Manufacturers face barriers that interfere with their pursuits of improving customer satisfaction, growing market share and become more efficient in operations and supply chains. Everchanging customer and regulatory requirements, emerging business models, trade complexity and an active merger and acquisition environment contribute to the fact that change is the one constant in manufacturing.

In addition to needing to respond to change, given the ongoing digitization of manufacturing, companies must constantly work to avoid commoditization. It is increasingly difficult to remain differentiated. To complicate matters, the evolution of advanced technologies puts manufacturers under pressure to keep up or fall behind.

All these forces impact manufacturers on many fronts, including hiring, training, dealing with new technologies, restructuring, adding and divesting sites, distribution, meeting customer requirements and managing complex supply chains. Manufacturers still look to ERP and related supply chain solutions for a system-of-record, but increasingly also need such solutions to help address change.

For example, an ERP with a brittle user experience and outdated architecture makes it difficult for the manufacturer to update business processes, meet user preferences and adopt advanced technologies. Manufacturers looking for agility to better execute on their strategy need ERP that adapts and extends quickly and provides decision-makers actionable insights. A flexible ERP supports a manufacturer's specific requirements that contribute to differentiation.

How can a manufacturer future proof an ERP's user experience, business processes and analytic insight to help respond rapidly to a shifting business environment? What ensures that ERP and related solutions meet a manufacturer's evolving requirements without creating rigidity in the system?

BENEFITS

The QAD Enterprise Platform provides manufacturers the means to adapt QAD Cloud ERP to meet changing business and user requirements. Based on a modern microservices architecture, QAD Enterprise Platform makes it easy to extend, add or modify functionality, data and processes. It simplifies upgrading and the adoption of advanced technologies. It provides QAD Cloud ERP the core capabilities to help manufacturers digitize their operations, customer experiences and supply chains.

- **Enhance user productivity** by providing personalization that addresses changing roles, user preferences and workforces

- **Gain share and reduce costs** by quickly adopting advanced technologies in a business context, supporting digital transformation

- Gain **real-time business insight** for better decision making and key performance measurement with embedded analytics and sophisticated KPI tools

- **Meet manufacturer-specific business requirements by quickly extending applications** to help meet changing business priorities, processes and data needs

- **Respond to new business opportunities and requests for deeper insight** by easily adding apps using a dependable low/no code development environment

- **Improve efficiency and customer responsiveness** by upgrading to new versions quickly and flexibly due to modern RESTful APIs that buffer extensions and other apps from the impact of upgrades

PLATFORM FOUNDATION SERVICES AND CORE MODEL

The **QAD Enterprise Platform** includes a set of layered services, referred to as Foundation Services and Core Model, that span the considerable needs of a modern web-based and mobile ERP and supply chain solution for manufacturing users, developers, managers and value chain partners.
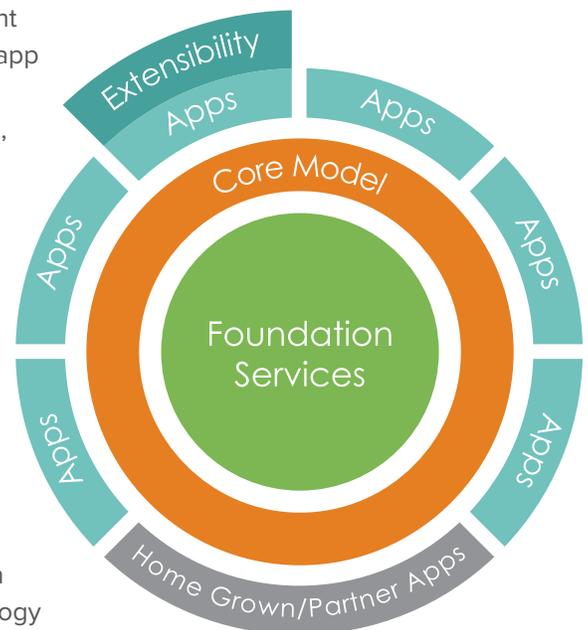
Foundation Services: Provides a comprehensive set of services for infrastructure management, platform management and application development than ensure reliability, availability, security and ease-of-use.

- **Infrastructure Management** handles configurations and related capabilities across deployments and network management. It provides services for infrastructure provisioning and disaster recovery. It ensures that apps can be developed, deployed and run without regard for the underlying infrastructure.

- **Platform Management** simplifies application lifecycle management associated with apps that run on the QAD Enterprise Platform. It includes tools that help with the development, deployment, management and promotion of apps from one system or instance to another. This includes a web-based integrated development environment (IDE) for building apps and tools for automated testing and code management. It also includes tools to build and manage development forums and documentation.

- **Platform Services** provide development/deployment technology services for app development, including User Experience, Mobile, Security, Integration, API Management, Analytics, Data Query, Browse, Globalization, Collaboration and Event/Task Scheduling. By centralizing Platform Services, apps across the platform deliver a consistent user experience and can leverage the full technology capabilities that underpin QAD Cloud ERP. Enhancements to Platform Services are instantly available for use by all apps

Core Model builds on the concept of Foundation Services by providing higher level sharable business components related to master data. Core Model provides the ability to seamlessly blend and share information across the platform, effectively delivering one version of the truth while reducing the number of data integrations. Services provided by Core Model include: Domain Entity, Address, Customer/Supplier, Attributes, Chart of Accounts, Calendar, Currency and Exchange Rates, Daybook, Item and Site, Codes and Global Tax Management.

RAPID RESPONSE TECHNOLOGIES

QAD Enterprise Platform, applying Foundation Services and Core Model, provides users and developers 5 technologies that support a rapid response to change.

- **Personalization:** Supports self-service modification of a user's or role's screens and attributes using a simple graphical point and click interface

- **Embedded analytics:** Delivers insight in the context of business processes to decision-makers who can rapidly create and modify analytics, reports, KPIs and dashboards; includes custom alerts for notification of out of tolerance events

- **Extensibility:** Makes it simple to add or modify functions and data without rewriting the entire app and without interfering with future upgrades

- **New apps:** Easily and quickly create new apps that deliver additional functionality without adding to system rigidity, using no or low-code development tools

- **Modularization:** Allows customers to select the areas of QAD Cloud ERP they want to upgrade – without needing to upgrade the entire application and without being impacted by extensions and new apps built on the QAD Enterprise Platform

The rapid response technologies of the QAD Enterprise Platform are designed to efficiently and effectively meet the changing requirements of manufacturers.

They allow manufactures to maximize the return on their ERP investment by achieving betters levels of fit to required business processes, ensuring improved operational, management and strategy alignment now and into the future.

For more information on how QAD Enterprise Platform can help your company, please contact your account representative or call QAD at +1-805-566-6100 or email info@qad.com.