



INTELLIGENT IMPLEMENTATION

MACHINE VISION, ROBOTICS, AND AUTOMATION FOR THE WAREHOUSE AND DC

Warehouse and DC operators continue to face a challenging labor environment. By the end of 2024, 25% of workers will be 55 years old or older¹. As a result, companies are focused on enhancing productivity and meeting the needs of their aging workforce, while looking for ways to attract younger workers to backfill future openings. This challenge is further exacerbated by the fact that nearly 80% of distribution centers still rely on manual processes². In an attempt to modernize their operations and better utilize their employees, Warehouse and DC operators are exploring the use of machine vision, robotics, and automation and how it can be integrated into their operations.

MISCONCEPTIONS

A misunderstanding of the technologies and their capabilities can lead to unrealistic expectations. Several of the common misconceptions that can lead to organizational conflict and dissatisfaction with a potential solution are discussed below.

- 1

Automation Replaces Human Jobs

One of the biggest misconceptions is that automation will completely replace human jobs. In reality, automation often takes over repetitive and mundane tasks, allowing employees to focus on more complex and creative work. This can lead to job transformation rather than job elimination.
- 2

High Costs and Complexity

Many believe that implementing automation solutions is prohibitively expensive and complex. While initial investments can be significant, the long-term benefits such as increased efficiency, reduced errors, and higher productivity often outweigh the costs. Additionally, advancements in technology will make these solutions more accessible and easier to integrate.
- 3

Only For Large Enterprises

Another misconception is that automation is only suitable for large enterprises with substantial resources. However, scalable automation solutions can be tailored to fit the needs of small and medium-sized businesses, and can provide them with competitive advantages and operational efficiencies.
- 4

Immediate Results

Some expect immediate results from automation implementations. While automation can lead to significant improvements, it often requires time for proper integration, employee training, and process adjustments. Patience and continuous optimization can be key to realizing the full benefits.
- 5

Lack of Flexibility

There is a belief that automated systems are rigid and cannot adapt to changes. Modern automation solutions are designed to be flexible and adaptable, allowing businesses to modify processes and scale operations as needed. This adaptability can be a key ingredient to stay competitive in a dynamic market.

CONSIDERATIONS

A successful deployment of a machine vision, robotics, and automation solution is dependent on the development of a comprehensive plan and close coordination with a technology integrator. Taking the necessary time at the beginning of a project to discuss the ideal solution will help align the measures of success.

- 1

Integration with Existing Systems

It's crucial to ensure that the new technologies can seamlessly integrate with your current systems and processes. This includes compatibility with existing software, hardware, and workflows which can help avoid disruptions and maximize efficiency.
- 2

Scalability and Flexibility

Choose solutions that can scale with your business needs and adapt to future changes. This includes the ability to handle increased workloads, accommodate new functionalities, and integrate with other technologies as they evolve.
- 3

Data Management and Analytics

Effective data management is essential for leveraging the full potential of machine vision and robotics. It helps ensure that your system can collect, store, and analyze data to provide actionable insights and improve decision-making.
- 4

Employee Training and Change Management

Implementing new technologies often requires changes in workflows and employee roles. Providing adequate training and support to your staff is essential to ensure a smooth transition and maximize the benefits of the new systems.
- 5

Safety and Compliance

Ensure that the new technologies comply with industry standards and regulations. This includes addressing safety concerns, such as the safe operation of robots around their human counterparts, so that your systems meet relevant compliance requirements.

WHY HONEYWELL

Honeywell has over three decades of experience delivering innovative supply chain solutions. Leverage our expertise to help you seamlessly navigate the complexities of developing your Machine Vision, Robotics, and Automation solution.

1. <https://www.inddist.com/workforce-development/blog/13773177/why-more-people-ages-55-are-working>
2. <https://www.dvelocity.com/articles/60541-warehouse-automation-market-revolutionizing-logistics-with-smart-solutions>

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