# RPA for IBM i

In today's hypercompetitive marketplace, automating mission-critical business processes is crucial for success. It is the reason why organizations are adopting robotic process automation (RPA). According to [Deloitte's RPA survey](), 53% of companies had started their RPA journey in 2018. The figure will reach almost 100% by 2024. RPA is no longer a buzzword. It is a must-have for profit-minded ventures. But what is RPA for IBM i? And why do you need it?
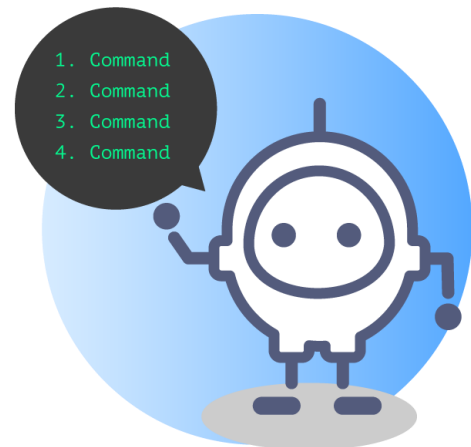
What is RPA?

Robotic Process Automation (RPA) is a software technology that automates repetitive tasks. At its core, RPA augments people with process automation. RPA applications cater to a wide range of use cases, including customer service, invoice processing, sales orders, payroll, and more. With RPA for IBM i, organizations can automate repetitive data entry and extraction tasks. Also known as "green screen," this RPA bot uses the IBM 5250 protocol. This software app combines robotics and automation to streamline manual processes.

How does RPA for IBM i Work?

Innovative software developers like [Netlang]() provide robust RPA robots for IBM i. Netlang's RPA solution is browser-based and records users performing data feeding and extraction to and from IBM i. The bot captures users' on-screen actions like clicks and entries. Then, it generates a script used for integrations between systems. The implementation uses structured inputs and business logic to automate repetitive, rule-based tasks. With this RPA bot, you can automate data extraction or data entry into IBM i.

Why do you need RPA?

Today's organizations face numerous challenges catalyzed by the health crisis. Many businesses are turning to RPA to adapt to the new normal. According to [Gartner](#), 90% of large organizations globally will have adopted RPA by 2022. Here are four reasons why you need RPA.

1. Counter Labor Shortages

The biggest challenge facing organizations in the wake of the health crisis is labor shortages. Many businesses have learned the hard way the disadvantages of over-depending on human labor. With RPA for IBM i, you can automate routine processes to counter labor shortages.

2. Service Delivery

Time-wastage on repetitive tasks has far-reaching implications. It can lead to costly delays and undermine customer experience. As an entrepreneur, you understand the value of delivering the best customer experience consistently. You can adopt RPA for IBM i to eliminate tedious data-related tasks and improve service delivery.

3. Digital Transformation

Global giants face stiff competition from startups now more than ever. Why? These startups adopt automation, AI, and other disruptive technologies innovatively and quicker than traditional organizations. Automating processes using RPA bots is essential for success in today's tech-driven world. RPA applications can leverage AI insights to streamline your workflow. To achieve digital transformation, adopt RPA for IBM i.

4. Compliance

The widespread adoption of the cloud and remote workforces expands the 21st-century business environment beyond the premises. This expansion impedes direct supervision, increasing the risk of non-compliance with regulation. You can leverage RPA to ensure consistent implementation of regulatory rules throughout the business. Innovative RPA solutions allow you to create audit trails for sensitive tasks. RPA for IBM i can reduce the risk of non-compliance.

What are the Benefits of Adopting RPA?

It is undeniable that organizations need robotic process automation. But does it improve the bottom line? Yes, it does! Here are eight quantified benefits of adopting RPA for IBM i:

Cut Costs: Mundane tasks like data entry are laborious. You may need to hire additional staff. RPA robots can automate these processes and eliminate associated costs. According to the [Institute for RPA](#), RPA solutions can deliver instant savings of 25-40% in labor costs alone.

Boost Efficiency: According to [Gartner](#), RPA can save 30% of full-time employees' overall time. With RPA for IBM i, your employees will spend less time on repetitive data tasks and more time on revenue-generating activities. It can boost operational efficiency and competitive edge.

Reduce Losses: In a large company, minor data-related errors have far-reaching consequences. They can accumulate over a short period, leading to significant losses. With RPA for IBM i, you can eliminate human errors from your data processes and reduce losses.

Increase Productivity: Whether you offer products or services, repetitive data-related tasks can create bottlenecks and reduce your output. You can adopt RPA for IBM i to automate these tasks. According to IBM, RPA bots can complete tasks [20 times faster](#) than humans.

Enhance Data Access: Combining legacy with cloud-based systems can help reduce operational costs. However, integrating legacy with cloud-based solutions comes with numerous complexities. RPA bots can bridge this gap. These apps come with user-friendly UIs that visualize data in legacy and cloud-based systems. With RPA for IBM i, you get easy access to your data.

24/7 Reliability: RPA bots don't need sick-offs or vacations. They are always available and deliver 100% round-the-clock. With RPA for IBM I, you can say goodbye to costly delays.

Improve Employee Morale: Nothing is more demoralizing than working on mundane tasks. You can boost your employees' morale by automating repetitive tasks with RPA.

Accelerate Digitization: Automating manual processes is crucial for digital transformation. You will also need to adopt disruptive technologies like AI. RPA can automate processes and put your organization ahead of the competition in the AI field. Reliable RPA bot developers like Netlang provide additional support to accelerate their clients' digital transformation.

With all these benefits, it's no wonder so many organizations are adopting RPA bots.

How to Measure and Maximize ROI for RPA

According to [McKinsey](#), automating business processes with RPA can deliver an ROI of 30-200% in the first year. To get the most out of your investment, track your ROI for RPA during planning, implementation, and ongoing phases.

1. Planning phase: Establish a baseline focusing on the pre-automation condition of your processes. It will help you prioritize tasks to automate and measure ROI down the road. You can use customer satisfaction, labor costs, and completion time as the metrics to define your current state.

2. Implementation Phase: Collect RPA data and measure your ROI right from the start. In this phase, you can focus on customer satisfaction, time saved, rate of errors, and more. Note that data for measuring ROI varies depending on your automated processes. Then, use your findings to refine your RPA and improve ROI.

3. Ongoing Phase: Automation is not a one-time activity. You have to reinvest in your RPA bots to enable continuous process improvement. Measure and examine your RPA ROI. Then, use the findings to determine the most appropriate areas to reinvest.

The idea is to surface and exploit ROI-boosting opportunities in each of the three phases. But how do you measure ROI for RPA? To calculate your RPA ROI, divide the investment's net benefits by its costs. But this equation does not capture all moving parts of RPA projects. The most effective way to calculate ROI is to track and measure several aspects of your RPA. You can focus on Full-Time Equivalent, customer service availability, process lead time, and employee satisfaction.

Bottom Line

RPA augments people with process automation. In the wake of the health crisis, many businesses adopted RPA to adapt to the new normal. You can adopt RPA for IBM i to streamline service delivery, counter labor shortages, and hasten the digital transformation. Process automation offers several benefits, including improved cost-efficiency, productivity, employee morale, and data access. With a robust RPA bot, you can enjoy an ROI of between 30% and 200%. To maximize your investment, get your RPA for IBM i from the innovative [Netlang](#).

At [Netlang](#), we provide a robust RPA solution for IBM i. Our application is available via a browser and allows you to record your data entry or extraction workflow. The script is used for system-to-system integrations to automate the data management processes to and from IBM i. You can also use our [cloudbox400.com](#) platform to develop, deploy, and maintain custom RPA bots and other applications for your organization.