

How to Connect Your Supply Chain to Succeed in an Increasingly Complex Environment

A connected supply chain gives manufacturers, supply chain and logistics partners, and customers visibility into shared real-time data across the end-to-end supply chain. This visibility promotes collaboration for faster, unified responses to rapidly changing markets and supply chain disruptions, and helps better manage and control complexity and risks.

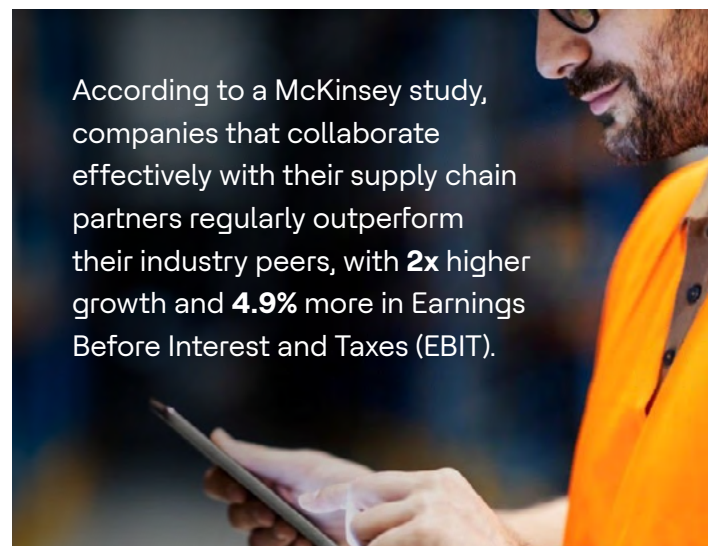
How do you build a connected supply chain? To get started, you'll need:

- The right cloud data platform
- Data integration across all your supply chain functions
- More real-time data sources and REAL real-time data analytics
- Better user access in the context of work
- Governance techniques to protect your data.

Deploy a Cloud Data Platform

There's no getting around it. You're going to need to deploy a cloud data platform to share data and collaborate with partners and customers. In fact, this should be your first step. The cloud makes it easier to facilitate connectivity among locations spread across the world, which in turn empowers more users to derive business value from supply chain data. In addition, cloud elasticity provides the ability to grow or shrink CPU, memory, and storage resources to adapt to the changing demands of an organization. Operating in the cloud improves scalability and performance and removes capacity constraints for dynamic supply chain workloads.

Your cloud data platform should provide flexibility with a deploy-anywhere architecture. For example, you can eliminate vendor lock-in with a cloud platform that provides hybrid and multi-cloud deployment options, and gain greater control of sensitive data with on-premises support.



According to a McKinsey study, companies that collaborate effectively with their supply chain partners regularly outperform their industry peers, with **2x** higher growth and **4.9%** more in Earnings Before Interest and Taxes (EBIT).

Break Down Silos

It's important to break down data silos because they can slow down productivity, hinder business agility, and paint incorrect or incomplete pictures of supply chain events. Integrating data silos with your cloud data platform is the most straightforward way to break them down and realize new value from your data. You should look for solutions that support batch integration, real-time streaming data, and enforce data quality standards. While it's not a necessity that your cloud data platform includes data integration and data quality capabilities, you'll have greater costs and complexity when sourcing these from multiple vendors.

Our Actian Data Platform delivers advanced capabilities, including enterprise-proven data integration, data management, and data analytics services in a trusted and flexible platform.

The Actian platform makes it easy to:

- Integrate and analyze massive amounts of supply chain data from disparate sources and in different formats
- Unify, transform, and orchestrate your data pipelines
- Embed data in applications
- Foster collaboration between employees and suppliers, while ensuring data security, privacy, and governance
- Improve speed and flexibility with a deploy-anywhere architecture
- Scale analytics and optimize price performance with a cloud-native solution

Leverage Real-Time Data and REAL Real-Time Analytics

A connected supply chain is one that provides access to real-time data. Data from Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled devices, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) and Point-of-Sale (POS) systems can provide current insights into production capacity, inventory levels, shipments, customer demand, and more. You should evaluate your technologies on their ability to deliver REAL-real-time analytics, including ingesting all this real-time data quickly and consistently, while executing ultra-fast queries to inform decisions at the moment.

Surface Analytics at the Right Time and in the Right Place

Embedded analytics refers to the integration of data analysis and visualization capabilities directly into an application so that users can access and interact with data in the context of their work. Opportunities include Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Customer Relationship Management (CRM), Material Requirements Planning (MRP), and Supply Chain Management (SCM) software. Embedding analytics into these kinds of applications can lead to more efficient and effective decision-making, as well as increased productivity. Embedded analytics can also help organizations derive more value from their supply chain data by making it more accessible to a larger number of users.

Democratize Data While Protecting Privacy

You need to share data and make it easy for everyone in the organization to access and make your supply chain more agile, resilient, and sustainable. But how do you democratize supply chain data while protecting privacy, complying with regulations, and ensuring ethical use? Simple encryption is not enough. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and many other privacy regulations mandate that an organization strikes a balance between identity protection and usefulness for the business user. New data governance techniques, such as column-level and record-level protection and dynamic masking, have emerged that can help your organization meet these requirements. Make sure your cloud data platform supports these techniques.

About Actian

Actian makes data easy. We deliver cloud and on-premises data solutions that simplify how people connect, manage, and analyze data. We transform business by enabling customers to make confident, data-driven decisions that accelerate their organization's growth. Our data platform integrates seamlessly, performs reliably, and delivers at industry-leading speeds. Learn more about Actian, a division of HCLSoftware: www.actian.com.

