IFS

Beyond Legacy ERP: A New Path for Modern Manufacturers

The Broken Promise of Enterprise Software

The goal of enterprise software has always been to streamline business operations into a single, cohesive application. For manufacturers, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) was meant to be the central nervous system of the organization, providing a real-time, single version of the truth. Unfortunately, for many, that promise remains unfulfilled.

Instead of a unified system, many manufacturers find themselves wrestling with a tangled web of disparate applications, acquired products masquerading under a single brand, and clumsy integrations. This patchwork approach, far from simplifying operations, introduces significant barriers to scaling, efficiency, and growth.

This white paper will explore the common pitfalls of legacy and poorly integrated ERP systems and present a new path forward to a modern, unified approach that empowers manufacturers to set their businesses free.
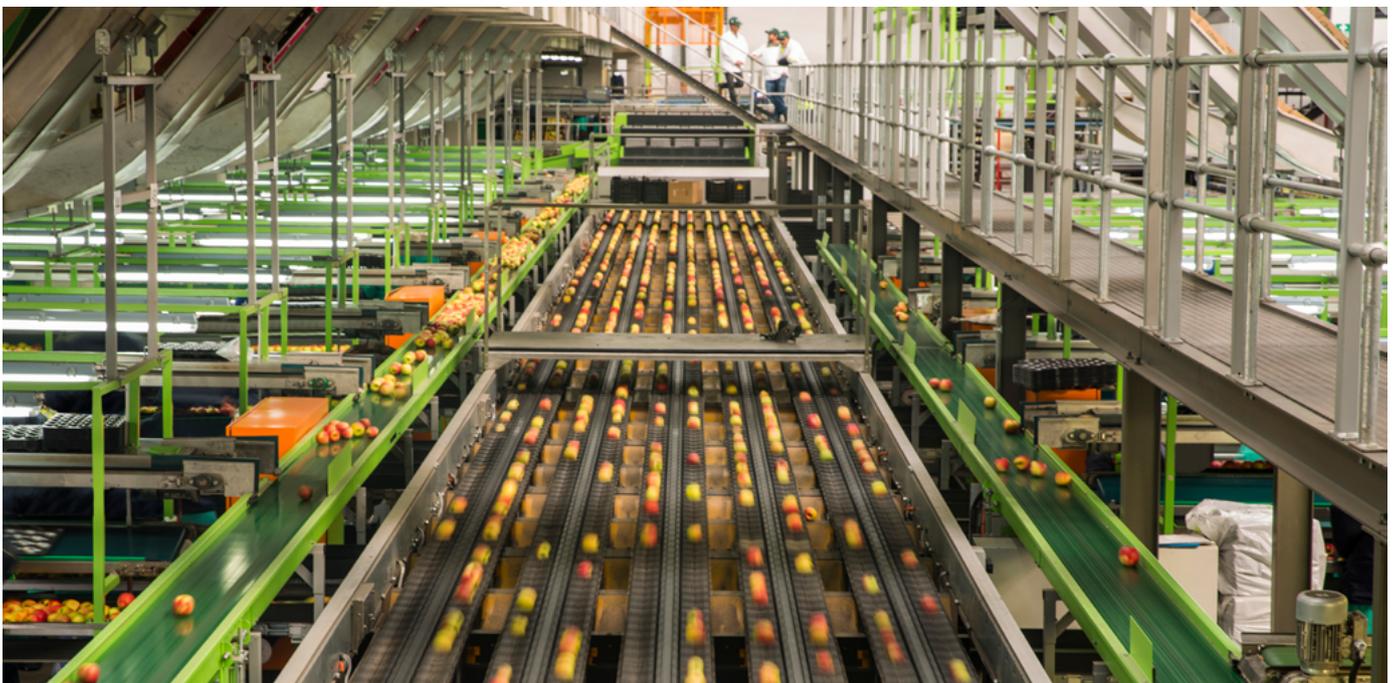
The Hidden Costs of a Divided System

The problems with fragmented ERP suites are not just minor inconveniences; they are significant obstacles that impact every level of the organization.

The Illusion of a Single Interface

Many ERP vendors have grown through acquisition, stitching together separately developed software products and hiding them behind a common user interface (UI). While it may look like a single solution on the surface, this approach creates a host of problems:

- **Inconsistent User Experience:** Even with a shared UI, the underlying logic and workflows of different modules often vary, leading to a steep learning curve and reduced productivity. In a time of skilled labor shortages, forcing employees to learn multiple systems to fulfill multiple roles is a significant competitive disadvantage.
- **Complex Security and Permissions:** Managing user roles and data access across multiple, distinct software products is a complex and error-prone process, increasing security risks.
- **Rigid and Costly Changes:** What should be a simple configuration change often becomes a complex systems integration project. Modifying a standalone maintenance module, for example, requires a point-to-point integration to be re-engineered, consuming time and budget.
- **Maintenance Nightmares:** Separate software products often come with separate licenses, maintenance schedules, and update cycles. This creates an administrative nightmare of coordinating downtime and managing multiple vendor relationships.

The Data Disconnect

A fragmented ERP landscape inevitably leads to data silos. When different parts of the business run on different data structures with varying naming conventions, the dream of a "single version of the truth" becomes a nightmare of data reconciliation. This makes reporting and analytics a specialized IT function rather than a self-service capability for business users, slowing down decision-making and hiding valuable insights.

The Functionality Gap

Many ERP products, born from the discipline of Materials Requirements Planning (MRP), are strong in core manufacturing but lack critical, embedded functionality for other essential business processes. This forces manufacturers to bolt on third-party solutions for:

- Enterprise Asset Management (EAM)
- Human Resources
- Quality Management
- Warranty and Service Management
- Risk Management

This reliance on external solutions perpetuates the cycle of complex integrations, data silos, and increased costs.

The IFS Cloud Difference: A Truly Unified Solution

The frustrations of legacy ERP are not an inevitability. They are a symptom of a flawed approach. IFS Cloud was designed from the ground up to be different. It is a single, unified product that delivers on the original promise of ERP, providing a cohesive and powerful platform for modern manufacturers.

One Single Product, Not a Patchwork

At the core of IFS Cloud is a simple but powerful idea: one product, one platform, one user experience.

Unlike competitors who have grown by acquiring and rebranding other companies' software, IFS Cloud is a single, coherent solution. This means:

- **A Consistent, Delightful Experience:** All modules in IFS Cloud share the same "people-first" UI and underlying architecture, making it intuitive and easy to use.
- **Seamless Integration:** All components are designed to work together from the start, eliminating the need for brittle, point-to-point integrations.
- **Simplified Administration:** With a single product, you have one license, one maintenance schedule, and one vendor relationship to manage.

Deep Industry Functionality, Out-of-the-Box

IFS Cloud is not a generic ERP that has been retrofitted for manufacturing. It is a solution built with decades of industry expertise, providing deep, out-of-the-box functionality for a wide range of manufacturing sub-industries.

This industry focus means that critical capabilities like EAM, Service Management, and Total Quality Management are not afterthoughts, they are integral parts of the solution.

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> **IFS has allowed us to manage how quickly we can respond to our customers and ultimately what we're looking at is the efficiency of managing our time from a management standpoint all the way down through the organization."**

Kevin Felix
Vice President of Operations,
GED Integrated Solutions

GED.
Integrated Solutions

Innovation That Delivers Real-World Results

IFS Cloud embeds the latest technologies, like AI and machine learning, directly into the platform, making them immediately accessible and relevant to your business.

- **IFS.ai:** Our embedded AI capabilities deliver tangible business outcomes, from predictive maintenance and demand forecasting to intelligent automation and optimized scheduling.
- **Measurable ROI:** The results are clear. Our customers have seen
  - 37% more efficient capital assets teams
  - 50% quicker equipment or site outage resolution
  - $2.5M average annual staff efficiency benefits
  - 414% three-year return on investment
  - 11-month payback on investment, including IFS Cloud deployment time

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> **We expect to save over $1.5 million per year. In addition, every employee affected will be re-tasked to a higher skilled position, greatly helping us with our labor shortage."**

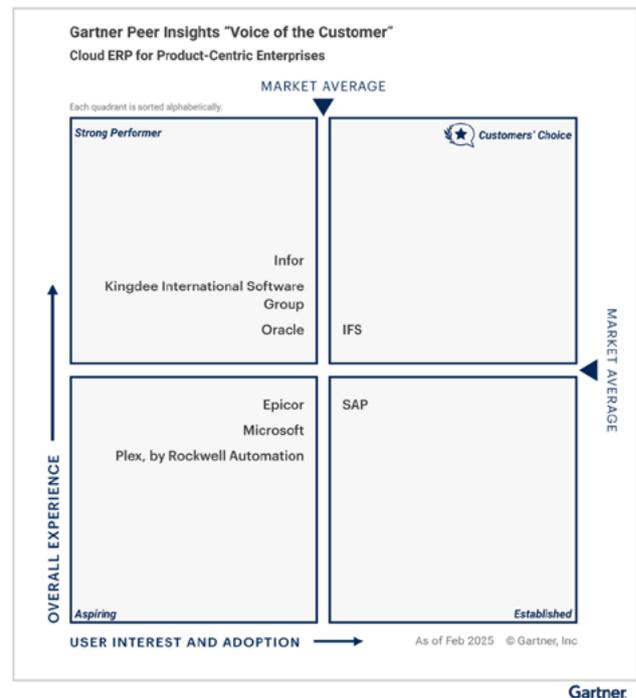**Alex Ivkociv**
IT Manager,
Cheer Pack

CHEER PACK
NORTH AMERICA

Set Your Business Free

The limitations of legacy ERP are holding manufacturers back. The complexity, the data silos, the hidden costs–these are all symptoms of a broken model.

It's time to move beyond the patchwork and embrace a truly unified solution. IFS Cloud provides a single, intelligent, and industry-focused platform that empowers you to streamline your operations, unlock new efficiencies, and set your business free.

As a recognized leader by both analysts and customers, IFS is more than just a software vendor - we are a partner in your success.

IFS Named the only Gartner Customers' Choice for Cloud ERP

Gartner Peer Insights "Voice of the Customer"
Cloud ERP for Product-Centric Enterprises

MARKET AVERAGE

Each quadrant is sorted alphabetically.

Strong Performer | Customers' Choice

Infor
Kingdee International Software Group
Oracle | IFS

Epicor | SAP
Microsoft
Plex, by Rockwell Automation

OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Aspiring | Established

USER INTEREST AND ADOPTION → | As of Feb 2025 © Gartner, Inc

MARKET AVERAGE

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About IFS

IFS is the world's leading provider of Industrial AI and enterprise software for hardcore businesses that make, service, and power our planet. Our technology enables businesses which manufacture goods, maintain complex assets, and manage service-focused operations to unlock the transformative power of Industrial AI™ to enhance productivity, efficiency, and sustainability.

IFS Cloud is a fully composable AI-powered platform, designed for ultimate flexibility and adaptability to our customers' specific requirements and business evolution. It spans the needs of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Enterprise Asset Management (EAM), Supply Chain Management (SCM), and Field Service Management (FSM). IFS technology leverages AI, machine learning, real-time data and analytics to empower our customers to make informed strategic decisions and excel at their Moment of Service™.

IFS was founded in 1983 by five university friends who pitched a tent outside our first customer's site to ensure they would be available 24/7 and the needs of the customer would come first. Since then, IFS has grown into a global leader with over 7,000 employees in 80 countries. Driven by those foundational values of agility, customer-centricity, and trust, IFS is recognized worldwide for delivering value and supporting strategic transformations. We are the most recommended supplier in our sector. Visit ifs.com to learn why.

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