



Transforming Finance:

5 Essential AI-Powered Automation Use Cases



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Finance expects more

Every organization and every team can benefit from a productivity boost. Automation has been a critical driver of productivity increases for years, and process automation opportunities are relatively easy to find and exploit.

According to Gartner, eight of ten finance leaders have already implemented or plan to implement traditional automation to reduce errors, improve the accuracy of financial reports, and eliminate manual tasks. For finance, automation can gather and combine data from multiple ERP and back-office systems, properly route incoming invoices, reconcile and validate financial information, aggregate financial data for auditing and compliance reporting, and more.

80%

of finance leaders have already implemented or plan to implement automation

What matters to finance leaders

For today's finance leaders, driving incremental productivity, process, and efficiency improvement is less attractive than driving transformational improvement that alters an organization's competitiveness, agility, and trajectory. And the pressure is on. CEOs are pushing finance to improve efficiency, accelerate insights, and strengthen controls while increasing profits, managing costs, and mitigating security and other risks.

Finance is facing unprecedented challenges

52%

of CFOs list cost management as a top priority due to margin pressures and the high cost of capital.

Source: The Wall Street Journal

Automation imperatives will strengthen financial impact

79%

of CFOs are planning to use automation to manage costs and improve efficiency.

Source: Deloitte CFO Survey

80%

of CFOs are planning to maintain or reduce spending due to talent shortages and hiring slowdowns.

Source: CFO.com

41%

of finance and accounting tasks are done manually.

Source: Financialsense.com

\$300B

Is the cost of regulatory compliance to US businesses due to increased risks.

Source: theregulatoryreview.org

78%

of CFOs are planning to enhance risk management.

Source: PWC

These and other challenges are why CFOs and finance leaders are looking to AI-powered automation to amplify the benefits and impacts of business process automation by an order of magnitude.

A new era of financial process automation opportunities with AI and automation

Today's modern automation combines AI's intelligence and automation's muscle, using machine learning, natural language processing, and cognitive computing to supercharge traditional automation tools. Processes and systems can then almost think and act like humans, handling complex tasks that need a bit of brainwork. The combination of AI and automation doesn't just follow instructions; it learns, adapts, and gets smarter over time while decreasing exceptions and increasing accuracy.

For finance, AI-powered automation adds smart compliance with regulations, standards, and policies and frees finance teams to do fewer manual tasks and add more value. For example, where traditional automation routed invoices, AI-powered automation recognizes vendor payment requests sent via email, extracts key data elements from complex invoices, makes AP entries in the appropriate systems, alerts teams to potential discrepancies, and pushes a verification email to the supplier.

And that's just one example. **Here's another:** Cargill, the global food corporation, uses AI-powered automation to handle over 50,000 orders annually and monitor vendor accounts. The combined impact at the company has generated over \$19 million in savings across more than 200 automations.

CUSTOMER QUOTE

“Our accumulated savings to date is \$19M, and from idea to project conversion, we've captured 700 opportunities.”

Bonnie Dallum

Global Intelligent

Automation CoE Lead



AI + Automation Use Cases Across Finance and Accounting

Procure-to-Pay

Accounts Payable

- New vendor setup
- Purchase order creation
- Invoice validation and payment
- Expense accruals
- Travel and expense reimbursements
- Payables reporting

Order-to-Cash

Accounts Receivable

- New customer setup
- Sales order processing
- Invoice creation
- Collections
- Payment processing
- Receivables reporting

Record-to-Report

Financial Operations

- Reconciliations
- Manual journal entries
- Interco settlements
- Financial consolidation
- Master data mngmt
- Fixed asset mngmt
- Regulatory & external reporting

Treasury Operations

- Bank statement consolidation
- Consolidated cash position reporting
- Cashflow forecasting
- FX volatility and risk hedging
- Audits

Tax Operations

- Tax filings
- Tax provisioning
- Tax compliance
- GST & VAT calculation
- Data sourcing & reconciliation

Financial Planning & Analysis

- Management reporting
- Budgeting & forecasting
- Variance analysis
- Data sourcing



AI-powered automation changes the game for finance and accounting teams and enables a wide spectrum of finance use cases that are ripe for automation. Let's explore five AI and automation use cases to showcase the transformative potential for finance and accounting processes.

Use Case 1

Vendor Invoice Processing and Reconciliation

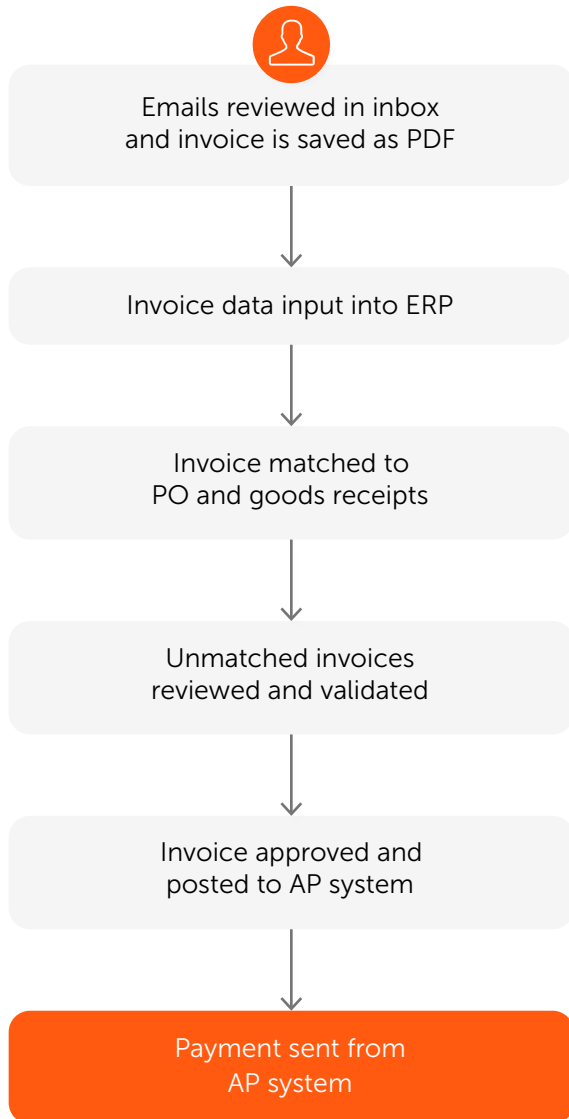
Manual invoice processing is slow and can take [up to 90 days](#) for some organizations to get invoice data into the AP system and issue payments. It's also prone to errors that can negatively impact vendor discounts and require more manual effort to investigate and resolve overdue payments. Manually reconciling invoices with POs is time-consuming and adds further delays. This inefficiency can strain business relationships and increase late payment fees.

Here's how AI and automation work together to solve these challenges:

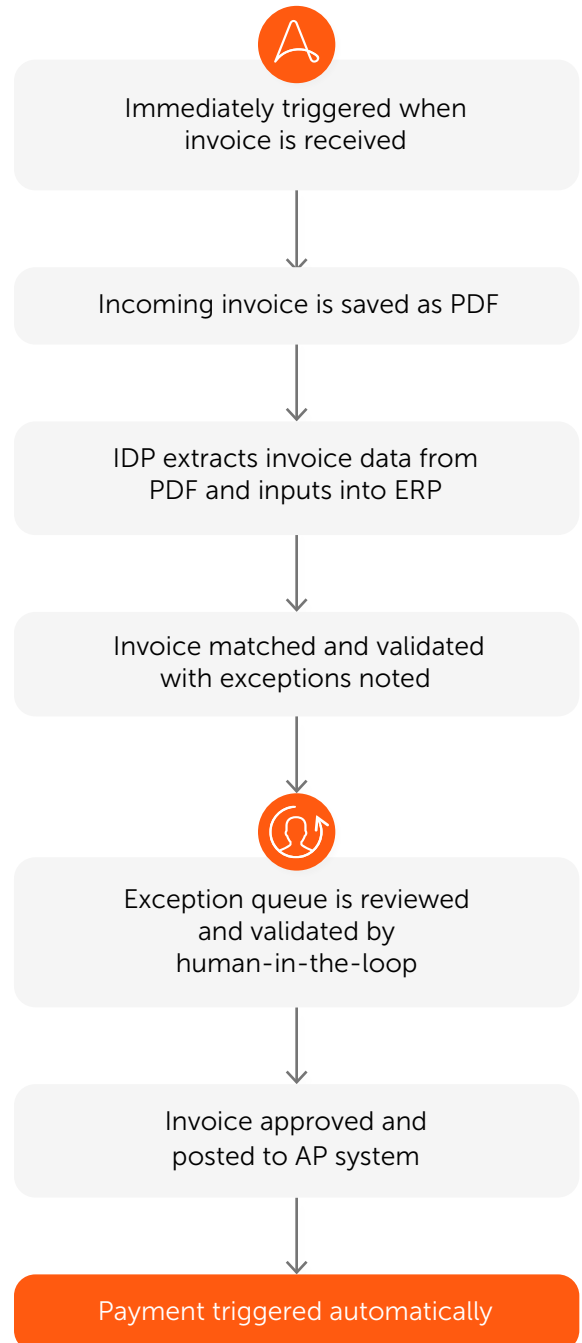
- **Generative AI understands invoice data** to identify and capture supplier names, invoice numbers, amounts, currencies, and more, even on unstructured and complex invoices.
- **AI-powered automation highlights discrepancies** by reconciling data between invoices, purchase orders and good receipts, generating alerts regarding mismatched information, and creating and sending personalized emails to the vendors.
- **AI-powered automation tracks due dates** to prioritize invoices with pending due dates, calculate potential late fees, and even generate reminders so organizations don't miss payment dates.

Streamlining invoice processing brings a **300% increase** in efficiency

Legacy Process 20 Minutes



AI + Automation Process 6 Minutes





Customer Spotlight



Mantrac Group automated customer remittance and invoice processing across multiple brands. Using AI-powered automation, they converted PDF invoices into structured data, enhancing efficiency and allowing around-the-clock processing, which lightened employee load and sped decision-making.

ACHIEVEMENTS

85%

time efficiency improvement

1000+

hours saved

199

FTEs days saved

0%

error rate

CUSTOMER QUOTE



We optimized data entry by 85%, which will reflect on other areas of the business.

Fady Sleiman

Chief Information Officer, Mantrac

Use Case 2

Billing and Collections Support

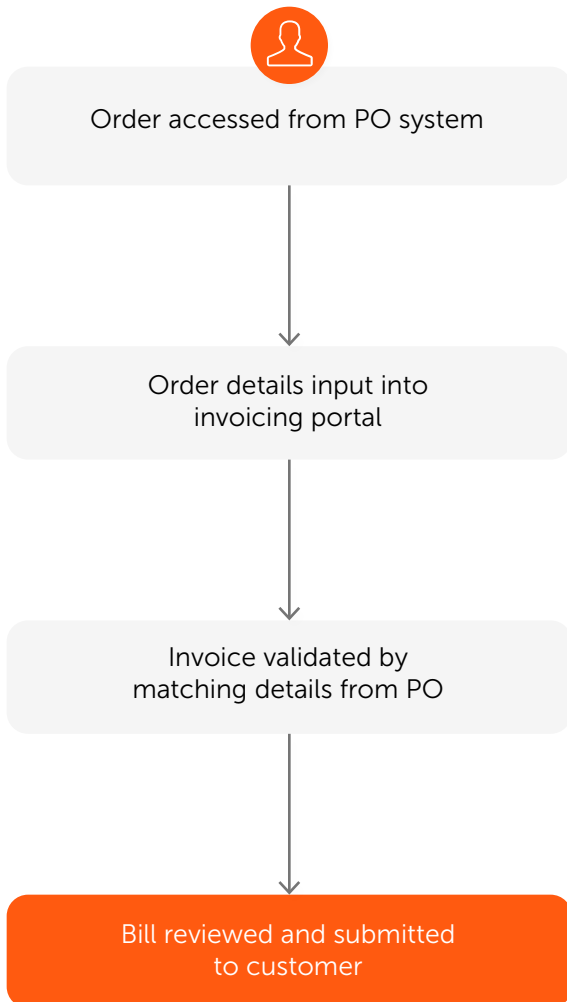
Many billing and collections tasks are slow, manual, and ripe for automation. Generating and delivering invoices is just the first step. Teams subsequently need to process payments, book accounting entries, and track overdue payments. Collections has to prioritize delinquent accounts, summarize payment histories, develop a collections strategy, and generate communications—tasks that take time, require relevant data, and invite human error. Compliance is also a collections challenge, especially for global organizations navigating complex regulations across countries.

Here's how AI and automation work together to solve these challenges:

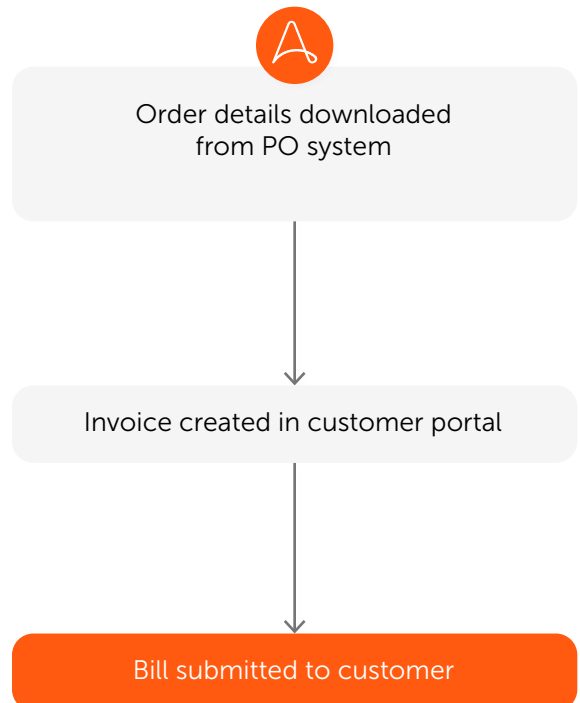
- **AI-powered automation improves cash flow** by accelerating the generation of accurate customer invoices from sales orders, booking accounts receivable entries, and processing payments.
- **AI and automation expedite collections** by automatically tracking invoice due dates, identifying overdue invoices, calculating late fees, alerting sales and account executives, and generating personalized reminder emails to the customer.
- **Automation coupled with AI facilitates reporting, escalation, and prioritization** of problematic accounts for further action so teams can focus on remediation.
- **Generative AI tailors collection strategies** to increase debt recovery with automatic evaluations of historical collections data, payment behaviors, and market factors to recommend recovery approaches and predict success.
- **Generative AI reviews customer service call scripts or monitors calls in real-time** to manage compliance and identify trends, such as increased use of specific non-payment reasons.

Optimizing accounts receivable: Customer billing gains **400% efficiency**

Legacy Process 30 Minutes



AI + Automation Process 6 Minutes



Customer Spotlight

HITACHI

Hitachi Vantara used AI and automation to streamline order-to-cash, record-to-report, and procure-to-pay processes—over 40 processes in total. For procure-to-pay, automation extracts data from over 80,000 invoices annually, resulting in 100% error reduction.



CUSTOMER QUOTE



Our key objective...was to free up our team members from routine, repetitive activities.

Lori Pedersen
Manager in IT Global PMO

ACHIEVEMENTS

10

months to production

41

processes automated

100%

reduction in errors

Use Case 3

Monthly Close and Financial Reporting

The monthly close cycle and financial reporting processes are critical to provide timely information to internal business decision-makers and external investors. Budgeting, forecasting and variance analysis are also instrumental for assessing business performance and strategic planning, all of which are dependent on accurate and up-to-date data. Manual activities such as reconciliations, journal entries and reporting are subject to human error and expose the organization to increased risk as well as extended monthly, quarterly, and annual close cycles.

Here's how AI and automation work together to solve these challenges:

- **AI-powered automation generates automated reconciliations and journal entries** with embedded role-based access controls enabling accountants to spend more time analyzing rather than booking entries.
- **AI and automation quickly and automatically gathers and consolidates** updated data, documents and financial records for the monthly close as well as financial planning and analysis.
- **Generative AI analyzes financial data to generate summaries and surface anomalies** that guide analysts and enable more informed decisions based on accurate and timely information.



Customer Spotlight

StanleyBlack&Decker

Stanley Black & Decker transformed their monthly close process by leveraging AI and automation. By automating 1,500 manual journal entries, they freed their accountants to concentrate on higher-value tasks like review and analysis. This strategic shift resulted in \$3.4 million in annual savings, achieved a perfect accuracy rate, and significantly enhanced employee satisfaction. Through this initiative, Stanley Black & Decker not only optimized their financial operations but also empowered their workforce, setting a new standard for efficiency and precision.

ACHIEVEMENTS

\$3.4M

in annual savings

1500

manual journal entries automated

100%

accuracy rate

Transforming general ledger close with a **400% increase** in efficiency

Legacy Process

60 Minutes



Transaction data downloaded from system subledger

Debit and credit entries manually booked in general ledger

Trial balance prepared at month-end

Entries reviewed and adjusted as needed

Post-closing trial balance and adjusting entry manually uploaded to general ledger

AI + Automation Process

15 Minutes



Transaction data downloaded from system subledger PO system

Debit and credit entries automatically booked in general ledger

Trial balance automatically prepared at month-end



Entries reviewed and adjusted by human-in-the-loop

Post-closing trial balance and adjusting entry automatically uploaded to general ledger

Use Case 4

SOX Controls and Audit Reviews

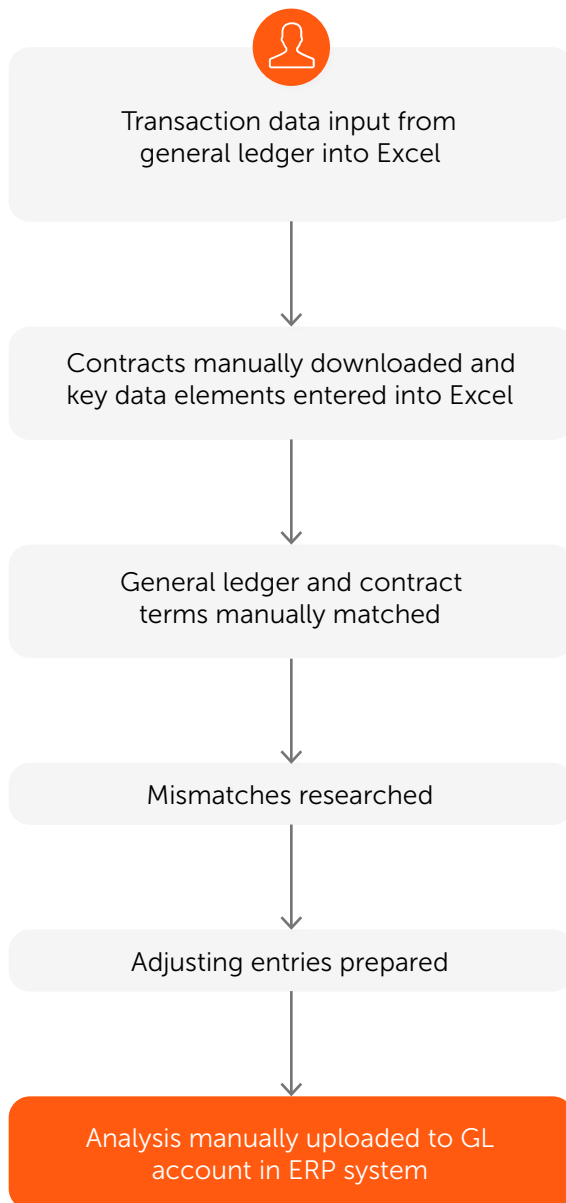
Control testing and audit reviews can be complex and labor-intensive, inviting errors and omissions. More time is typically spent gathering the necessary data rather than on review and analysis of the information. As a result, testing is often limited to small data samples or infrequent reviews which restricts control/audit scope and coverage, potentially exposing the organization to financial errors, compliance issues or fraud.

Here's how AI and automation work together to solve these challenges:

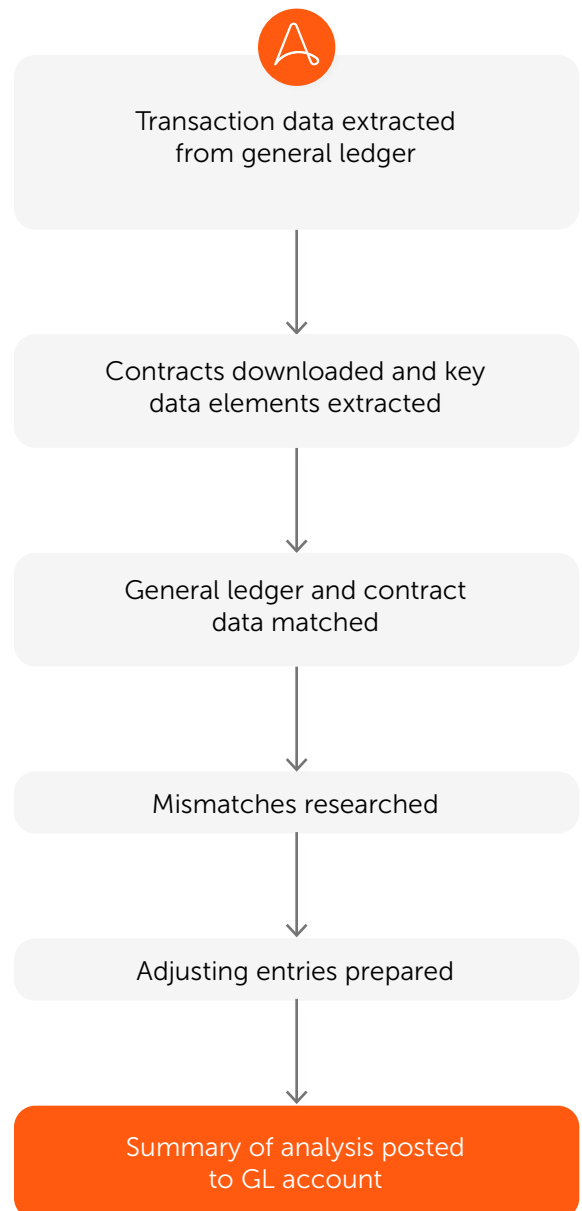
- **AI-powered automation swiftly processes vast volumes of financial data** to execute and expand the coverage of SOX controls to efficiently and effectively pinpoint fraud or errors.
- **Generative AI adds intelligent scrutiny across all financial transactions**, learning over time to pinpoint anomalous patterns and improve its detection capabilities.
- **Generative AI suggests audit frequencies based on risk severity**, prioritizing testing and effectively allocating resources to high-risk processes, and then generating clear, concise summaries of audit results so stakeholders better understand the outcomes.

Enhancing revenue testing: AI and automation in action for **100% accuracy**

Legacy Process Hours



AI + Automation Process Minutes



Use Case 5

Tax Compliance

Tax and finance teams spend three-quarters of their time on routine compliance work, [according to EY](#). Accurate tax accounting requires highly skilled resources that understand tax laws, liabilities, and planning strategies. In most organizations, tax professionals spend a disproportionate amount of their time collecting and aggregating data, reviewing transactions, and tracking regulatory changes, particularly for complex, high-volume transaction-level GST, VAT, and other sales and use taxes. These and related slow but necessary tasks take critical time away from some of an enterprise's most valuable workers.

Here's how AI and automation work together to solve these challenges:

- **AI and automation streamlines work across local and global boundaries**, sourcing transaction data and structuring the information to address the differing, voluminous, and increasingly complex tax requirements.
- **Generative AI analyzes long, complex, and constantly changing tax codes and regulations** to summarize critical elements and recommend treatment changes to the tax team.
- **Generative AI determines tax responsibilities for cross-border transactions**, finds opportunities for tax exceptions, and ensures teams comply with internal procedures and policies.

Customer Spotlight



Petrobras used AI-powered automation to analyze complex Brazilian tax regulations and three months of tax data. The company uncovered over one hundred million dollars in savings in just three weeks. Finance was also able to file taxes in just days, marking the first time in 15 years that the company avoided working during a tax season weekend.



CUSTOMER QUOTE



We saved \$120 million in just three weeks with Automation Anywhere's generative-AI powered solutions.

Carlos Barreto
CIO, Petrobras

ACHIEVEMENTS

> \$1 billion

projected savings

\$120 million

savings from automated operations

40%

efficiency increase

Four considerations for the responsible use of AI

[Governments](#), [technologists](#), [industry groups](#), and even [music artists](#) call for the responsible use of AI. The onus will likely fall on finance teams to bring responsible AI policies into corporate governance activities.

Automation Anywhere uses a [Responsible AI Layer](#) with custom generative AI automation models developed on top of leading large language models (LLMs) and trained with anonymized metadata from millions of automations. This layer includes AI security and governance capabilities that will quickly become critical to accelerate the next generation of automation development.

Here are four things to consider as you add responsible safety, security, and governance discussions to your AI-powered automation efforts.

1

Secure Model Selection

Choose LLMs for both model quality and data protection capabilities.

2

Guardrails For Use

Provide pre-defined input prompts in your automation workflows to maintain transparency and consistency.

3

Human-in-the-Loop

Incorporate human review to assess and validate AI outputs, ensuring accuracy and alignment

4

Performance Monitoring

Log and monitor generative AI model inputs and outputs to track performance, ensure data privacy, and promptly flag potential issues.

Experience the power of AI and automation

AI-powered automation helps finance and accounting teams get more done with less effort while alleviating cost and compliance pressures. It eliminates errors and elevates highly-skilled workers out of processing and reporting tasks so they can focus on higher-value strategic and advisory work, drive business transformation, and adapt financial strategies as the market changes.



Learn how Automation Anywhere elevates the finance function with a single end-to-end platform that discovers and automates processes, measures success, and maximizes the impact of AI and automation.


[REQUEST A DEMO](#)

About Automation Anywhere

Automation Anywhere is the leader in AI-powered automation solutions that put AI to work across every aspect of an organization, empowering businesses worldwide to unleash productivity gains, drive innovation, improve customer service, and accelerate growth. Learn more at www.automationanywhere.com

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