

# Why Savvy Businesses are Leading with a Digital Experience Platform (DXP)

Creating the truly omnichannel experiences that are  
key to competing—and winning—in the modern  
digital landscape

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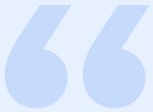
WHITEPAPER

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## Introduction

The threat of digital disruption is touching a broader number of businesses than ever before. Since 2000, more than half of Fortune 500 companies have gone bankrupt, been acquired or otherwise ceased to exist. With digital disruption accelerating the fall of these legacy enterprises, [according to Capgemini](#), the message is clear: every organization must use technology to disrupt their industry before someone else does.



**Every organization must use technology to disrupt their industry before someone else does.**

Customer experience is a critical component of this digital disruption. Businesses across all industries are leveraging digital tools and technology to craft better digital experiences that improve user engagement, increase operational efficiencies and streamline critical processes. As such, expectations have been raised—digital pioneers have set the standards high, and every business needs to rise to the challenge.

Today's world-class digital experiences are driven by the need to empower customers to do what they want to do faster, when and where they want to do it.

**Connected customers have grown accustomed to a digital landscape that is always accessible from a variety of existing and emerging touchpoints, from desktop computers to smartwatches.**

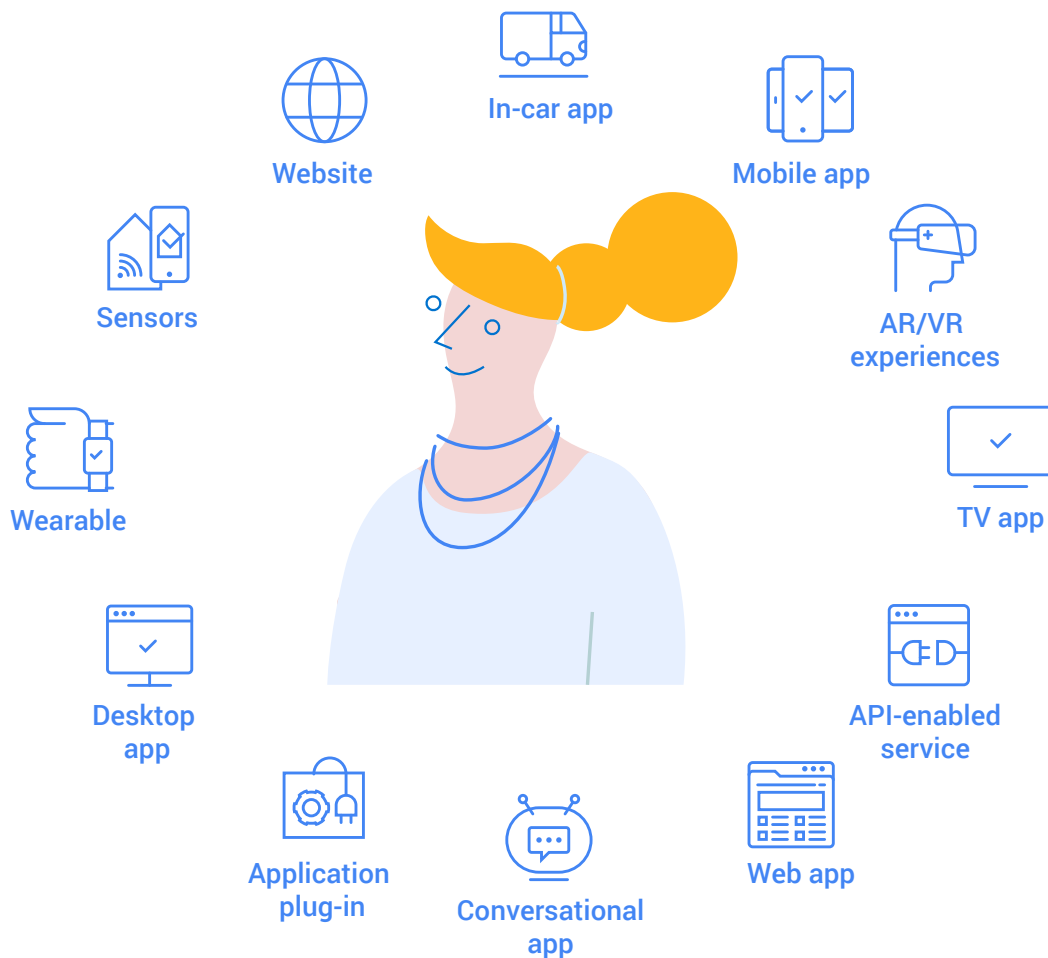
They have also come to expect high degrees of self-service—whether it's conducting banking activities or engaging with customer service, people want to take control of their digital journey. And with the explosion of available data and analytics, these experiences also need to be tailored to the specific needs of the connected customers to improve relevance.

**Traditionally, customer-facing businesses felt the brunt of the pressure for delivering world-class digital experiences. However, in this self-service economy, every enterprise needs to have a clear digital strategy and this strategy needs to serve every user, whether it's the direct customer who buys products or services or indirect customer like a partner or even an employee.**

Just as the direct customer has come to expect self-service options that put them in control of the experience, so too have these indirect customers. A global workforce needs 24x7 access to productivity tools and intranets with intuitive, engaging digital experiences that enable them to do their jobs even faster and stay

connected with what's going on within the business at any given moment. Partners likewise want the ability to manage as much of the relationship as possible autonomously for the sake of convenience and speed.

The reality is that in the minds of today's connected user, there is **no excuse for subpar digital experiences**. If businesses can't deliver, they'll feel the impact across the board, from customer conversions to employee engagement.





# **The Evolution of the Digital Experience Landscape**

# The Tangible Results of Digital Experiences

Modern customers expect every enterprise to be able to deliver proactive service, personalized interactions and connected experiences that span all digital touchpoints. Major digital experience innovators like Google and Apple have already showed what's possible in this arena, delivering more than just an appealing website or app—these pioneers are constantly **redefining the way people interact with brands in the modern digital world.**



The ideal digital experience in today's connected world revolves around the self-service model, which provides users with the tools needed to proactively answer their own questions and solve their own problems.

The ideal digital experience in today's connected world revolves around the **self-service model**, which provides users with the tools needed to proactively answer their own questions and solve their own problems. The self-service model can be applied to all the different steps of the customer journey.

## Awareness and exploration phase

Brands could personalize the web experience and recommend different content items based on the prospect's persona. With a significant number of purchasing decisions being made before customers even engage brands, this self-service approach is vital for starting off a prospect relationship on the right foot.

## Post-purchase

The self-service model continues to provide value. With the right digital tools and content, the customer can tackle all sorts of trouble shooting and relationship management on their own. Chatbots can help answer common questions, while customer portals can provide access to helpful tools and dashboard for monitoring everything from order status to product performance.

**This approach is beneficial for both brands and consumers.** Consumers see self-service as empowering—it enables them do what they want to do in their own time.

**Brands may own the content, but customers want to make the experience their own. By creating a digital experience that revolves around this self-service model, brands are giving customers what they want—and that should lead to happier customers on top of increased sales.**

A self-service strategy also directly benefits the brand by improving their efficiency and availability. Businesses are no longer limited by their hours of engagement—they can be reaching prospects digitally at any time of the day, through any touchpoint, even when their stores are closed or representatives are unavailable.

80%

of customers want more personalized services, both online and offline

70%

of buyers rely on digital content to learn more about products and services

63%

of retail customers are open to emerging technologies like AR that can impact digital experiences

Still, many companies are guilty of not meeting expectations of their constituents, with [65% of customers](#) saying they expect better digital experiences than are currently delivered. To make matters worse, enterprises that don't meet expectations are getting punished harshly for it—users are no less forgiving of subpar experiences, even if they tend to be the norm. **If businesses can't deliver, they risk losing their users.**

- 72% of customers will share bad experiences with others to warn them
- 57% will go to competitor after a bad experience with a brand

However, if a negative experience has a negative outcome for business, the opposite is equally true.

**Companies investing heavily in delivering unique, immersive digital experiences are reaping the rewards—they are engaging with customers more often and more deeply, they are improving customer loyalty and they're differentiating themselves from competitors and carving out new audiences.**

This much is evident with the rise of numerous digital pioneers, like the oft-cited Uber—frustrations with the transportation industry as it existed created an opportunity for the ride sharing company to disrupt the landscape, with user-friendly digital experiences that promote convenience and transparency.

The message from customers is clear: no matter how difficult it is to execute or what obstacles exist, customer experience matters.

**A great experience can elevate the products and services that modern companies offer and, all other factors being equal, the business delivering the best, most engaging experience with the fewest paths of resistance will win out.**

# An Obsession with Excellence—The Key to Digital Domination

Through this point, we've been discussing digital experience primarily as a way of engaging your core audience—the people who buy your products or services. And indeed, many businesses fall into the trap of thinking of digital experience as purely a customer-centric initiative. This is for good reason: the end customer is the one contributing directly to your bottom line, so the emphasis needs to be on crafting top-notch digital experiences that cater to their needs.

**However, the reality is that digital touches much more than just your customers—digital experiences matter to your employees and partners as well, and they also have similar expectations to your customers.**

Your employees and partners work hard to make your business successful, and just as great digital experiences can enhance the customer journey, it also makes things a lot easier for employees and partners.

It ultimately goes back to the **value of the anywhere, anytime self-service strategy** that exists at the core of modern digital experiences. By taking the same approach of delivering quality digital experiences that empower users, businesses can effectively reduce friction, improve productivity, drive brand loyalty and increase user happiness, all while improving operational efficiency.

## Employees

Take, for example, an enterprise's employees. Today's employees rely on a lot of different digital tools and applications to do their everyday jobs, whether it's a company intranet or an expense reimbursement application. **The quality of the digital experience can directly impact employee engagement and satisfaction**—easy-to-use tooling and intuitive digital experiences empower employees to work quickly and productively and enables them to be proactive and work without obstacles. Conversely, a lousy experience not only impedes productivity, it also creates frustration among employees.

**Given that an investment in employees is often the most important investment a business can make, an investment in digital experience can payout tremendously.**

Many of the same principles that work for the customer digital experience can be applied here: you want to provide an omnichannel experience that empowers self-service and delivers an easy, intuitive workflow. Providing modern digital tools that assist with and automate time-consuming tasks is vital to improving engagement, minimizing turnover and in the end, positively contributing to the bottom line.



**65% of B2B customers want to raise the bar on experience. We as empowered consumers are bringing our expectations from our B2C world into the B2B market.**

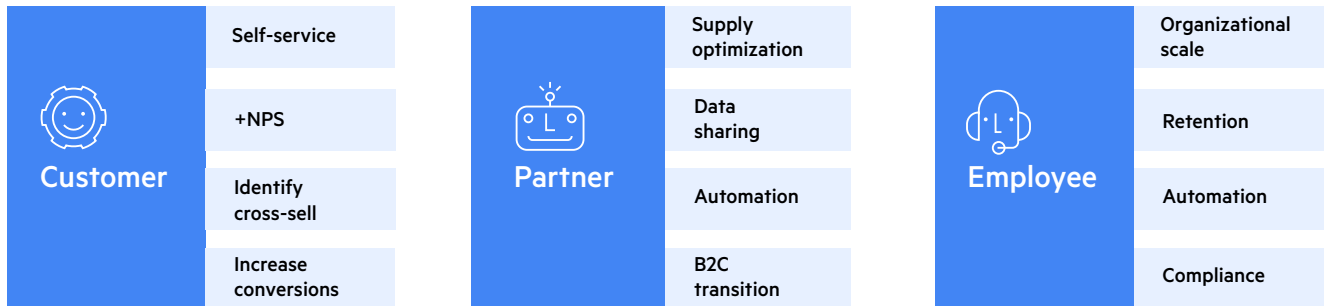
[MEGATRENDS 2018](#)



## Partners

In a similar fashion, partners value quality digital experiences as well. A frustrating digital experience may impact the eagerness with which your partners want to work with you or limit your potential reach.

Conversely, by providing them with self-service tools like sales portals or invoicing systems, brands can craft a digital experience that not only makes partners' lives easier but may even help win over new ones.



To thrive in the modern digital landscape, brands should be truly obsessed with providing the very best digital experiences to everyone, regardless of whether they're an employee, a partner or anyone else. After all, everyone is someone's customer—for a company's IT team, it's whoever uses its software or hardware. For the HR team, it's the entire employee base.

All of these different parties have their own audiences they serve and digital experience impacts them all. A truly digital-first company understands this and aims for digital excellence across the board.

## The Rise of Digital Experience Platforms

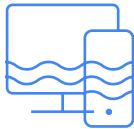
Businesses invest a lot of money into the products and services they deliver. With digital experience playing an equally important role on the outcome of their business, companies that don't treat the **digital experience as a key part of the incoming revenue stream** are set to lose substantial ground in the market—and a lot of money.

However, achieving digital excellence is not easy. The digital landscape is shifting rapidly—new tools, technologies and touchpoints are introduced regularly. While this unlocks exciting new opportunities from a user perspective, creating and delivering these complex and sophisticated digital experiences requires businesses to rethink their approach on the technical front.

To deliver a digital experience that matches what today's connected customer expects, businesses must address several different challenges, including:

- Managing multiple sites—and the need to do so at scale
- Serving content across all modern and emerging digital touchpoints
- Increasing back office of enterprise and marketing apps in which to connect that need to be integrated
- Growing number of data sources that contain valuable insight about the customer
- Supporting the customer journey across all channels to deliver a consistent, persistent experience

## Managing Multiple Sites at Scale



For many businesses, the days of operating a single website are long gone. Not only are many modern enterprises managing extensive digital presences with numerous websites and microsites devoted to tackling the needs of many different audiences across the world, they are also operating internal and partner-facing sites like sales portals and intranets.

However, despite the need for such an **expansive digital presence that serves so many different internal and external audiences**, the other part of the challenge is the need to manage all of this in a scalable way. In a digital landscape dictated by speed and agility, businesses must be able to manage their digital experiences quickly and effectively.

## Delivering Content Across All Existing and Emerging Touchpoints



While the concept of omnichannel is not new, the scope has vastly expanded. In recent years, the market has seen the introduction of tons of different interfaces—smartwatches, virtual reality headsets, specialty interfaces like medical devices, product displays of different sizes, augmented reality viewports and more.

However, the reality is that while customers are no longer confined to a select number of screens, many businesses lack the ability to create truly omnichannel experiences that incorporate all these **new ways that customers are interacting and interfacing with content**. In fact, many still struggle to even deliver across web and mobile. And even if enterprises do have omnichannel experiences, they often still have issues supporting cohesive digital experiences spanning multiple touchpoints with any sort of speed or agility.

## Supporting the Explosive Landscape of Business-Critical Cloud Apps



Not only has the number of interfaces grown exponentially, but so too has the number of apps in play. While the rise of cloud-based applications has been without a doubt a net positive for nearly every business, it also introduced new challenges both in terms of **integrating these various back-office applications as well as dealing with data silos.**

Speaking specifically to marketing, it isn't unusual for enterprises to be using dozens of different apps to craft highly personalized digital experiences. From recording and maintaining customer information to evaluating the performance of the customer journey, vital bits of information that are necessary to creating the digital experiences today's customers demand will often wind up trapped and inaccessible in various applications.

## Making the Most of Data Amid a Rapidly Growing Field of Data Sources



With the number of different data sources and sheer volume data exploding rapidly, there is no denying the value of this data. From optimizing customer journeys to putting together extensive customer profiles based on minute behaviors and patterns, **businesses that can harness this data stand to gain a significant competitive edge.**

At the same time, this data is introducing a plethora of new complexities. The data management practices of most modern companies are built on a foundation established in the '90s, and changing database schemas while trying to maintain agility can be a massive headache. Additionally, the types of data being stored are evolving and the unstructured data that is vital for creating modern digital experiences adds yet another wrinkle.

## Delivering a Consistent, Persistent Customer Journey



The final challenge that encompasses all the above is delivering a **consistent, persistent customer journey.** Expectations are very high among consumers today, businesses need a **platform that enables and empowers to expertly craft these digital experiences.** A platform that lacks in one of the key challenge areas—management at scale, true omnichannel support, integration of key applications and data management—will result in disjointed experiences that don't feel consistent and persistent from A to Z.

This has led to the rise of the digital experience platform (DXP), which Gartner defines as “an integrated software framework for engaging a broad array of audiences across a broad array of digital touchpoints.”

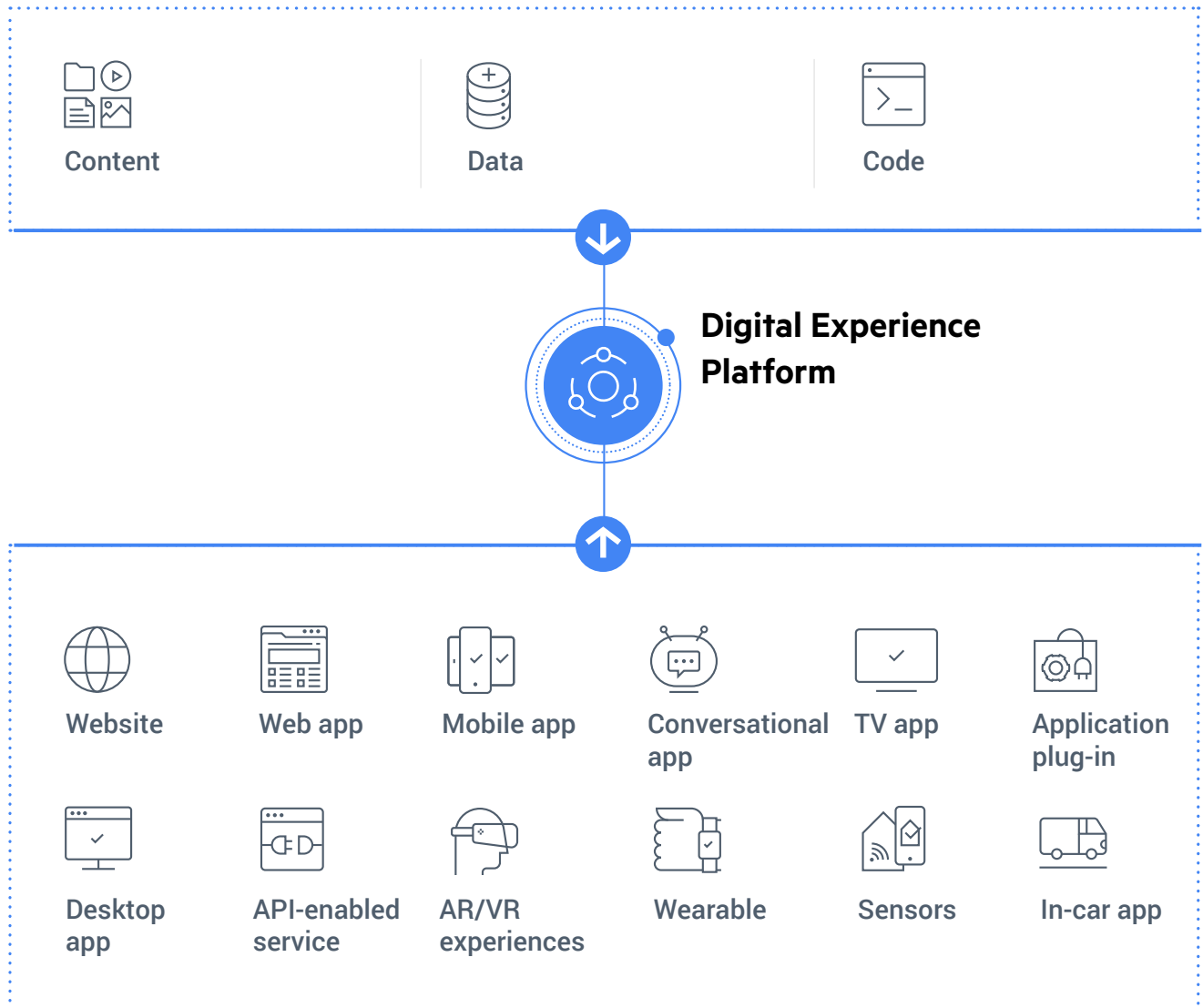
DXPs are a strategic approach to leveraging the technology required to create the complex digital experiences that today’s users have come to expect, enabling brands to quickly build and deploy engaging digital experiences that can be continuously iterated on and extend across web, mobile and other popular and specialty digital channels.

According to IDC, a DXP has five measurable benefits for businesses:

- 18%** cost reduction by eliminating silos, accelerating time to market and improving productivity
- 24%** increase in revenue through improved customer engagement, conversion and advocacy
- 16%** risk reduction by automating many of the processes around delivering digital experiences
- 19%** better brand consistency by building brand equity
- 19%** faster time to market by streamlining delivery across channels, internally and externally

[\\*progress.com/docs/default-source/sitefinity/tech-spotlight.pdf](https://progress.com/docs/default-source/sitefinity/tech-spotlight.pdf)

With the emphasis on digital experience rising, it's only natural that more organizations are investing in these platforms. However, while many vendors are racing to develop comprehensive DXP solutions, the reality of the market is **that the best approach is to assemble your own; one that is custom made to suit the specific needs of your organization.**



## Building a Digital Experience Platform Starts with the CMS



**Organizations use DXPs to build, deploy and continually improve websites, portals, mobile apps and other digital experiences.**

GARTNER

For years, content has been heralded as king. This is because people are constantly seeking information—information that aids them in day-to-day tasks, information that enables them to make impactful decisions, information that helps achieve work goals, information that empowers them do better, live better, perform better, be better.

### Web Content

For many years, the web has been the fundamental source for that information—an endless, infinite pool of information that is readily available to anyone who can connect to it. Web content started as a static source of information that wasn't always easy to manage and update, but the rise of disruptive new technologies has changed that. Now, **web content is dynamic and can provide an adaptive response to the need for information** and the desire of businesses to be that central source of information.

### Lead Generation

This evolved into a lead generation and conversion model. If brands consistently and frequently deliver useful and relevant content—and present it in a way that is highly engaging and approachable—visitors will move from the research stage to the decision stage faster and convert from a prospect to a customer. **And if brands are consistent in delivering quality content in a consistent fashion, these customers will become loyal customers.**

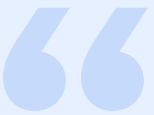
With the CMS as the cornerstone of a strategic WCM system, enterprises can begin wrapping in other critical systems that contribute to building the digital experiences necessary to succeed in the modern digital landscape—omnichannel capabilities, back office applications, business process management, social integration, governance and compliance, etc.

### Multichannel Personalization

Relevant and frequent content delivery moved into a multichannel model, focused on **delivering personalized information in the modality of choice at just the right time**. However, for many years, organizations have struggled with their customer engagement initiatives, with digital experiences being treated as a luxury instead of a priority. In fact, this may still be the case for many companies.

### CMS capabilities

Traditionally, digital experiences were tied heavily to content management systems (CMS), with these platforms powering an organization's websites and, in some cases, even their applications. And over the years, **these systems have evolved**



**A Digital Experience Platform is an integrated software framework for engaging a broad array of audiences across a broad array of digital touchpoints.**

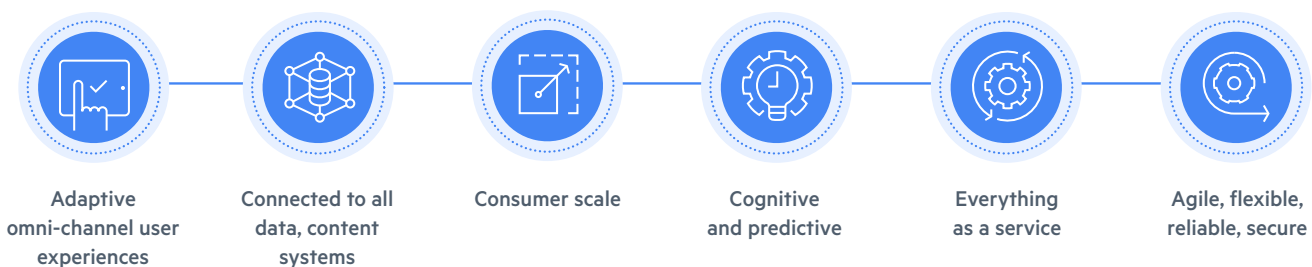
GARTNER

**heavily to keep up with the needs of the modern market**, adding capabilities like asset management, ecommerce, BI/analytics, personalization, etc.

### Road to DXP

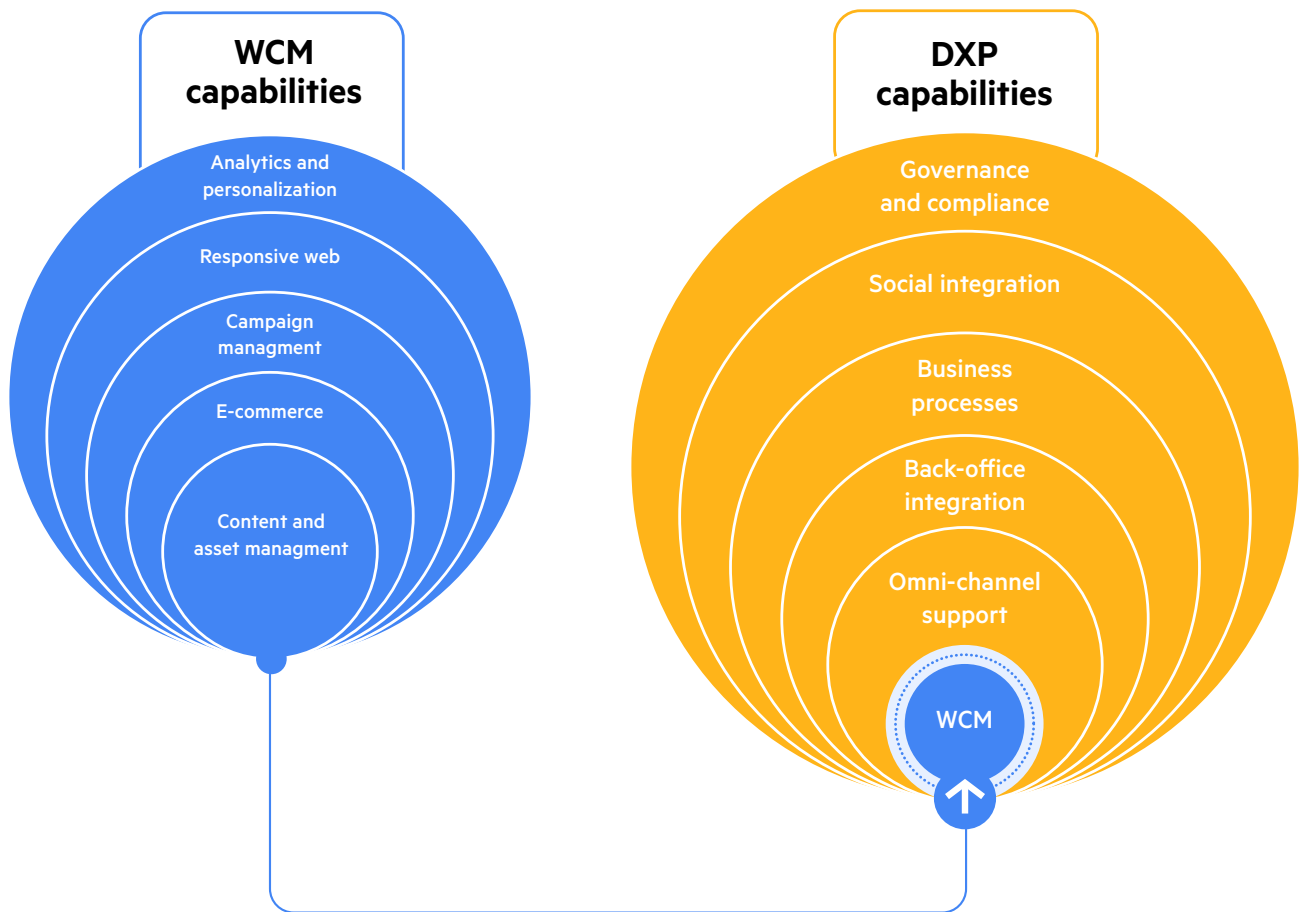
However, with the scope of digital experiences expanding and expectations on the rise, the conventional CMS isn't as adequately equipped to deliver all the capabilities required. The CMS excels at orchestrating, delivering and managing the content that is essential to an immersive, engaging experience, but enterprises now believe that they need more. They need to think big picture, looking at how they measure, analyze and streamline critical business processes, integrate with social channels, establish governance and compliance measures and otherwise deliver the world-class digital experiences that are required in today's self-service economy.

## Requirements for Digital Experiences



That isn't to downplay the role of the CMS. While a CMS alone may no longer be sufficient to manage these exhaustive omnichannel digital experiences, it still plays a vital role as the cornerstone of the modern DXP. **Enterprises can begin wrapping in other critical systems that contribute to building the digital experiences necessary to succeed in the modern digital landscape—**omnichannel capabilities, back office applications, business process management, social integration, governance and compliance, etc.

In the era of digital disruption, maintaining the status quo can be dangerous—after all, **if you aren't the one doing the disrupting, it's likely you will be the one that gets disrupted.** With digital experiences evolving so quickly, web content management tools alone are no longer able to deliver on the needs of the business. However, given the maturity of these WCM systems and capabilities, they offer a fantastic foundation for a more comprehensive DXP that ties in other frontend and backend systems.







# **The Progress Approach**

# A Response to the Natural Evolution of Technology

With the CMS at its center, a digital experience platform represents the natural evolution of technology that enables businesses to deliver the self-service omnichannel experiences expected by today's consumers. Moreover, it enables businesses to do this quickly and effectively, improving their agility and flexibility in a fast-moving world with constantly shifting requirements.

**This approach requires the interconnection of existing systems as you continue to fold new technologies into the mix, with the end goal of not creating a marketing tool but a strategic interlocking system that crosses all user-facing interactions—web presences, sales scheduling, purchasing, customer support and so on.**

Broadly, this strategic interlocking system addresses the three focal points required to deliver truly omnichannel experiences:



## Adaptive Experiences

There is a push toward a **fully connected experience where every interaction an individual has with any touchpoint is fed back to optimize the next interaction.** It doesn't matter which channels customers prefer—mobile, web, chatbots, wearables, AR/VR or some new specialty device—businesses need to be able to create experiences with interfaces that support them all. Whether it's native mobile applications, progressive web apps or conversational interfaces, enterprises need the tools to deliver an experience that adapts to how customers want to be engaged.



## Cognitive Cloud

The underlying cognitive capabilities of a digital experience platform, empowered by the proliferation of the cloud, ease the ability to rapidly deliver personalized experiences. They also deliver predictive analytics that increase visibility and the ability to rapidly respond to new catalysts, whether it's user behavior, market shifts, disruptive internal system performance and more.

Capabilities like headless content delivery via the cloud and machine learning enables brands to create truly omnichannel experiences even faster than before, despite the pressing need for these experiences to be personalized and intimate in a way they previously weren't.

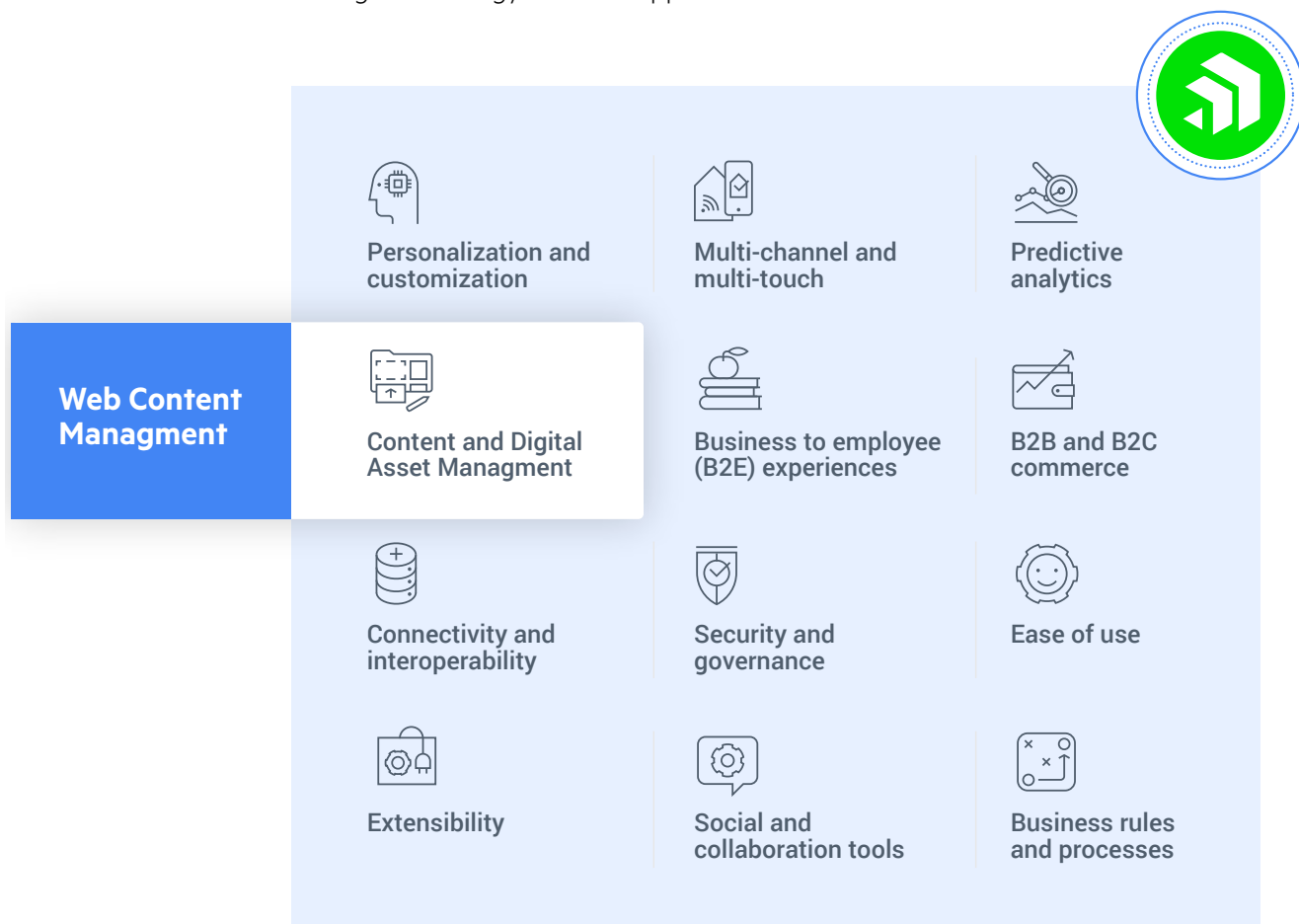


## Connected Data

Data forms the cornerstone of the highly tuned and personalized omnichannel experience demanded by today's customers. However, if this data cannot be easily accessed, managed and moved throughout the ecosystem by the systems and applications that need it, it's of little use. What facilitates the ability to tailor experiences is **integration of data and content throughout the ecosystem**, enabling organizations even with disparate and legacy systems to address this obstacle and create a strategic interlocking system with their mission-critical data and applications.

While the digital landscape has changed significantly with the rise of new tools and technologies, Progress (NASDAQ: PRGS) has been helping enterprises create engaging, user-friendly digital experiences for the better part of 40 years.

Through the strategic development and acquisition of critical tools and platforms, we help you **deliver adaptive digital experiences that support all digital touchpoints needed by your users**. This includes everything from responsive web experiences and native mobile applications to emerging channels like chatbots and AR. And we are always researching new ways of delivering better experiences through technology like microapps.



Our extensive portfolio offers everything a modern digital experience platform needs to successfully deliver immersive customer journeys in a quick and scalable fashion. We do this by offering a **comprehensive set of application services that address all three layers of a successful digital experience**—adaptive frontend experiences, a cognitive cloud backend and data connectivity solutions that eliminates costly silos.

- ✓ A serverless cloud backend that is completely managed for you in your choice of public or virtual private cloud
- ✓ Determine predictive results using an automated data science lifecycle
- ✓ Manage complex digital decisions for fast changing environments
- ✓ Use content within any application experience to drive engagement
- ✓ Support enterprise-grade systems of records

# The Progress Approach in Action

For many companies today, delivering on the promise of a digital experience means disrupting your business before you're disrupted. It requires an examination of your current systems and environments and how they can be augmented and connected in a way that allows for a seamless, integrated approach to digital experience delivery.

The Progress portfolio has empowered many businesses across a variety of industries to deliver the omnichannel experiences required to serve today's customers. In many of these instances, various Progress products played a pivotal role in helping customers overcome specific digital experience challenges.



## Murdoch University Drives 32% Increase in Mobile Visits with Sitefinity

### CHALLENGE

As an international university reaching students from 90 countries across the globe, Murdoch University needed a strong digital presence to convey the personality and spirit of the institution. Murdoch's existing website was built in 2007 and had become outdated over the years, so the university needed to completely transform its website to deliver a better user experience and improve site management.

### SOLUTION

With Sitefinity, Murdoch was able to simplify the design of its site and reduce the total number of content pages, leading to a cleaner user experience. Content creators were able to work with a more intuitive interface as well. This enabled Murdoch University to breathe new life into its website, delivering a compelling digital experience that served the needs of its many audiences while also improving site management and scalability.

[Learn more](#)



## Creating Innovative Intranets that Streamlines Internal Activities

### CHALLENGE

Offering a unique inventory of furniture and fixtures, Teknion products enable any business to set the tone and culture of the company through the design of the workspace. The company wanted to go through a digital transformation that enabled it to create user experiences that matched its brand vision.

### SOLUTION

With Sitefinity, Teknion has created six major websites, each delivering engaging omnichannel digital experiences targeting different audiences. One website is MyTeknion, an employee intranet used by 10,000+ users for sales, marketing, training and other activities. MyTeknion has replaced more than 30 different business apps, reducing application bloat and improving the employee experience dramatically.

[Learn more](#)

SPECTRUM HEALTH



## Seamless Managing Multiple Sites and Extending Content Across Unique Touchpoints

### CHALLENGE

Spectrum Health Lakeland is a leading provider of health services in southwest Michigan. To meet the growing demand for more cohesive digital experiences, Lakeland needed a solution that would not only deliver a better user experience now, but also set the foundation for future success.

### SOLUTION

Sitefinity enables Lakeland Health to manage more than 30 different microsites with ease, eliminating duplication of effort while improving accuracy. The platform's headless capabilities also enable Lakeland to push content to different displays within the hospital, streamlining content creation.

[Learn more](#)



## Deploying Rich Business Rules with Ease to Ensure a Smooth Customer Experience

### CHALLENGE

eBay's entire reputation is based on the reliability and safety of its site. Buying from complete strangers can be intimidating, but with eBay as the intermediary, people feel more confident in the process. However, with millions of transactions occurring daily, eBay also needs to be able to keep up with the speed of business.

### SOLUTION

Using Progress Corticon® to handle intricate business rules, eBay can rapidly evaluate each transaction based on key datapoints like product category, seller reputation, geographical location, regional regulations, transaction amounts and currencies. This helps ensure the reliability and safety of each transaction for both the buyer and the seller, bolstering eBay's reputation as a premier marketplace.

[Learn more](#)



## Connecting Disparate Data Systems for an Intelligent Customer Data Platform

### CHALLENGE

The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) is a UK public-private sector partnership consisting of the councils of Wiltshire County and Swindon Borough and regional businesses. To accelerate the economic growth of the region, SWLEP wanted to create a customer data and business intelligence platform that could help create more personalized, engaging experiences. However, this data was heavily siloed across different systems

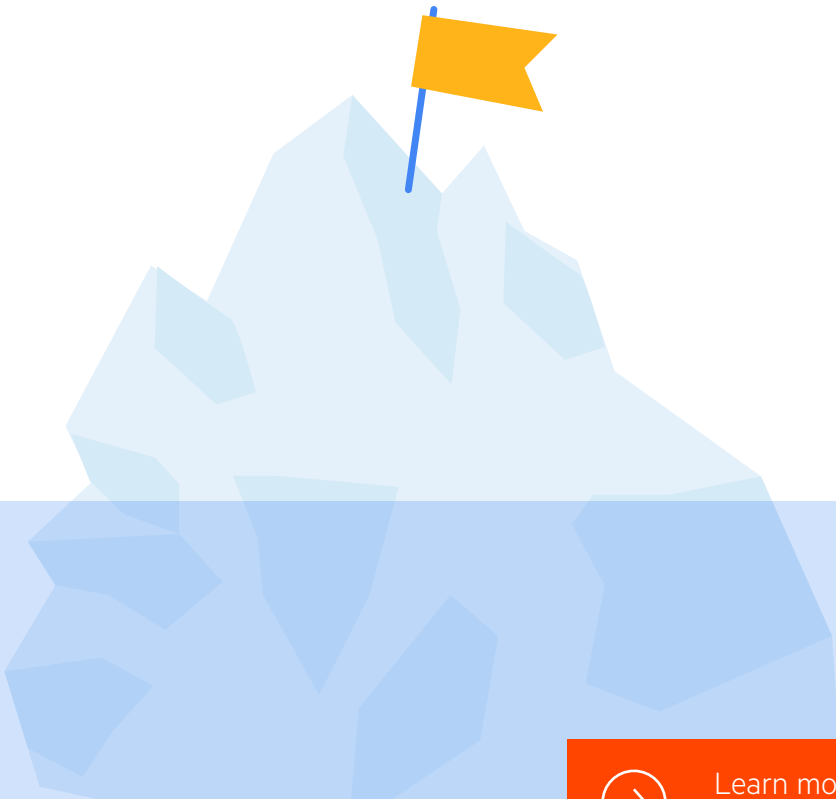
### SOLUTION

Progress® Sitefinity® enabled SWLEP to easily integrate multiple enterprise systems and data sources with built-in connectors. With Sitefinity at the foundation of this platform, SWLEP was able create more engaging marketing communications with persona-based content that improved awareness of SWLEP and its services

[Learn more](#)

Let Progress help you to establish a digital strategy that enables you to capitalize on technology that is committed to digital excellence.

Contact us today.



Learn more

[www.progress.com/digital-experiences](http://www.progress.com/digital-experiences)

## About Progress

Progress (NASDAQ: PRGS) offers the leading platform for developing and deploying strategic business applications. We enable customers and partners to deliver modern, high-impact digital experiences with a fraction of the effort, time and cost. Progress offers powerful tools for easily building adaptive user experiences across any type of device or touchpoint, award-winning machine learning that enables cognitive capabilities to be a part of any application, the flexibility of a serverless cloud to deploy modern apps, business rules, web content management, plus leading data connectivity technology. Over 1,700 independent software vendors, 100,000 enterprise customers, and two million developers rely on Progress to power their applications. Learn about Progress at [www.progress.com](http://www.progress.com) or +1-800-477-6473.

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