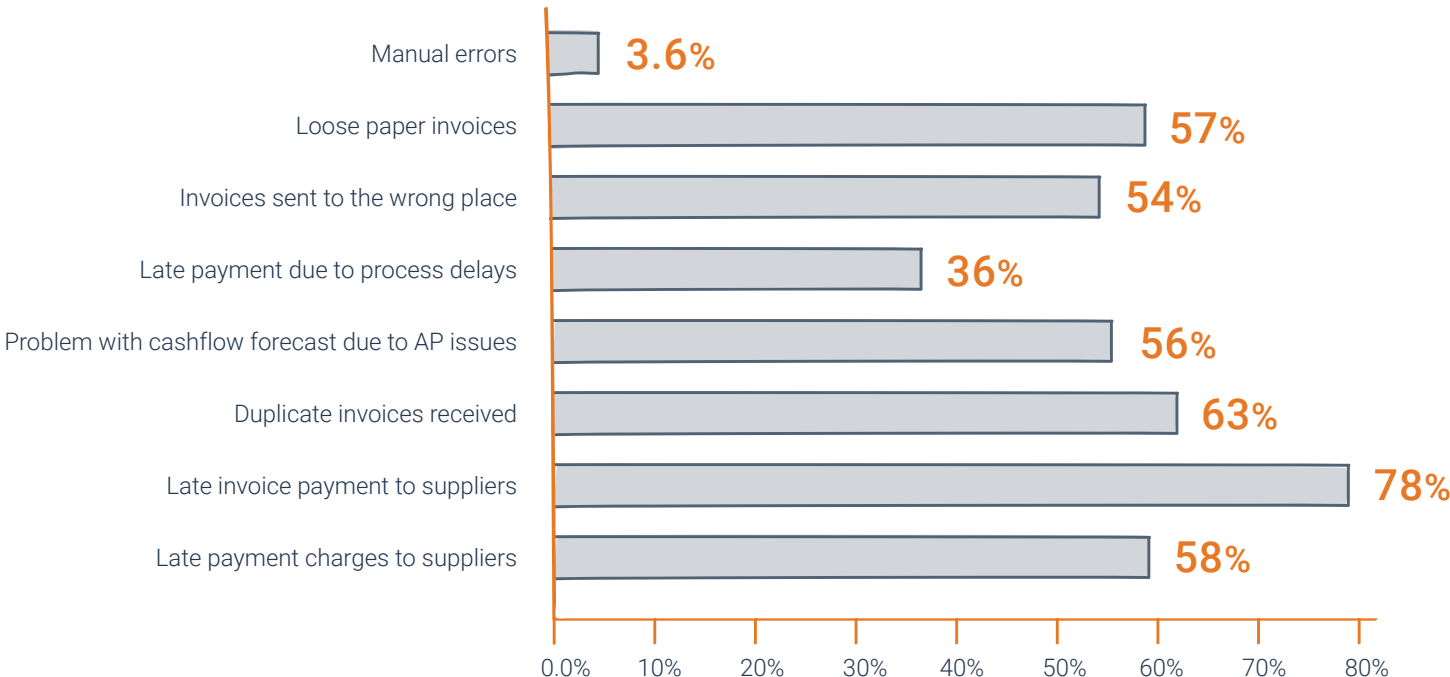# The All-Pervasive Advantages of **Accounts Payable Automation**

Why do we need Accounts Payable (AP) Automation?

Accounts payable is a vital part of an organizations' financial activities. Any delays or deviations is the process can create a domino effect on the overall functioning and reputation of the company.

Here are some interesting statistics on the problems related to the accounts payable process as per a study by the **Accounts Payable Association**

Problem	Percentage
Manual errors	3.6%
Loose paper invoices	57%
Invoices sent to the wrong place	54%
Late payment due to process delays	36%
Problem with cashflow forecast due to AP issues	56%
Duplicate invoices received	63%
Late invoice payment to suppliers	78%
Late payment charges to suppliers	58%

0.0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80%

## How does Accounts Payable Automation Help the Various Stakeholders?

CIO or IT

• Upfront APIs and transparent integration documentation
• Structured, proven best-practice implementation process
• Minimal IT support for updates on the cloud-based platform
• Pre-connected eco-system to ERP systems
• Dedicated services team to provide guidance

AP staff

• Automation and templates increase efficiency and visibility
• Approve and review non-PO invoices or PO-invoice deviations easily, from anywhere, any device
• Easy to locate invoices at any stage in the process
• Notifications to keep suppliers updated on invoice status
• Provides an audit train on each invoice to respond to inquiries and improve the overall process
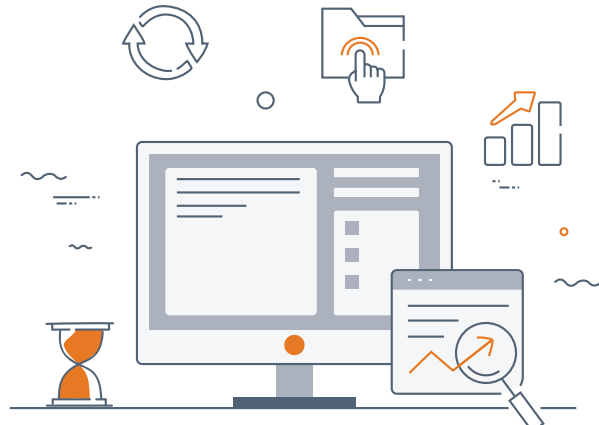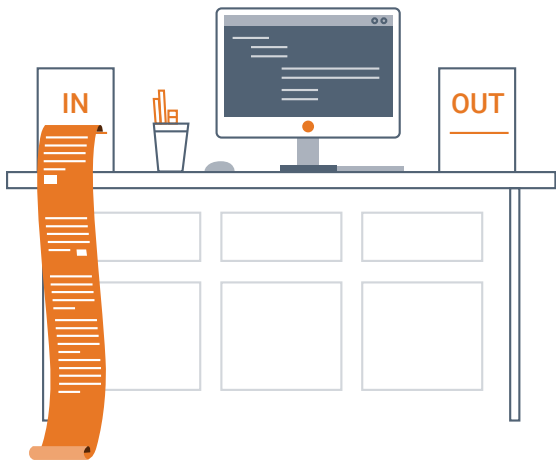
AP managers

• Enhanced visibility with customizable reports and dashboards
• Access to KPIs, performance measurement tools and data-driven benchmarks
• Invoice processing cycle times reduced
• Easy to pull real-time and accurate numbers for month-end / year-end closing
• Role becomes strategic

CEO or Business Unit Managers

• Automated reports to show exact spend
• Approval for important invoices for key suppliers is easy to do by buyers from anywhere, on any device
• Supplier relations improve due to timely payments
• Reduce spend with negotiation and budgeting controls
• Spending trends aid in real time metrics to make solid business decisions

Finance Controllers

• Smoother month end closings, accrual, cash flow reporting, and improved cycle time
• Easier to enforce internal controls
• Simplifies budget control and process with cashflow prediction
• Better visibility to control the cash and improve relationships
• Enable strategic planning with the right financials to base them on
• Implement the right controls at every level to manage expenses

CFO

• Top line visibility and cash flow insights from accurate and reliable cloud-based data
• Increased visibility helps identify cost savings opportunities for better spend management
• Spend optimizations and early payment discount terms / dynamic discounting
• Positive ROI faster than anticipated
• AP can be more strategic, closing the books on time and provide accurate numbers

Tax department

• Top line visibility and insights into invoices and supplier data
• Easy compliance and internal controls and digital archive with complete audit trail
• Automatic detection of irregularities to easily detect tax fraud
• Mitigate regulatory risks via automated reports and meet reporting deadlines
• Opportunity to pre-approve S&U tax prior to paying the supplier

Suppliers

• Up to date invoice status can be easily retrieved by all users with quick search functionality
• Overall process quicker due to automatic notifications to approvers
• Regular updates on the status of their current invoices in progress
• Automatic regular updates to the supplier on the status of their current invoices in progress
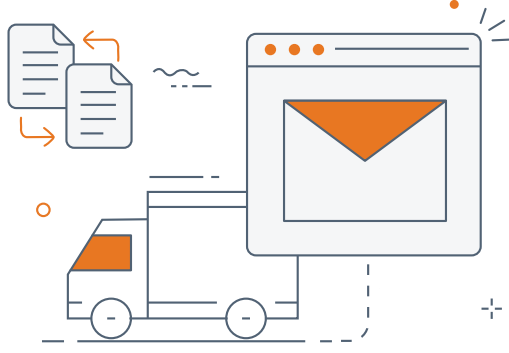
Want to get started on automating your accounts payable process?
Click here to talk to our experts!