

# HOT TREND: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AUTOMATION

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## Agenda

**Accounts Payable Goals** 

**Accounts Payable Challenges** 

How A/P Automation Works

A/P Automation Savings

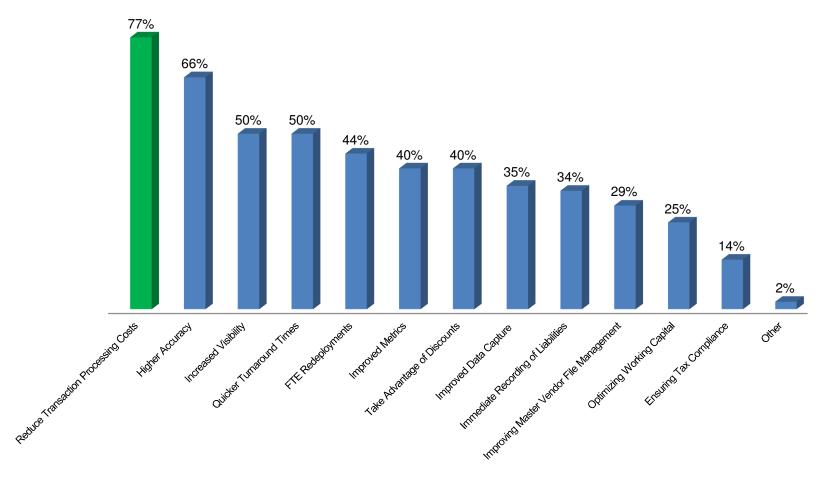
The Cost of Doing Nothing

**Action Plan** 

**Evaluating Different Providers** 

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AUTOMATION

## Goal: Reduce Costs

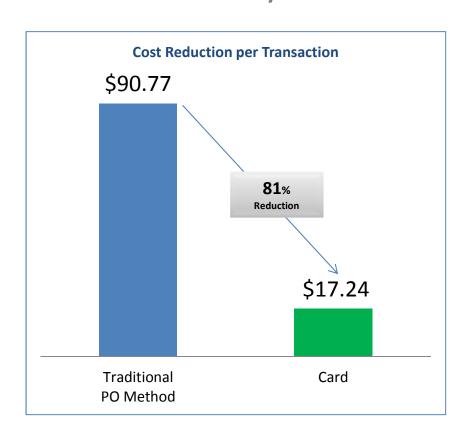


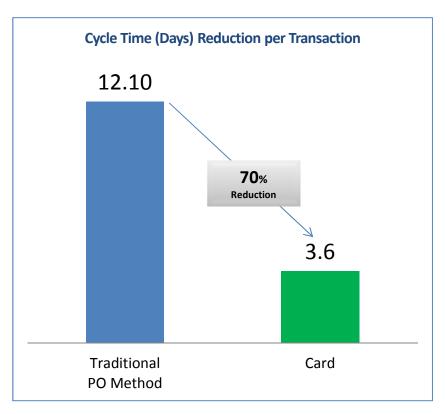
Source: 2013 A/P Automation Study by Institute of Financial Operations



## 4

## Goal: Reduce Cycle Time



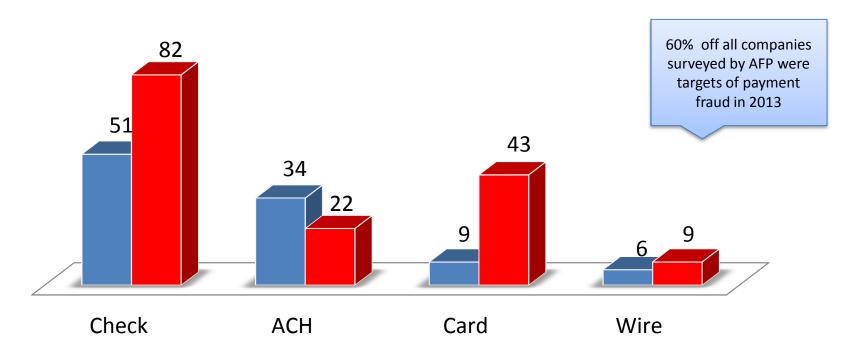


Sources: 2012 Purchasing Card Benchmark Survey by RPMG Research Corporation



## Goal: Lower Risk of Payment Fraud

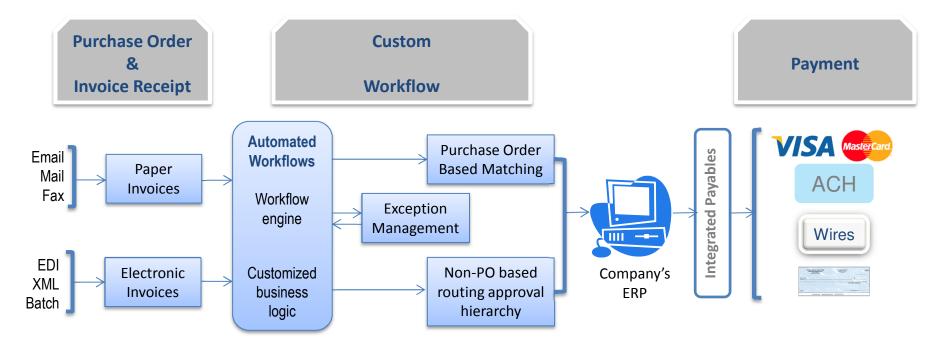




Sources: 2014 AFP Payments Fraud and Control Survey by Association of Financial Professions (AFP) and 2013 AP Automation Study by Institute of Financial Operations



Goal: Fully Automate Process from Invoice to Payment





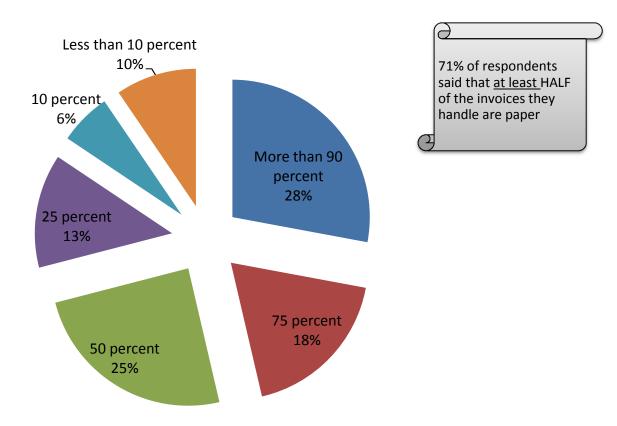






## Accounts Payable Challenges

## Challenge: Paper Dominates in A/P



What percentage of your total invoice volume is paper-based?



## Accounts Payable Challenges





This is a sample representation of how an A/P Automation system would typically work. There are variances between provider systems.



Supplier sends invoice either in paper or electronic format

2



Paper documents prepped and scanned



Data elements captured, indexed and enriched

3



Invoice data is validated against specific rules and purchase order and/or receiving data as applicable

4



Invoice images and data are electronically routed to the appropriate contacts based on customized workflow queues. In some systems, this only applies to exception items.

5



Approved invoices are sent to the ERP system for payment processing, which sends payment instructions to Integrated Payables (card, ACH, wire, check)







## SWEET SMARTS, LTD

INVOICE

BBVA Compass 15 20th St S Birmingham, AL 35233 (866) 488-1858 Customer ID [BBVAC2014]

15 20th St S Birmingham, AL 35233 (866) 488-1858 Customer ID [BBVAC2014]

170923 Invoice Date 9/25/2014 Customer ID KB011

DATE	YOUR ORDER #	OUR ORDER #	SALES REP.	F.O.B.	SHIP VIA	TERMS	TAX ID
9/25/14	876563	874570	Dulce	SSLTD	UPS	20/10	5v7896

QTY	ITEM	UNITS	DESCRIPTION	DISCOUNT %	TAXABLE	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
240	36730	3	Tasty Globules		\$0.25	\$60.00	
555	98246	7	Munchable Units	-	-	\$0.20	\$111.00
910	47428	3	Sugary Devices	-	-	\$0.10	\$91.00
						Subtotal	\$262.00
						Tax	\$23.58
						Shipping	\$24.57
						Manufference	

Please return the portion below with your payment.

BALANCE DUE

#### REMITTANCE

	Invoice #	
	Customer ID	
	Date	
	Amount Enclosed	



(705) 555-0125 (705) 555-0126 E-MAIL chewy@sweetsmarts.com

#### Key data elements

- 1. Vendor Name
- 2. Vendor Number
- 3. Invoice/Account Number
- 4. Amount
- 5. Tax
- 6. Freight
- 7. Gross Amount

### **Purchase Order Matching**

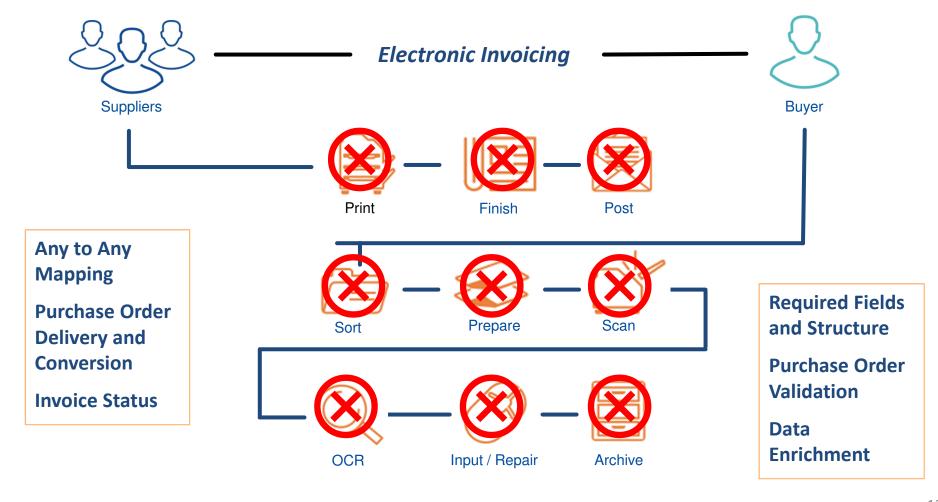
- 1. Valid PO # (Validation file)
- 2. Line Item Detail
- 3. Matching (Quantity, Price, Receipt)

#### Reference Matching

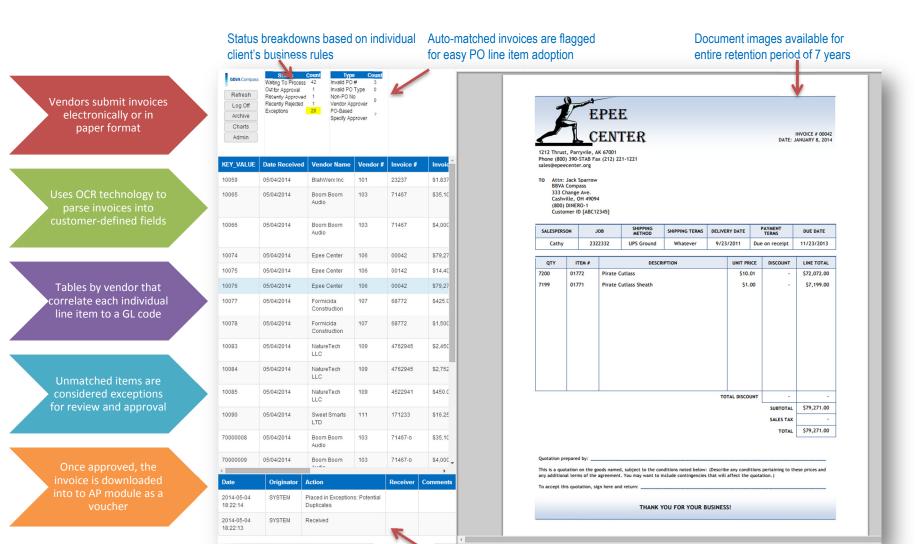
- 1. Validate data to initiate workflow
  - a. Name
  - b. Zip Code
  - c. Division
- 2. General Ledger Coding by Chart Field
  - a. Company
  - b. Department / Cost Center
  - c. Account
  - d. Additional (Property, Tenants, etc)





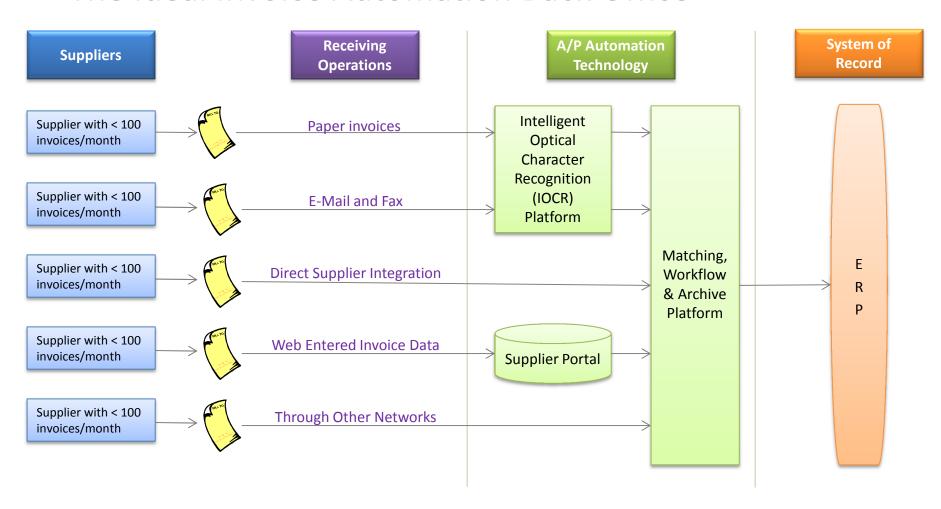








## The Ideal Invoice Automation Back Office









## ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (A/P) DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Metrics	Best in Class (20%)	Average (33%)	All Others (47%)	Notes
Cost per Invoice	less than \$6.00	\$14.21	\$17.61	Fully loaded cost includes sorting the mail, routing invoices to the correct approver, researching accounts for general ledger distribution, identifying duplicate invoices, entering invoice details to ERP system and a myriad of other tasks to process invoices plus document storage.
Invoices Processed per Employee (per month)	4,814	2,308	1,408	In a manual A/P environment, teams spend time repeatedly resolving exceptions from the same sources instead of eliminating them.
Invoice Processing Cycle Time	3.7 days	12.4 days	17.1 days	Measured from the time of invoice receipt to payment generated.
Invoice Exception Rate	8.0%	13.1%	16.4%	Even a small reduction in the invoice exception rate has a substantial impact in productivity.
Total Percentage of Invoices Processed Using Straight- through Processing (STP)	50.3%	27.0%	12.3%	STP refers to "touchless processing" wherein purchase order (PO) based invoices match all of the preconfigured business rules and can be processed without any human intervention and scheduled for payment.

Survey Demographics: 192 A/P Professionals represented as follows: 56% Large (revenue > \$1 billion); 22% Middle Market (revenue between \$250 million and \$1 billion); 22% Small (revenue < \$250 million) Source: Ardent Partners, ePayables 2014: The Quest, published May 2014



17

\$4.00

\$5.33

# Per invoice fee includes scanning of invoices in color, indexing of key fields, customized and automated workflow, electronic alerts, online presentment, image archive of invoices, 7-to-10 year online storage, image downloads, business intelligence reporting, receiving system interface, purchase order system interface and accounting/ERP system interface. Internal Review Cost (per invoice) \$1.33 Systems that include 3-way matching, GL distribution, duplicate detection and approval routing mean that, on average, 50% of invoices require no human

All-in Automated Invoice Processing Cost (per invoice)

intervention, and the rest take 9 minutes or less of employees' time

\$14.23 per hour + 25% in benefits = \$17.79

Total Cost per Invoice

Payscale.com estimates that an Accounts Payable Clerk earns an average wage of



Invoices per Month 700

Invoices per Year 8,400

	Invoice Automation	Average	All Others
Cost per invoice	\$5.33	\$14.21	\$17.61
Annual Cost	\$44,772	\$119,364	\$147,924
Invoice Automation Savings		\$74,592	\$103,152



# The Cost of Doing Nothing

#### **Lost Invoices**

- Vendor stoppages
- Poor vendor relations
- Negotiation issues

### **Data Inaccuracies**

• Manual data entry errors

## **Problem Resolution**

- Time spent on responding to vendor calls
- Time spent on low-value tasks

## **Slow Payment Process**

- Same problems as lost invoices
- Missed discounts

## **Routing Paper Invoices**

- Costs of Moving Paper
- Inefficiencies (time lost)

## **Handling Paper**

Costs of filing, pulling & searching files

## Approvals & Purchasing Control

- Purchase orders created after receipt of invoice
- Circumventing controls



## Action Plan



- Document Existing Process, Cycle Times & Associated Costs
- Evaluate Opportunities for Improvement
- Gather Budgetary Numbers for Potential Solutions
- 5 Document a Business Case
- 6 Line Up Resources
- Gain Approval and Move Forward



## **Evaluating Different Providers**





Optical Character Recognition (OCR)

- Template driven or Intelligent learn-byexample
- Line item capture or Header and footer data only
- Scanning responsibility



# Workflow

- Predefined process or configurable to different company processes
- Three or four way matching with PO, Receiving and **GL** applications
- Security, audit logs and user access
- Disaster recovery and failover backups
- Flexibility to handle future changes and growth



- Integration to existing ERP and other systems
- Document Image retention and retrieval
- Integration, Searching & • Full-text contextual search capabilities
  - Intelligent business reporting or need for 3rd party reporting tools



& Implementation

Pricing

- All-in per item fee vs Nickleand-Dime approach
- Implementation / One-time fees
- Custom programming
- Equipment scanners, post office boxes, etc



## Summary

Shifting Landscape of A/P: Doing More with Less

Paper Still a Major Issue

Digitally Automate Business Processes in AP

Path to Automated Payment Processing

Reduce Costs & Strengthen Fraud Control Measures

