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Digitising the Supply Chain:

How to Transition from Manual Process to Digital Efficiency





\ Introduction

Rising shipping costs¹ and increased consumer expectations are challenging the logistics industry in new ways.

Many Australian businesses are looking for innovative ways to address supply chain shortages while striving to match rising customer demands. As a result, operators are transitioning their manual processes to digital platforms, thanks to the compatibility of today's hardware and software solutions.

By taking advantage of internet-enabled devices, this evolving technology allows businesses to automate their mission-critical workflows in new and exciting ways.

Keeping warehouse management systems up to date and deploying the latest digital solutions can improve the productivity of your workforce. This eBook will examine how your business can take advantage of connected solutions and streamline supply chain management processes.

¹iContainers.com, [Ship container to Australia \[March 2022\] | iContainers](https://www.icontainers.com/ship-container/Australia), Retrieved from www.icontainers.com/ship-container/Australia

\ The ESG and compliance challenges of outdated management systems

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)² compliance is of paramount importance to Australian businesses today. ESG regulations ensure your organisation is in line with environmental standards³ and societal expectations regarding a reduced carbon footprint.

Monitoring ESG compliance requires a management process that places a focus on transparency and efficiency across the supply chain. Non-compliance may result in heavy fines as well as damage to brand reputation, which is why business operators rely on end-to-end visibility. That's where a Brother [Software Development Kit](#) (SDK) can assist, by allowing connected label printers and portable printers like the [RJ-3250WB](#) to help tell the story of your business.

From handheld print devices in the field that provide paper copies of manifests and work orders to labellers that help track delivery, your organisation relies on communication across multiple platforms.

Deploying a Brother SDK allows your existing software applications and systems to effortlessly integrate with the devices that keep your business moving.

Deploying devices in the field that increase the efficiency of your business processes is only part of the solution. You need to ensure that they can communicate with your software architecture, in order to guarantee that there are no gaps or vulnerabilities in your supply chain. Updating to a digital inventory management system with remote device connectivity means you're updated on occurrences like missed deliveries in real-time.

Brother SDKs enable connected devices like the [TJ-4522TN Industrial Label Printer](#) to seamlessly integrate with your existing software, filling any potential gaps between hardware and software applications.

²PwC, "Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)," Retrieved from [Environment, Social and Governance \(ESG\) | PwC Australia](#)

³Johnson, Winter & Slattery, "ESG and Australia's consumer & competition laws," Retrieved from [ESG and Australia's consumer & competition laws - Johnson Winter & Slattery \(jws.com.au\)](#)



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\ The cost of doing business

Your print infrastructure could be responsible for many hidden costs.

Increased administrative time and the resources deployed to handle large amounts of manual data entry can impact your operational costs over the financial year.

Automating manual data entry can reduce the potential for human error, and speed up many of your important business processes. A faster-served customer is a happier customer – taking advantage of today's digital solutions is one way you can work towards improving brand loyalty.

[Brother scanners](#) that connect to Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software can increase the productivity of your workforce and reduce the errors associated with human data entry processes.

Desktop scanners like the [ADS-3300W](#) can digitise large volumes of data effortlessly and without error. Once digitised, users are able to search and store documents with ease.

From the floor to the field, [portable document scanners](#) equip your warehouse staff and delivery personnel with the ability to effortlessly communicate critical product status changes to your connected software management systems, so that you're always able to monitor your digital workflows.





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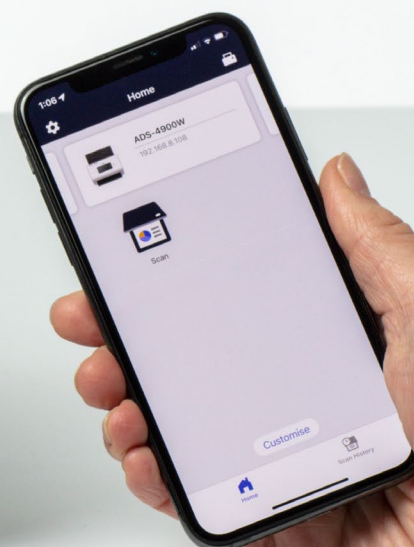
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Basic 1

Basic 2

Custom 1

Custom 2



\ The digital difference

Companies switching to a digital management system enjoy a 25% increase in productivity.⁴

Disruptions caused by the global pandemic have forced the logistics industry to adopt agile and innovative technology that helps businesses keep up with demand. Record-high shipping costs, combined with a substantial increase in the number of channels business operators are selling on, have forced organisations to streamline and consolidate their operational infrastructure and seek new ways of meeting consumer demand.

For many, this means embracing an increasingly online-based consumer model and adopting a digital platform to match.

Brother [document management solutions](#) offer document and content systems that streamline the scanning, managing and sharing of your digital records. By taking your business to the cloud, you'll optimise your freight pick-up, tracking and

delivery systems, equipping your workforce with real-time updates and inventory management capabilities. You'll simplify risk management with increased transparency regarding insurance claims, lost freight and accident reporting.

Your document and content management solution will create a digital workflow that streamlines the scanning, managing and sharing of your mission-critical documents.



⁴Shopify, [The Future of Commerce: Industry Report \(2022\) | Shopify](#), Retrieved from [Shopify.com/resarch/future-of-commerce](#)



\ Automated logistics

Your business deserves end-to-end visibility for the entirety of your supply chain management needs. The deployment of a cloud-based system provides oversight into every aspect of your operations and embraces mobile-friendly technologies that can enrich the productivity of your remote workforce.

Brother's P-touch series of [mobile label printers](#) can equip your workforce with on-the-go solutions that enforce the transparency of your supply chain. As a business operator, you're always concerned about the dependability of the tools that your personnel utilise to communicate with your software programs. After all, extreme weather, label damage and a host of other mishaps could damage the ability to scan a label and update your inventory management counts.

Thanks to the dependability of labels printed from Brother devices like the [Professional Desktop Label Printer PT-P950NW](#) on resilient [TZe tape](#), your [water-resistant](#) barcode and QR codes can endure up to 30% label destruction before losing the ability to be scanned with a single attempt.

Portable printers like the Brother [RJ-4250WB](#) provide your warehouse and delivery staff with the ability to print work orders, shipping manifests or delivery instructions from anywhere across the supply chain. By equipping your personnel with mobile devices that connect to your network infrastructure, you'll guarantee your staff are up to date on the changes, pivots and additional tasks that are bound to emerge along the way.

A connected platform that communicates with devices in the field promotes unbroken workflows and arms your personnel with the latest mobile-friendly technologies.



\ Boost sustainability efforts with a digital management system

A digital management platform allows your organisation to reduce its carbon footprint and increase operational efficiency at the same time.

Statistics show that Australian consumers respond favourably to sustainability efforts, and will gravitate towards more eco-friendly brands. An increased commitment to environmentally-responsible business practices can positively impact brand loyalty in a competitive market.

By digitising old paper-based workflows and manual data entry processes, your business can increase efficiency while contributing to the circular economy. 41% of APAC decision-makers have set a carbon-neutral date², solidifying the new standard for future sustainable business practices.

Aside from keeping pace with environmentally-conscious industry leaders, there are significant cost reductions associated with adopting a digital platform.

Work captured by mobile scanners and other digital touch-screen input devices are instantly transferred to the cloud, reducing paper consumption and preventing loss of data in the event of equipment damage or loss.



⁵Eco-business.com, [Australian consumers care more about environmental than social issues — and will pay more for green brands](#) | News | Eco-Business | Asia Pacific

⁶Brother.com, [Achieving Sustainability in the Workplace in 2022](#), Retrieved from <https://empowers.brother.com.au/2022/06/09/achieving-sustainability-in-the-workplace-in-2022>





\ The enhanced security of a digital management system

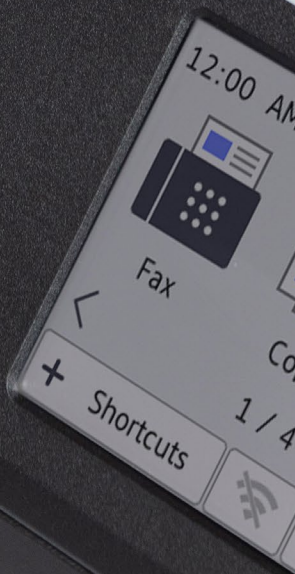
The [secure print](#) password authentication and [cloud encryption](#) capabilities on today's print hardware prevent unauthorised access to your confidential data.

Brother [Multi-Function Centres](#) (MFCs) equipped with near-field communication (NFC) technology bring security measures to connected mobile devices. With models like the [MFC-J6940DW](#), users who want to print from Brother software applications can do so simply by standing in proximity to an NFC-enabled printer.

The devices will authenticate and authorise one another effortlessly within a few seconds, allowing your workforce to easily task their print jobs to the resources responsible for delivering high-quality print documents.

These features minimise the risk of critical records, receipts or invoices lying in paper trays where they could be viewed or misplaced before the authorised user arrives to collect them.

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\ Partnering in a digital future

Teaming with Brother to deploy a digital-first architecture can optimise your supply chain workflows.

By deploying connected mobile devices, you'll equip your staff with instant access to the scanned documents and data necessary to maintain the end-to-end visibility your business processes depend on.

Coupling these hardware devices with your existing software resources can transform your digital strategy overnight, giving your business a competitive edge.

To learn more about how Brother can help your business transition from outdated manual processes to digital workflows, visit our [logistics solutions](#) page.

When you're ready to begin future-proofing your operations, [contact Brother](#) to discuss how we can assist your digital transformation strategy by providing print, scan and label solutions. We'll align a deployment plan that improves traceability and transparency across the supply chain and drive strategies that enhance your sustainability efforts in order to bring out the best in your business.



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