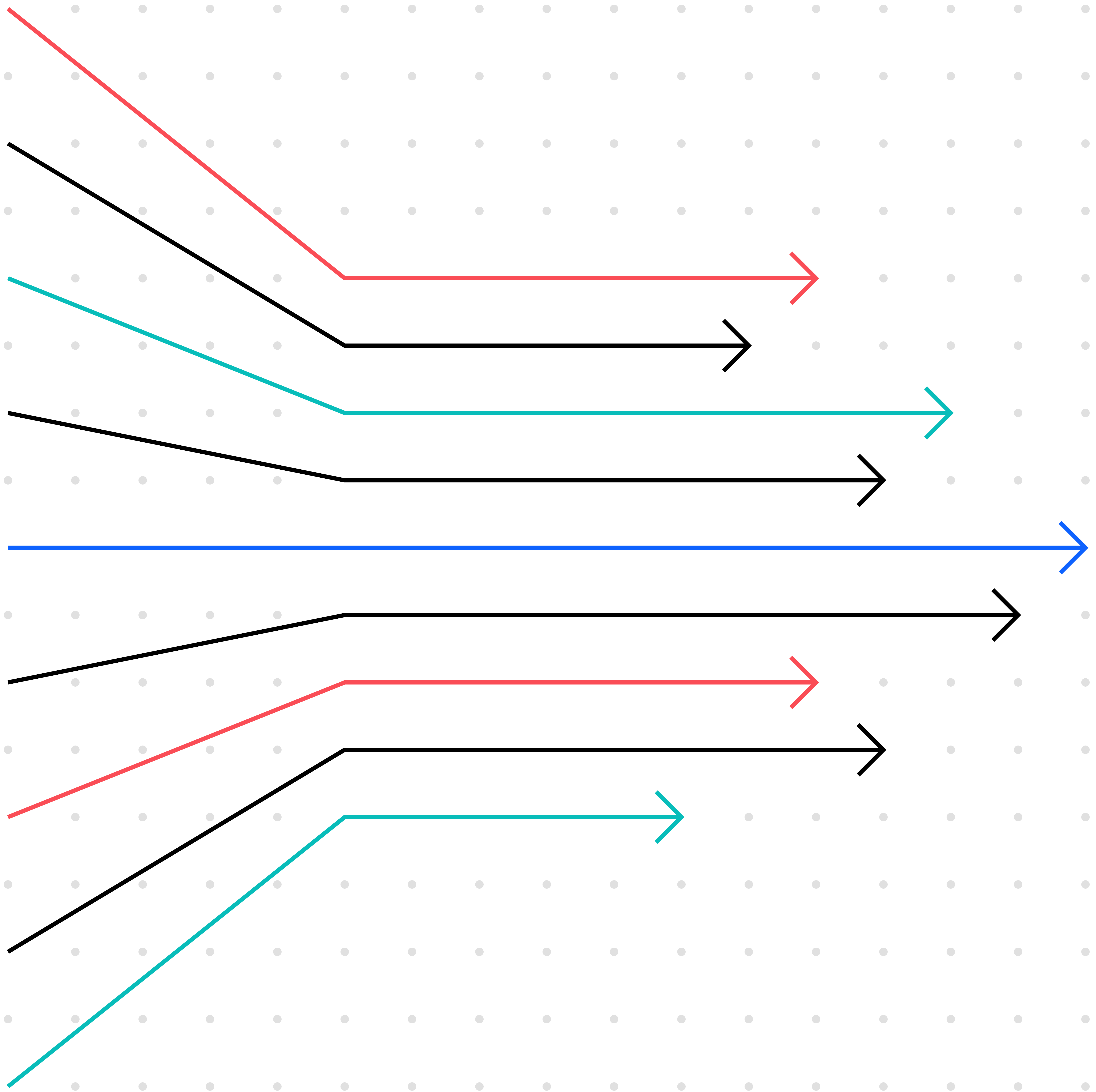
IBM **Accelalpha**

Making digital transformation work for your business

Challenges and solutions for a successful implementation



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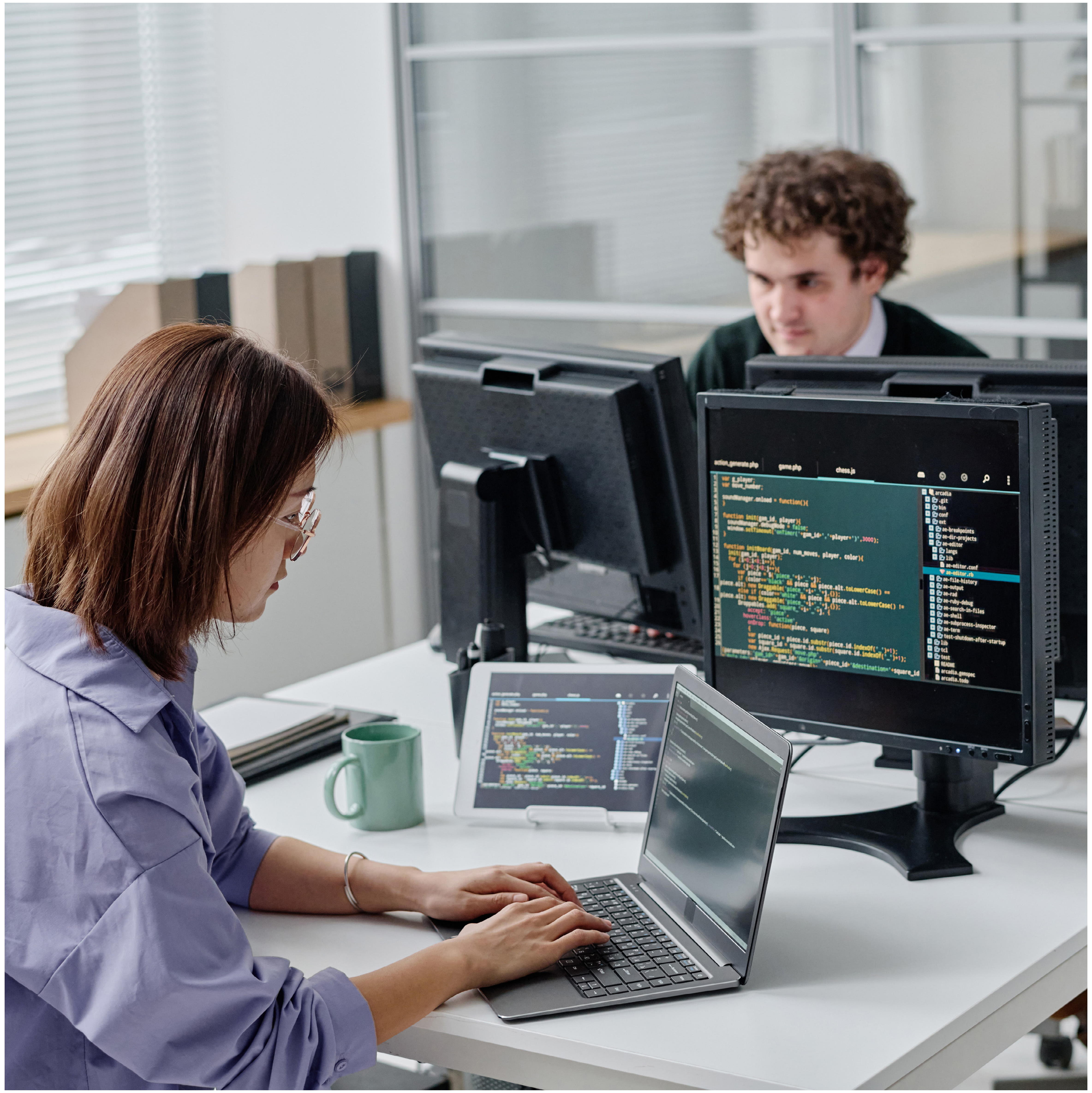
Introduction

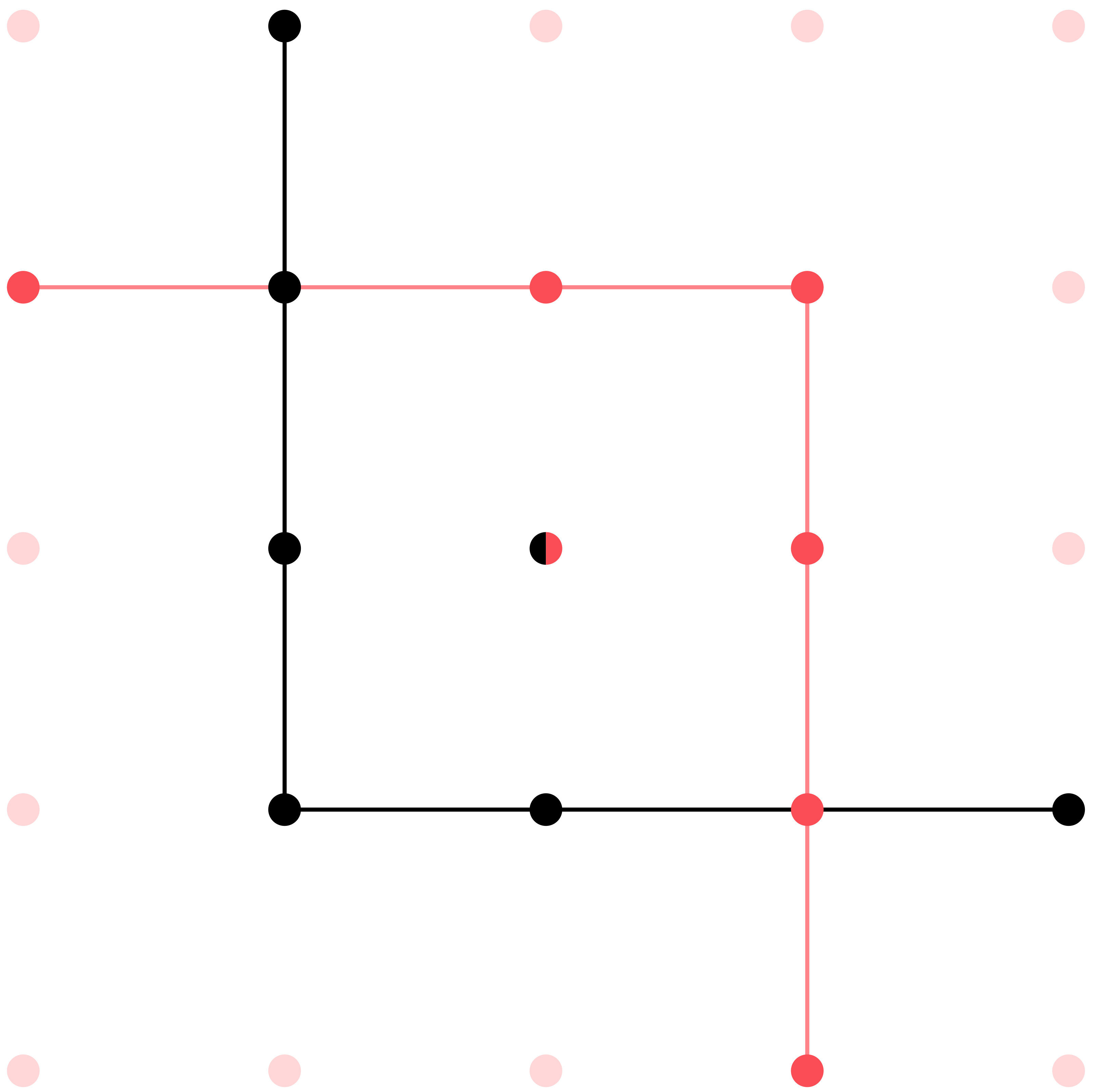
Digital transformation has evolved to help organizations improve results with tools that streamline processes and enhance customer experiences. The release of Oracle Cloud Applications has brought the ability to handle, analyze and process massive data sets. Oracle Cloud Applications give organizations a single source of truth to improve business operations with greater agility. The result: more capabilities, better outcomes, time and cost savings, higher productivity, and automation of previously manual tasks.

In this ebook, we'll explore the most common challenges modern organizations face, how those issues drive the need for digital transformation, and the three recommended approaches that can deliver measurable benefits for your business.



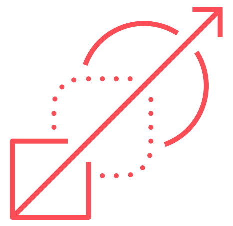
01

Identifying the business problems



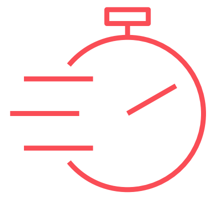
Digital transformation goes beyond simply moving to the cloud—it's about reshaping your business by adopting the right technologies to drive growth and resilience. Today, cloud migration has become essential for organizations across both the public and private sectors that want to increase efficiency.

The journey begins with clarity: identifying the business challenges that must be solved. Every organization's needs and goals are different, and the implementation approach must align with those priorities.



M&As and technical debt

One significant challenge that continues to push organizations toward digital transformation is when an organization has grown through mergers or acquisitions. This usually results in a jumble of software and hardware from the combination of several organizations' resources. These growing companies often have dozens of applications they attempt to work with daily, resulting in disparate systems and conflicting data that is often inaccurate.



Side effects of an outdated ERP

Frequently, organizations continue operating with outdated enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems until they realize they are holding them back and draining the organization of valuable time and resources on disconnected applications. This situation often requires a big-bang approach with a complete digital transformation. Often, however, many organizations only do the minimum necessary to keep operations functioning with a more piecemeal approach to implementation.

On-premises systems pose a threat to growth

The reality is that on-premises systems were not built to support an organization's growth at scale. A company that decides to stay on an outdated system might not realize that it threatens the company's ability to grow. For instance, many organizations have grown rapidly and then quickly discovered that their existing applications and processes couldn't keep up.

For organizations that have experienced tremendous growth and seek a holistic solution to scale with them, digital transformation delivered by migration to Oracle Cloud Applications is the only solution worth pursuing and investing in.

3 approaches to digital transformation

Depending on your organization's needs and goals, there are three ways to approach your digital transformation:

01

If the organization has a stable on-premises system, such as Oracle E-Business Suite (EBS), it can implement one cloud application at a time, taking a **hybrid and graduated approach** to cloud migration.

02

Organizations with an unstable system reaching its end of life or being stretched to its limits should consider a **big-bang approach** to digital transformation. While it will ultimately take longer to complete the implementation, there are significant benefits to doing it all at once.

03

The other option is a middle-ground approach to digital transformation. A **multipillar implementation** means that two or more Oracle solutions (e.g., CX, EPM, ERP, HCM, GTM, SCM) are simultaneously deployed. For risk-averse organizations, a multipillar approach is a great way to take a bold approach without a big-bang migration.

Weighing the costs and benefits of each approach

The digital transformation hybrid approach requires integrations to be built temporarily that will be discarded later. For example, we might suggest that a hybrid approach client start by tackling financials. IBM Accelalpha will integrate financials with the organization’s existing systems, but these integrations will eventually be removed when the entire digital transformation is complete. With the big-bang approach, these temporary integrations aren’t needed—saving time, money and resources.

A big-bang method we call “rapid deployment” is often used where we implement the foundational solution and then, every three months, we deploy additional functionality. This rapid deployment shortens an implementation project of 12 months to about 8 months.

Rapid deployment in Oracle Cloud is possible because Oracle Fusion is deliberately structured to eliminate customization.

The rapid deployment methodology often requires two teams—an on-site team and an offshore team—to ensure faster delivery. Based on documentation updated daily by the on-site team, the offshore team will configure the ERP environment based on the configurations and requirements identified during that day’s activities. This ensures that there is no delay between the finalized design phase and when the project goes into unit testing and then into system integration testing, or SIT. Rapid deployments require tight project management to ensure that all parallel activities are completed on time.

Both the **big-bang** and **multipillar approaches** help organizations achieve the following:

- A single source of truth for data, processes, governance policies and roles
- An end-to-end view of back-office processes
- Better governance of the IT system

Cost comparisons

To help your organization save time and money, we help you understand the cost implications of the hybrid approach versus a big-bang digital transformation.

While the hybrid approach might mean a faster implementation turnaround time with a single cloud application, it can be more costly in the long run to do one rollout at a time over an extended period. Significant cost and time savings are associated with taking an all-encompassing approach, and multipillar or big-bang digital transformations can save you vital time and resources.

Considerations before embarking on a digital transformation

Collaboration is key to the success of any transformation project. If your organization’s team is not wholly on board with the digital transformation, your company will not get as many benefits from the implementation as it should. Your team needs to understand the what, why and how of the upcoming implementation objectives and tasks so that it can be prepared for all phases of the project.

Often, critical team members need help seeing the value of a digital transformation. Even when existing systems are disjointed and slow processes down, users sometimes think things have worked fine up to that point because they are familiar with and accustomed to those processes. As a result, the upheaval and effort required in a digital transformation can be unappealing.

Organization-wide change is daunting, but if your team understands the future state of processes and the value the cloud software will bring, implementation will be successful.

Before starting your digital transformation, here are some considerations:

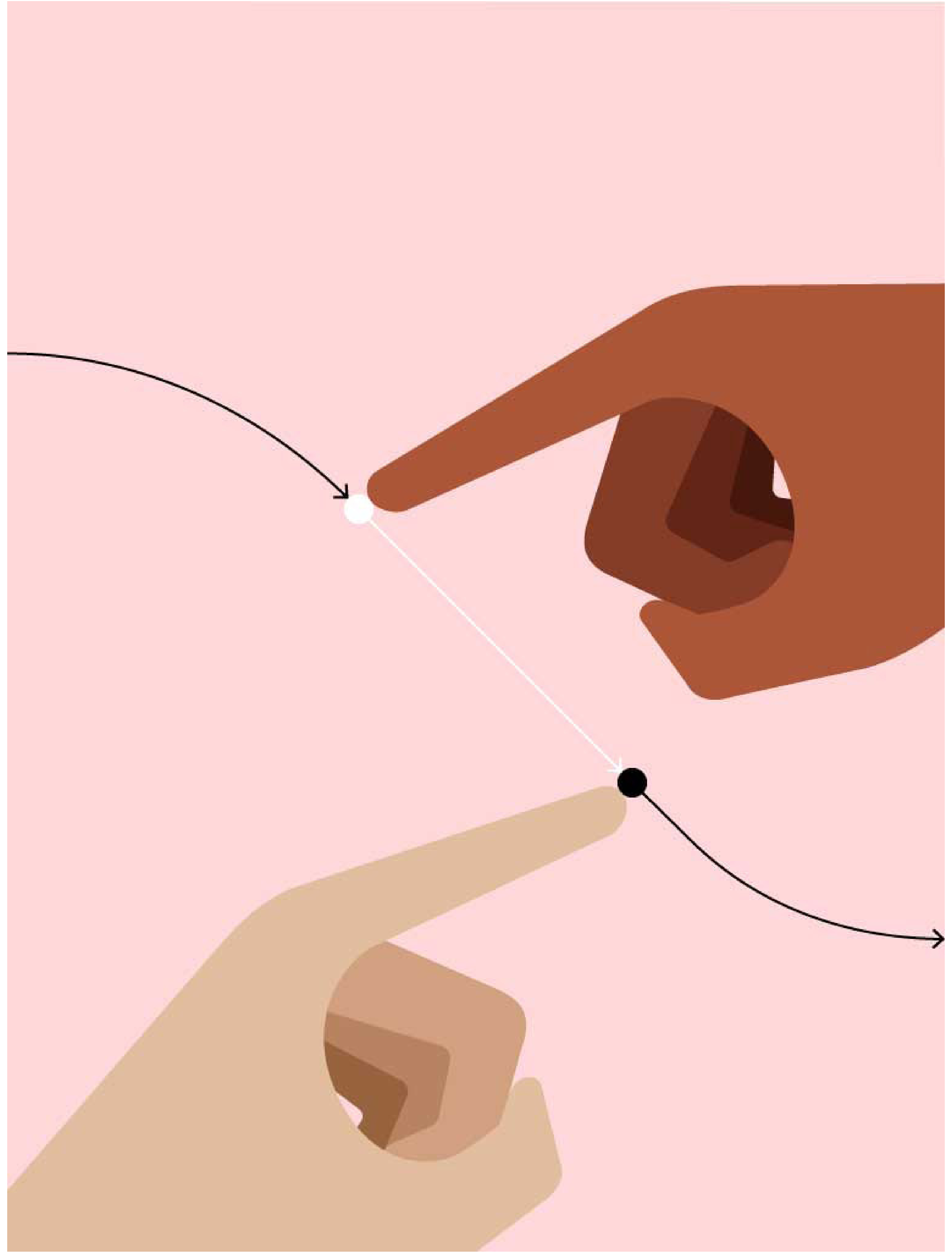
- Assess the technical and project management capabilities of prospective systems integration partners.
- Leave sufficient time for testing, training and user adoption.
- Determine how to engage business resources throughout the project. This includes planning for employee backfills so team members can dedicate time to the project.
- Develop a robust communication plan.
- Take full advantage of all the resources that Oracle offers. Oracle provides different ways to learn about its products before implementation, enabling you to tap into the relationship between product development, product strategy and your implementation team.

Risk mitigation

Many organizations are concerned about experiencing costly downtime when performing a digital transformation. To ease this worry, IBM Accelalpha consultants will walk the organization through every step. With meticulous planning and execution, IBM ensures the system switchover goes smoothly. We train users on Oracle and then, through a change management process, we handle the communication aspects to prepare everyone for the transition. We enable organization leaders to mentor their teams so they know what to expect throughout the entire implementation.

IBM Accelalpha will work with you to ensure that there will be enough time dedicated to end-to-end testing, system integration testing, user acceptance testing and team training.

IBM Accelalpha will work with you to ensure the system switchover goes smoothly.



Why IBM Accelalpha

Optimize your ROI for both Oracle Cloud Applications and on-premises systems using IBM's Business Maturity Index Assessment. We offer:

In-depth analysis
Our experts provide a personalized assessment of your Oracle application landscape, identifying key areas for improvement and optimization. We analyze performance, efficiency and the potential for innovation.

Strategic roadmap and continuous improvement
We develop a tailored roadmap outlining clear steps and timelines for cloud migration and modernization, or for continuous improvement for applications already in the cloud. This includes leveraging the latest cloud technologies and AI to enhance your applications.

Business value
Discover hidden insights and unlock new business value from your Oracle applications. We help you stay ahead of the competition by maximizing your ROI and driving innovation.

Proven expertise
Our team boasts broad expertise, encompassing not only Oracle applications but also a wide array of non-Oracle systems and on-premises solutions. We employ industry-leading methodologies and draw on insights from renowned sources, such as the IBM Institute for Business Value, to guarantee a thorough and efficient evaluation.

Personalized approach
We understand your unique needs and challenges. Our collaborative approach ensures your specific goals are addressed throughout the assessment process.

Digital transformation is not just a lift-and-shift process to a cloud-based application. In addition to helping your organization increase overall capacity, your new technology should save you time and effort, improve communication between applications, protect against attacks with advanced cybersecurity and improve efficiency with automated processes.

If you are unsure which approach your organization should take for your digital transformation, IBM Accelalpha can help you select the best way forward based on your needs, adapting to Oracle's best-in-class business processes and providing you with a clearly defined road map for success. As your strategic implementation partner for Oracle Cloud Applications, we will explain how we can deploy a cloud solution that will grow with you.

About IBM Accelalpha

IBM Accelalpha is a longtime strategic partner to Oracle. We provide IT services to implement and manage Oracle Cloud applications, and we work collaboratively with our clients to develop solutions tailored to their needs. Our rigorous focus on the business outcome allows us to deliver tangible results quickly for a rapid return on investment.

To learn more about how IBM Accelalpha can help you make the most of your Oracle solutions in your data transformation, contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit ibm.com/consulting/accelalpha.