



ULTRA
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ERP Toolkit

Expert guidance for your
enterprise technology project

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Introduction

A manufacturing or distribution organization's decision to enter into an enterprise technology project is likely one of the most complex initiatives a company will face. This is because an enterprise technology project cuts across each area of the business, impacting functional areas from finance, accounting and supply chain, to shop floor, production, inventory, quality management, shipping and more. From ERP to MES, Quality, Demand Planning and WMS to PLM and more, major enterprise technology projects are a challenge.

Business Process Improvement

While it's tempting to consider these initiatives as pure "technology projects," that perspective often results in an implementation that fails to meet expectations. This toolkit is designed to keep the focus on business process improvement, helping teams improve the chance for success and reduce risks.

For Manufacturers and Distributors

The resources curated in this eBook are based upon Ultra's decades of expert methodologies, vendor research and intimate knowledge of manufacturing and distribution





Getting Started



When looking for new enterprise software, your organization must begin the journey by making a business case for a new technology solution. This involves numerous steps, including determining an expected return on investment, anticipating total costs, estimating, timing and fully documenting the business case for investing in a new or upgraded system.



Getting Started Resources



First Ask Why - Business Process Improvement

BLOG POST >> Don't limit your thinking. Explore the top top pressures impacting a manufacturing or distribution organization that is launching an ERP project.



Strategic Planning and ERP

BLOG POST >> When it comes to strategic planning and ERP, what's the connection? See what a well-conceived and communicated strategic plan looks like in this educational article.



Planning for ERP

WHITE PAPER >> When planning for an ERP project, get educated. Read an in-depth white paper based on Ultra's deep expertise guiding project teams looking to start an ERP project.



Tips to Start an ERP Project

PODCAST >> Starting an ERP project? Then think business process transformations. Hear Ultra's Founder and CEO host an informative podcast that jump starts your efforts with business process improvement.



What Resources Do We Need for Our Project?

PODCAST >> Listen as Ultra Founder and CEO Jeff Carr answers a common question from teams considering modern ERP systems: "what resources are needed for this project"



7 Essential Strategies for a Successful ERP Project

WHITE PAPER >> Our expert consultants offer insight gained in projects for manufacturers and distributors in virtually every industry, including proven best practices, and advice on methodology, priorities, project teams and change management.





Organizing the Project

Organizing an enterprise technology project? Ultra Consultants considers these projects as major transformations. It is important to look at the genesis of such projects – what has transpired to get an organization to the point of looking for new technology?

For most project teams, organizing an ERP project is a daunting task. It's common for project teams to get pulled into a variety of directions, often losing focus because they are responding to pressing demands and fighting for internal resources to drive effective ERP selection. The following resources help you organize for success.

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Organizing the Project Resources



7 Steps to Organize Your ERP Project

WHITE PAPER >> In one of Ultra's most requested white papers, see the specific steps to take when organizing an ERP project. Read about how to drive ROI and achieve project expectations.



ERP Project Roles & Responsibilities

PODCAST >> Once you've set the ERP project team, what are their key roles? Listen as Ultra Founder and CEO Jeff Carr spells out the team roles and responsibilities for a successful project.



How to Approach an ERP Project

VIDEO >> Watch Ultra's Founder and CEO Jeff Carr present the steps to approach an ERP project. This concise presentation outlines how to structure your project for the best outcome.



Why Evaluate the Current State?

VIDEO BLOG POST >> Teams ready to embark on an enterprise technology project are often eager to jump into vendor demos. View a webcast to understand a strategy that begins with your current state.



5 Considerations When Justifying Your Investment

WHITE PAPER >> This guide leverages Ultra Consultants' significant experience helping midmarket manufacturers and distributors drive an effective justification process.



How to Define ERP Project Scope

PODCAST >> In this episode of Ultra's ERP podcast, host Jeff Carr breaks down the key areas to focus on when it comes to defining the ERP project.



Maximizing ROI in Your ERP Project

WHITE PAPER >> It's all about ROI. Read the lessons learned assembled by independent advisors who understand the key success factors for delivering on business transformation goals.



Technology Evaluation & Selection



What does it take to be effective during enterprise technology evaluation and selection? See these resources which will help the organization greatly improve the chance that the project meets the desired future state of the business. You'll benefit from this library of resources that helps you drive business process transformation.

After supporting hundreds of manufacturing and distribution organizations, we know an enterprise technology project must be built on business process improvement methodologies and be driven by much more than technology or functional system features. See these resources to match critical "future state" and process requirements to the system features offered by the technology solution.

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Evaluation and Selection Resources



Enterprise Technology Selection

WEBSITE >> Get on a solid foundation by teaming with a resource built on the cornerstone of independence. [Read about unbiased enterprise software selection methods that enable business success.](#)



The Business Improvement Process

BLOG POST >> Create a strong foundation for development of the Business Case for Change. Read about a core tenant of Ultra's proven methodologies for evaluation and selection of enterprise technology.



Getting Maximum ROI from Your Project

VIDEO >> View a comprehensive educational webinar to gain maximum ROI from your ERP project. This session is a can't miss for those teams considering an enterprise technology initiative.



What's Driving Your ERP Project?

WHITE PAPER >> A strategic approach to ERP selection gives the project team the confidence to objectively evaluate options and navigate the competitive vendor landscape.



Ultra's Center of Excellence

VIDEO BLOG POST >> A powerful resource available to manufacturing and distribution companies, Ultra's Center of Excellence guides teams through technology solution evaluation, selection projects.



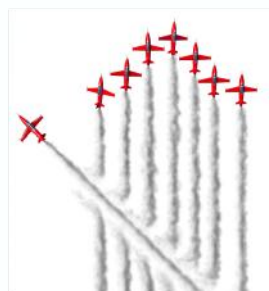
ERP Selection Factors Infographic

BLOG POST >> A handy infographic breaks down today's ERP landscape. Which vendors are suitable to your organization? Take a look via this informative overview.



How to Identify ERP Vendors

PODCAST >> In this podcast episode, host Jeff Carr walks through the key considerations to note before any engagement with a software vendor..



Implementation Best Practice Guide



In today's competitive business climate, Ultra Consultants suggests a rigorous focus on enterprise software implementation by setting up a solid plan, and tracking metrics like disruptions in operations, impact on productivity, change management and ERP adoption across the enterprise.

Unfortunately, there are many horror stories of failed ERP implementations, cost over-runs, time delays, disruptions in operations and more. Manufacturers and distributors have avoided these pitfalls over the last 25 years with Ultra's proven best practice methodology along with our dedicated and experienced advisory team.

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Implementation Resources



6 Selection & Implementation Pain Points & Solutions

BLOG POST >> The statistics showing the percentage of failed ERP implementations are staggering. See an article summarizing the common pain points and proven solutions.



Common Challenges with ERP Implementations

VIDEO BLOG POST >> Watch as Ultra's COO, Rich Sides discusses key challenges teams face during ERP implementations. His insights are culled from decades of experience and hundreds of projects.



Best Practices in Implementing an ERP System

WHITE PAPER >> From setting the scope of the project to focusing on change management, understand the best practices to put into place for successful ERP implementation.



A Change Management Strategy for Your ERP Project

WHITE PAPER >> Obtaining organizational buy-in is key to successful ERP implementation. Explore the details on how to leverage organizational change management methodologies to drive a successful project.



Enterprise Software Implementation

WEBSITE >> This timely article outlines the steps involved during strategic ERP implementation. Read about the benefits and ROI when the process is effectively managed.



Implementation Project Management Guide

WHITE PAPER >> A timely guide which flags the key issues of identifying and conducting business process improvements driven by enterprise software solutions, and the selection, implementation, and change management involved in bringing the solution to value.



The 7 Deadly Sins of ERP Implementation

WHITE PAPER >> This ebook offers distributors and manufacturers insight and information that will help their project teams stay focused, follow best practices and make smart decisions – and understand that ERP implementation success is more about people and processes than software.



Next Steps

Contact Ultra

In our work as trusted advisors, we've seen that a strategic approach to business process improvement and technology helps teams manage risk as they embark on a technology project journey. Putting into place proven methodologies for true business process improvement and change management helps teams avoid time delays and cost overruns that can be common with enterprise technology projects.



Ultra's multi-step evaluation, selection and implementation process has helped more than 300 manufacturing and distribution companies optimize their business processes. Learn more about how an independent consulting team dedicated to manufacturing and distribution can drive value, reduce risk and achieve a more significant ROI for your ERP project.

Contact Us



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Take a moment to explore how Ultra as a trusted advisor with exclusive industry expertise can guide your organization to sustained business process improvement.