Accenture Technology Vision for Oracle 2016

Trend 1: Intelligent Automation

High performance. Delivered.
Leaders in the digital age do much more than tick off a checklist of technology capabilities. They know their success hinges on people. The ability to understand changing customer needs and behaviors is, of course, vital. But the real deciding factor in the era of intelligence will be a company’s ability to evolve its corporate culture to not only take advantage of emerging technologies, but also, critically, embrace the new business strategies that those technologies drive.

In this year’s Accenture Technology Vision, the overarching theme almost feels counter-intuitive. In a digital world, enterprises need to focus on enabling people—consumers, workers and ecosystem partners—to achieve more with technology. Taking advantage of technology to help people constantly adapt and learn, create new solutions, drive and manage relentless change, and disrupt the status quo is critical to compete, not only for the future, but more importantly today.

Building a competitive advantage into the digital world is where we focused our perspectives in this year’s Accenture Technology Vision for Oracle. With Oracle technologies, both on-premise and in the cloud, residing at the heart of so many of the world’s largest organizations, their contribution to achieving this ‘People First’ agenda is growing more important every day.
With this People First agenda in mind, we have again created our Technology Vision for Oracle to examine each of these five trends—Intelligent Automation, Liquid Workforce, Platform Economy, Predictable Disruption and Digital Trust—and how they're playing out in the Oracle world.

This chapter looks specifically at one of those trends, Intelligent Automation, in greater detail. Intelligent Automation describes the symbiotic relationship between technology and humans. But far from being a vision of the future, it's a relationship that's already enabling some enterprises to overpower the competition by creating a true source of differentiating potential.

We'll look at how the Oracle technology stack enables intelligent automation by seamlessly bringing together high performance on-premises infrastructure, software that's optimally tuned to work with that hardware and, of course, people. This combination enables new ways to collaborate with, and create value from, Oracle technology to achieve intelligent automation.
Technology Vision 2016 Trends: Reinventing the World Again and Again

Digital is now firmly embedded in every business. But even with technology as an integral part of the organization and its strategy, it is people who will underpin success in a world that continues to reinvent itself at an unprecedented rate.

This year’s Accenture Technology Vision highlights five emerging technology trends shaping this new landscape. Although each trend starts with technology, as you read you’ll see our ‘People First’ theme flows through each of them. Tomorrow’s leaders are taking these trends on board and executing strategies to secure their clear digital advantage.

**Trend 1: Intelligent Automation**

Intelligent automation is the launching pad for new growth and innovation. Powered by artificial intelligence (AI), the next wave of solutions will gather unprecedented amounts of data from disparate systems and—by weaving systems, data, and people together—create solutions that fundamentally change the organization, as well as what it does and how it does it.

**Trend 2: Liquid Workforce**

Companies are investing in the tools and technologies they need to keep pace with constant change in the digital era. But there is typically a critical factor that is falling behind: the workforce. Companies need more than the right technology; they need to harness that technology to enable the right people to do the right things in an adaptable, change-ready, and responsive liquid workforce.

**Trend 3: Platform Economy**

The next wave of disruptive innovation will arise from the technology-enabled, platform-driven ecosystems now taking shape across industries. Having strategically harnessed technology to produce digital businesses, leaders are now creating the adaptable, scalable, and interconnected platform economy that underpins success in an ecosystem-based digital economy.
Trend 4: Predictable Disruption

Every business now understands the transformational power of digital. What few, though, have grasped is quite how dramatic and ongoing the changes arising from new platform-based ecosystems will be. It’s not just business models that will be turned on their heads. As these ecosystems produce powerful, predictable disruption, whole industries and economic segments will be utterly redefined and reinvented.

Trend 5: Digital Trust

Pervasive new technologies raise potent new digital risk issues. Without trust, businesses cannot share and use the data that underpins their operations. That’s why the most advanced security systems today go well beyond establishing perimeter security and incorporate a powerful commitment to the highest ethical standards for data.

Winners will create corporate cultures where technology empowers people to evolve, adapt, and drive change.
The integration of man and machine is a long-running theme in science fiction. Super heroes like Iron Man, Batman and Captain America—all with no power of their own—find their strength in how they meld their human form with technology to create something far greater than the sum of its parts. It’s a compelling story, and testament in the fact that Oracle has chosen Iron Man to convey the power of its software and hardware portfolio.
The symbiotic relationship between technology and humans is also a key theme of this year’s Accenture Technology Vision. Far from being a vision of the future, however, it’s a relationship that’s already enabling some enterprises to overpower the competition.

They’re doing this by using intelligent automation and other breakthrough developments. It’s how this empowers people—first and foremost—that’s the true source of its differentiating potential.

So what do we mean by intelligent automation? It’s the crucial next step in automation, utilizing machine-powered insights internally or externally in combination with people to deliver unparalleled new discoveries and sources of value. Think of it as software that assimilates and analyzes massive amounts of data to arrive at automated decisions. These decisions, in turn, help people to radically improve their performance.

Oracle has a technology stack that can enable intelligent automation. From high performance on-premises infrastructure to software that’s optimally tuned to work with the hardware, it’s a perfectly choreographed tango between hardware and software. Additionally, in the cloud, is Oracle’s recent entry into Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS). This cloud service works cohesively with all levels of Oracle’s software stack, Platform as a Service (PaaS), Software as a Service (SaaS), or traditional Oracle enterprise software available through their marketplace. For example, this cloud-based capability is being leveraged at a financial services client using Oracle SaaS for financials, Oracle PaaS for custom extensions and applications, and Oracle IaaS for development and testing environments with their legacy Oracle E-Business Suite implementation.

Achieving all this is impossible without the right people architecting, building and enabling the technology. The Accenture Technology Vision 2016 takes “People First” as its focus and the Accenture Technology Vision for Oracle is perfectly aligned with this mantra. We know that people, in collaboration with Oracle technology, can create the ideal blend for intelligent automation.
That said, successful enterprises need to embrace intelligent automation; not just to take advantage of the breakneck pace of digital change, but also to build their own digital capabilities to help them compete. There’s no better illustration of this digital disruption than the finding that, since 2000, 52 percent of the companies in the Fortune 500 have gone bankrupt, been acquired, or have ceased to exist, due in large part to the disruption of traditional industry models by digital.2

Digital disruption is manifesting itself in many different ways in today’s marketplace. For Oracle, their clear focus on driving digital disruption is by way of their advances to cloud—SaaS, PaaS and IaaS. In Oracle’s PaaS Cloud offering, they have introduced new cloud services that help to create intelligent automation, not just for the Oracle stack of products, but also a considerable amount of non-Oracle software and vendor solutions that we discuss here, such as Hadoop, Symantec, Cisco and more.

Alongside these advancements, Accenture is providing solutions aligned to Oracle’s vision and strategy in this space. Before we discuss those, let’s understand what Oracle has built and offers around automation in the cloud. Oracle has embraced popular DevOps tools like Hudson, Maven, Git and others to assist in the build-out of automation. It offers features such as shared version control, one-step build and deploy, code reviews and integration across several Integrated Development Environments. Think of it as “Development as a Service” that helps deliver reusable automation and blueprints for the enterprise to enable agile approaches to IT development.

What’s special about all this is that these components can be treated like building blocks, which can be assembled, disassembled and reassembled in multiple configurations.

It’s the offerings from Oracle that Accenture’s Oracle practice—more than 52,000 people strong—are leveraging to find ways to automate repeatable tasks on the Oracle stack. We now have more than 350 artifacts across our library in the Accenture DevOps for Oracle catalog. This allows us to deliver Oracle solutions faster, with less effort and at a lower cost.
Accenture developers build new features for our clients’ Oracle enterprise systems every day and can automatically generate test environments that are a clone of the production environment. New features are added, and the code is reviewed and tested using our automated tools. If any defects are found, intelligent systems automatically create the defect and assign it back to the developer. Accenture’s Rapid Testing for Oracle offering enables enterprises to test only the functionality that is impacted by the new feature, further compressing time to market.

It’s what Accenture Systems Diagnostics for Oracle is already doing by providing intelligent diagnoses and recommending changes to Oracle applications based on analysis of the system and best approaches derived from various Accenture Oracle client configurations.

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Another powerful example of intelligent automation is our Accenture Foundation Platform for Oracle (AFPO), which is an accelerator that delivers development environments across more than 50 Oracle products, either on-premises or in the cloud. In many cases, efforts can be reduced from up to 30 weeks to just one day for the upfront implementation of these products in a pre-integrated and pre-tested fashion. AFPO’s automation was built to help reduce risk across deployments and deliver an architecture that’s now proven at more than 380 of the world’s leading companies.

For instance, a large manufacturing company stood up AFPO with more than 20 Oracle products in less than 20 hours, breaking the company record for the fastest stand-up in its history—which is pretty impressive for a company that’s been around for more than 100 years. AFPO paved the way for this client’s security testing, which is a process in which the developers are given days to prove out technologies in an agile manner. It has changed the decision-making process regarding what products to procure.

It’s clear that intelligent automation is a critical development that is becoming more central to how companies operate and how digital disruption affects their own industry as well as others. As the Accenture Technology Vision report states, artificial intelligence (AI) start-ups in the US alone have increased 20-fold in the past four years. And 70 percent of corporate executives have said they are making significantly more investments in AI-related technologies than they were two years ago.

This is no surprise. By 2020, there will be more than 44 zettabytes of data, 35 percent of which will be considered useful for analysis. And with decreasing storage and virtually unlimited computing power the drive to intelligent automation can only accelerate.
Looking ahead

Accenture and Oracle are working at the sharp edge of developments in this field. Last year, Accenture developed the “Connected Hotel Worker” solution that uses intelligent automation to improve a company's ability to deliver quality hospitality services, providing a stream of information via sensors and wearables. It utilizes the complete Oracle platform, combining Oracle Internet of Things Cloud Service, Oracle Mobile Cloud Service, and Oracle Business Intelligence Cloud Service, which is integrated with the Accenture Hospitality Suite. The solution is accelerated by AFPO which acts as an integration hub for the various cloud services. Because of the automation provided, this solution was powered up in just a few short weeks.

In the spirit of automation, this framework will be expanded to address other industry scenarios. For example, imagine how an “Intelligent Connected Hospital Worker” solution could revolutionize the healthcare industry. It’s a complicated piece of functionality, but as intelligent automation progresses, it will soon be possible to implement these new kinds of solutions much faster, with the agility we’ve come to expect from Internet start-ups.

In much the same way that our smartphones are now seamlessly integrated with our daily lives, our vision is for our customers to enjoy the same seamless experience in how they build and use applications. That makes sense. The new workplace generation of millennials will increasingly see automation as a given, rather than a novelty. Employers will have to be able to meet those expectations. So where does that leave us? Success will hinge on assessing how fast your organization is able to release new products and services, considering that the target is now weeks or even days rather than months. Additionally, organizations should strongly consider making DevOps processes the standard for delivering new IT features. All this will empower the creation of new products and services on a scale that was previously unfeasible. As Iron Man Tony Stark might say...get ready. It's not coming. It's here.
The views and opinions expressed in this document are meant to stimulate thought and discussion. As each business has unique requirements and objectives, these ideas should not be viewed as professional advice with respect to your business.

Accenture Technology Vision 2015

2 Accenture Technology Vision 2015
5 http://www.jcmit.com/diskprice.htm
6 http://www.idc.com/getdoc.jsp?containerId=prUS25797415

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