchase-to-pay process—learning over time so they can take on even more.

Meanwhile, robots are hard at work completing rules-based, repetitive tasks and processes—quickly and accurately.

People are at the helm. Now, with agents and robots as their digital crew members, finance professionals are freed up to provide strategic leadership needed to steer the organization towards success.

Let's take a closer look at how this plays out in four high-impact use cases.



1. Procure-to-Pay: getting—and paying for—what the business needs to run

No business is an island. And the way a business manages its relationships with suppliers and vendors tells the world a lot about how it does business.

Does it take longer than it should to issue purchase orders, onboard suppliers, and process invoices? It could mean that the business doesn't have its house in order—and it's probably affecting how it serves its own customers and hurting its ability to compete.













But agentic automation can help. Here's how:

- **AI agents** analyze complex vendor data and market trends, helping to optimize supplier selection and support fruitful negotiations.
- **Robots** do the deterministic, detailed, and repetitive work like verifying and onboarding vendors, extracting structured and unstructured data from invoices, and performing purchase order/invoice/receipt matching with precision.
- **People** step in to handle exceptions and to take agents' output to the next level of insight and strategic thinking.

This powerful synergy makes the procure-to-pay cycle faster, more reliable, and more strategic. It keeps suppliers happy, lowers risk, and frees up the finance team to focus on strategic vendor relationships and cost optimization.



Procure to pay: automation targets for fast ROI

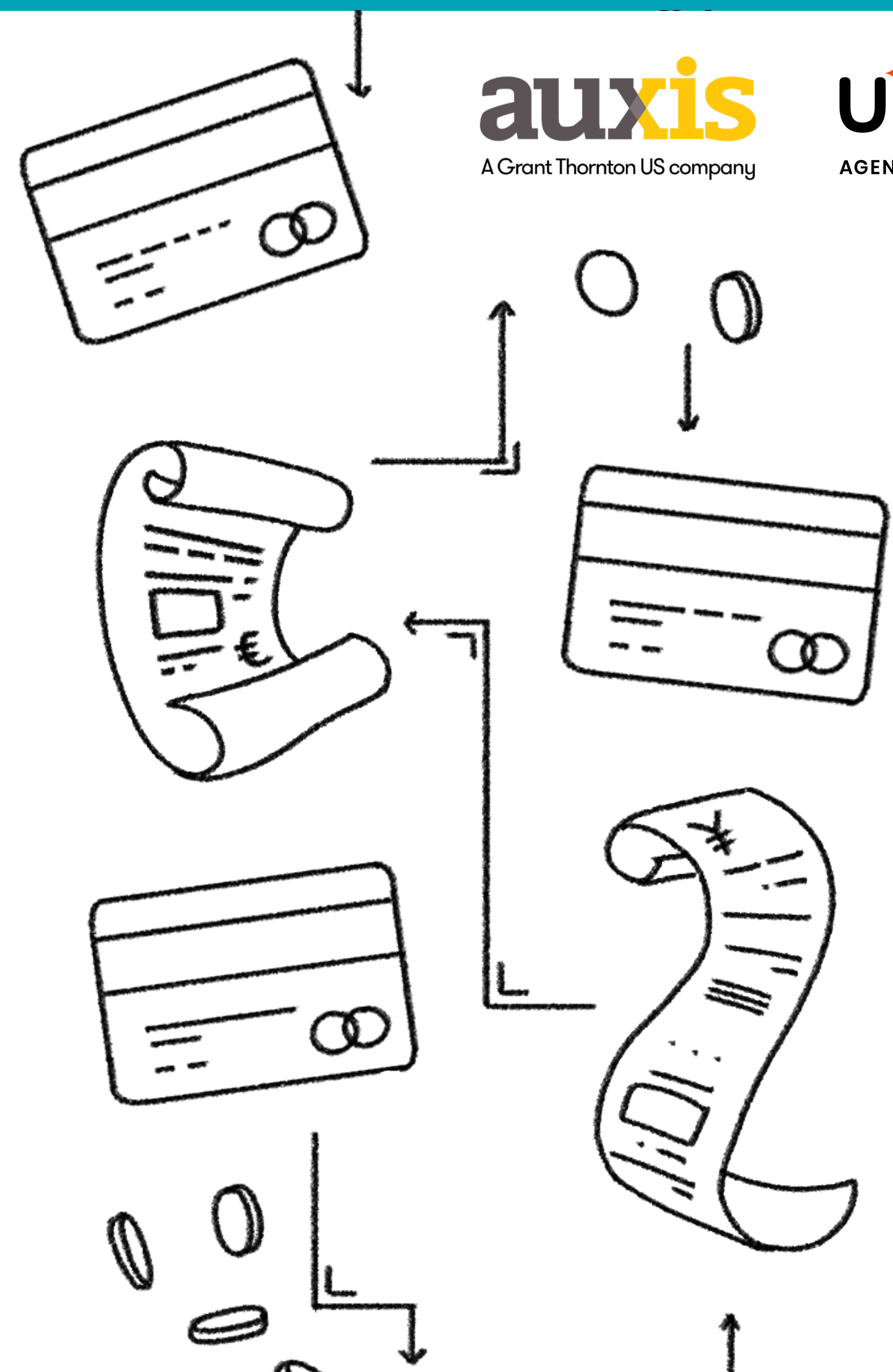
- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Purchase order entry and delivery |  | Invoice data extraction |
|  | Vendor verification and setup |  | Invoice data entry and interface |
|  | Vendor master-data management |  | Two- and three-way purchase order/invoice/receipt matching |
|  | Vendor queries/helpdesk |  | Non-purchase order invoice coding |
|  | Invoice receipt and classification |  | Vendor statement reconciliation |



2. Order to cash: keeping the coffers full

Always be ready to accept payment. It's Business 101.

But those simple rules aren't always so simple in practice. There are sales orders to create and customers to onboard. Invoices to generate and payments to process. Cash to apply and credit to manage. And it all involves a lot of data—structured and unstructured. Data that has to be entered into multiple systems and reconciled.



Agentic automation can revolutionize the order-to-cash (OTC) cycle. For the first time, end-to-end automation is a true possibility.

AI agents can analyze payment patterns, predict cash flow trends, and optimize collection strategies. They can also proactively flag potential payment delays and recommend actions to avoid them.

Meanwhile, robots are at the ready to take on the structured, rules-based work and document processing tasks, like collecting bank statements, entering critical data into AR systems, matching payments to open invoices, and much more.

This powerful combination takes the manual work out of OTC while enhancing decision making throughout. It cuts down delays and discrepancies.

The result? Lower days-sales-outstanding (DSO), improved cash-flow forecasts, strengthened customer relationships—and clear, up-to-date information and insights to help teams provide strategic financial leadership.



Order to cash: areas to automate for big impact



Sales order entry



Customer data setup



Customer data management



Billing/invoicing



Collection activities (dunning)



Cash application and reconciliation



Credit risk management



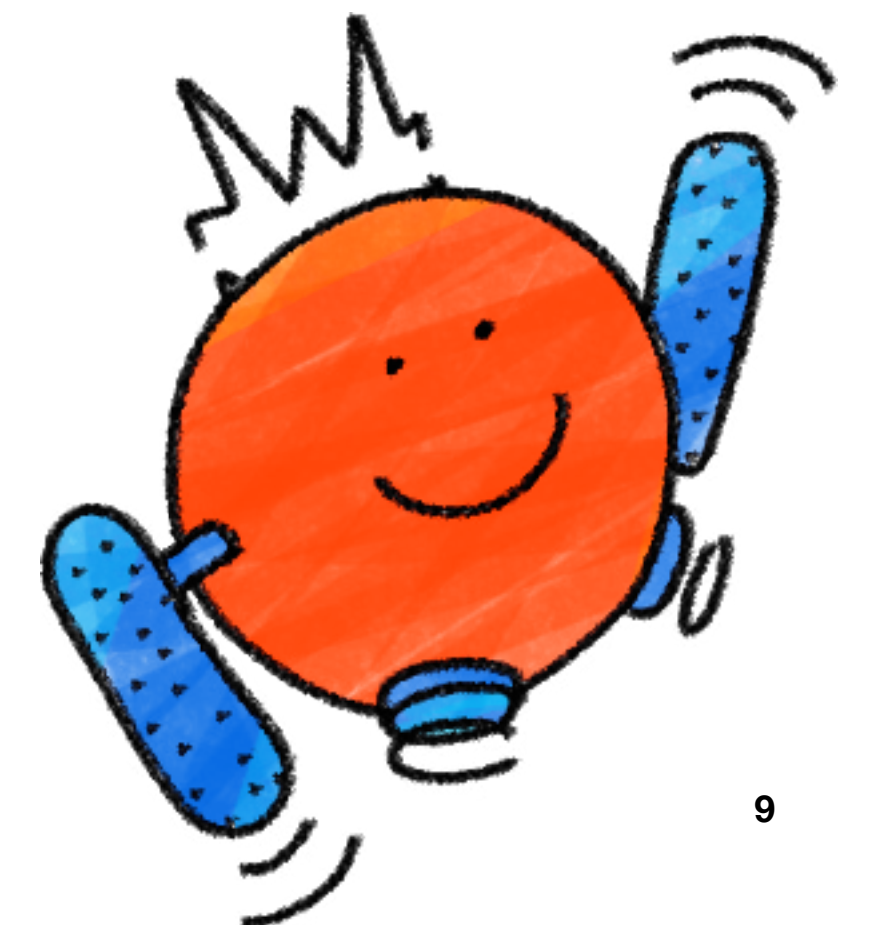
Dispute verification and resolution



Chargeback management



Daily cash review and forecasting



3. Record to report: building the big picture to guide the business

How is the business performing? Is the strategy paying off? Are any course changes needed? They're big questions. And the C-suite and other leaders need the information to answer them.

But the relevant data is scattered throughout the enterprise. It's housed in multiple systems, some cloud-based, some on-premises, some legacy. Some of the data is structured—some is not. Traditionally, it's been the finance team's job to collect that information from multiple systems, consolidate it, and reconcile it. It takes time, but the sooner decision-makers have that big picture, the quicker they can act.



Agentic automation is redefining the record-to-report cycle, streamlining it end to end and providing business leaders and stakeholders with critical insights and information.

Once again, it's the synergies between agents, robots, and people that make it all work. Agents analyze trends, identify anomalies, and offer predictive insights and recommendations. Robots tirelessly and efficiently perform detailed work that reporting requires, like multi-system data collection, document processing, and consolidation.

The orchestrated actions of agents and robots working together yields timely and accurate views of financial positions and forecasts—speeding up the reporting process and improving accuracy and completeness. Freed from the tediousness of the data collection and reconciliation, professionals' can deliver data-driven decisions on budgets, forecasts, strategies, and governance required to succeed in an ever-changing business landscape.



Record to report: processes ready for automation transformation

 Balance sheet

 Profit and loss

 Cashflow

 Variance analysis

 Management reports

 Statutory/regulatory reports

 Financial close

- Journal entries
- Fixed assets and depreciations
- Allocations
- Intercompany transactions and reconciliations
- Account reconciliation/validation
- Trial balance



4. Treasury management: optimizing cash flow, reducing exposure

Maintaining liquidity, mitigating risk—it's an ongoing balancing act. Credit ratings, exchange rates, interest rates, regulatory mandates—they're all moving targets. But the treasury team has to have a solid grip on all of them to manage cashflow. And it's critical to make the right decisions at the right time, based on reliable, real-time data.



Agentic automation streamlines and simplifies working capital management while also enhancing risk mitigation and fund utilization.

Working capital management requires a secure stream of diverse data from many different sources inside and outside the organization. And robots—with their built-in controls and guardrails—are a secure, trustworthy resource for automating the collection and consolidation of this data.

Leveraging their capacity for nondeterministic thinking, agents can take on a wide range of critical analyses and forecasts: interpreting market trends, forecasting cash flow fluctuations, optimizing liquidity strategies, and delivering real-time insights for strategic decision-making, for a start. And their ability to learn and adapt supports continuous improvement.

The bottom line: agentic automation helps businesses maintain optimal financial health by providing treasurers with efficient processes and actionable insights that just keep getting better.



Treasury management: an automation to-do list for meaningful results



Cashflow and credit risk management



Subsidiary bank account management



Bank account reconciliations



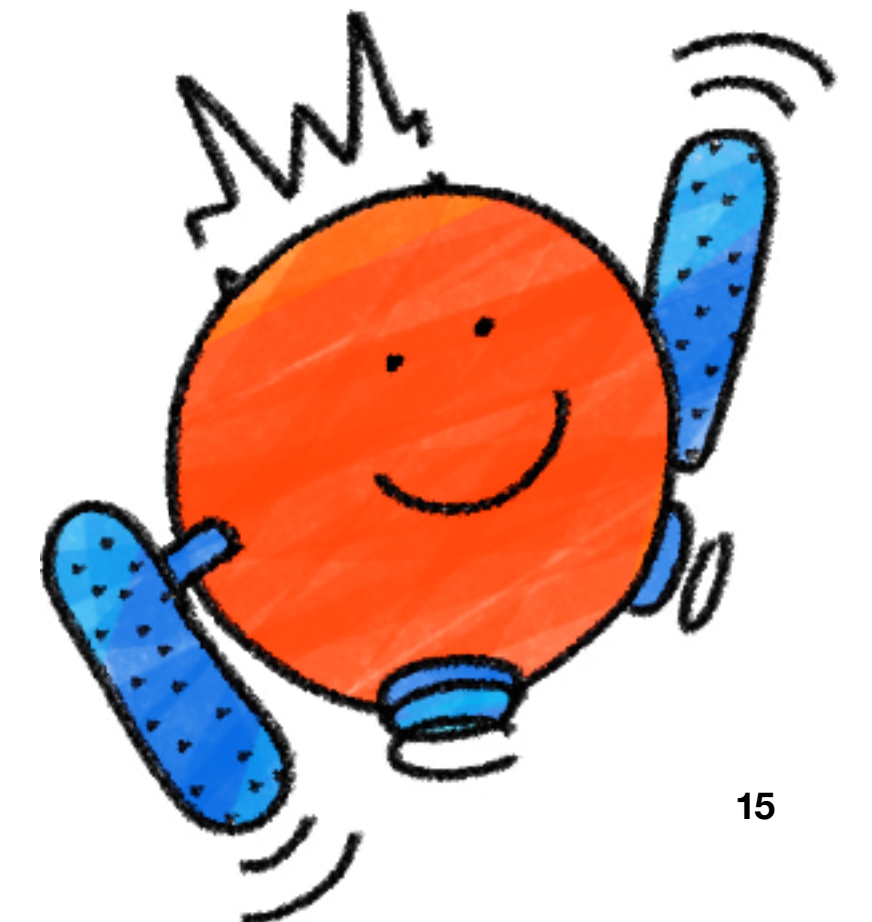
Intercompany payments and reconciliations



Intercompany loans and interest calculations



Foreign currency management and hedging



Agentic automation puts Finance in the driver's seat

Finance teams have the best view of the business. They know where it's exceeding expectations and where it's underperforming. They understand where departments are overspending and where investment may be needed. They know where there's a potential risk and how to mitigate it. They are ideal advisors on strategy and direction. And automation can help them fill those shoes. It takes over tasks that keep finance experts from focusing on the big picture. It helps fill in the gaps between systems to create a coherent picture of the business based on the latest data.

Agentic automation makes the entire business better by making finance teams more informed, more productive, and more capable of anticipating future trends and challenges. It transforms finance from a reactive function into a proactive, strategic powerhouse that drives organizational success.



Finance by the numbers



28% of finance functions are using AI for forecasting, while 39% say they plan to use AI in the next 12 months. In addition, 36% of finance functions say they're using AI for accounts payable and receivable, while 34% planning to use AI in the next 12 months. (October 2024; PwC Pulse Survey of CFOs)

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By 2028, 33% of enterprise software applications will include agentic AI, up from less than 1% in 2024, enabling 15% of day-to-day work decisions to be made autonomously. (October 1, 2024)

Gartner Articles, Intelligent Agents in AI Really Can Work Alone. Here's How., <https://www.gartner.com/en/articles/intelligent-agent-in-ai>
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CUSTOMER REFERENCE

“We have a lot of complex processes like accounts payable, where we’ve only been able to automate parts of it. Those automations do well, but they don’t span the process from one end to the other. Now with agentic automation and UiPath Maestro, we can automate the entire process, end to end”

Chris Engel
Automation Center of Excellence - Global Discovery Lead, Johnson Controls Inc.

“Agentic automation represents the next frontier in transforming how we work. While RPA has laid the groundwork, the potential of agent-based systems to tackle complex processes is immense, promising to revolutionize our approach to automation.”

Erik Skold
Product Owner, Automation, Swedish Tax Agency

For more information, get in touch with our agentic automation experts!

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