



Longo's Case Study

Longo's Saves on Time & Headcount Costs
with Modernized Accounts Payable
Automation Platform

 Process Fusion 360

When families are shopping for food that meets the highest standards in terms of freshness, taste and price, they inevitably make their way to Longo's. As a leader in the grocery sector, Longo's reputation has helped drive considerable growth, which is visible by more than 10 additional locations the company has opened in less than a decade. What consumers don't see, however, is the extra work that can come with that growth, in areas such as invoicing and reconciliation. To tackle that challenge effectively, Longo's turned to Process Fusion.

AT A GLANCE

Challenges

- Overload Manual Invoice Entry
- Time-Consuming Invoice Processing

Benefits

- 50% Reduction in AP processing time
- Improved efficiency by 60%
- Enhanced Job Satisfaction

The Customer

A family business that was launched by three brothers in the mid-50s, Longo's has grown from one 1,500 square foot store in Toronto to a total of 36 locations.

Beyond its business success, Longo's has made an ongoing commitment to build happier and healthier communities through its Longo's Family Charitable Foundation (LFCF), which has donated over \$2 million to local charities, organizations and sponsored events.

The Challenge

Like many organizations, Longo's historically had to process invoices from suppliers by manually entering them into an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system. This includes the invoice itself, as well as a receiving document – an internal document printed out on the 'goods received'."

As Longo's has grown, the volume of invoice processing had become more arduous. The company has been fielding an average of 12,000 invoices per month or 700 in a single day, according to Eva Kazemi, Accounts Payables Supervisor at Longo's.

Kazemi works on a team of six and hiring extra bodies would have added operational expense without necessarily addressing the volume of work in the best possible way.

Early on, Longo's tried to address the issue with a mixture of technologies that included enterprise content management, collaboration and workflow applications, but this introduced additional problems. The systems were error prone and complicated and lead to slower than expected processing and user acceptance.

"It was a challenge managing all the licenses and making sure all the technologies we were putting together didn't lead to mistakes happening," says Alicia Samuel, Longo's Vice President of Information Technology.

The Solution

Longo's moved to PF 360 Capture, a universal document capture and processing solution that leverages artificial intelligence (AI) to assist in quicker processing.

Longo's uses PF 360 Capture as the digital on-ramp to Longo's ERP, Symphony GOLD; think of it as paper to EDI. Invoices are scanned, verified and released to Gold for payment processing.



"Investment in PF 360 Capture has led to significant savings from not having to hire additional staff and allows current staff to focus on higher priority tasks."

Eva Kazemi

Accounts Payables
Supervisor

The advantages of using PF 360 Capture over Longo's previous mix of products include having a single system that runs in the cloud without IT infrastructure being required. Expensive licenses for enterprise content management software and server licenses were no longer required.

Finally, compared with the 10-year-old code running its previous invoicing solution, PF 360 Capture allows Longo's to handle newer, problematic invoices that the old OCC technology could not handle without a lot of program template work.

The Results

“I have had a great experience with Process Fusion and PF 360 Capture,” Kazemi says. “I was the one doing the testing, and their technical team was able to answer questions and provide great support, especially when we went live with the new system and there were some new things happening.”

Since deploying PF 360 Capture, Longo’s has seen some of the following benefits:

Time Savings & Increased Productivity Without Extra Human Resources:

Kazemi estimates that using PF 360 Capture has allowed Longo’s to save the cost of hiring extra people on her team, where salaries could start at \$35,000 and more. PF 360 Capture is also a tool that can align with Longo’s continued growth, now handling more than 50% of its paper-based invoices.

“It’s definitely helping us with the volumes we’re seeing,” she says. “With PF360 Capture, we can scan any invoice without the system needing to be ‘trained.’”

PF 360 Capture has been so easy to learn that Kazemi was able to assign PF 360 processes to summer students who join Longo’s on a temporary basis.

Adding Value Amid A Major

Upgrade: Longo’s was deploying PF 360 Capture at a time when the organization was also moving to a new ERP system, which meant the opportunity for additional complexity and challenges were everywhere.

“The main concern for me was whether PF 360 Capture was going to be able pull all the necessary data into the new ERP,” Kazemi says. “Process Fusion made sure we would be able to get that working by collaborating with our business and technical folks.”

The data Longo’s ERP system receives today is now 100% accurate and verified through their “received goods” and purchase order information.

Boosting ROI Of Previous IT

Investments: “Scanners have been in operation for years at Longo’s, but they were not necessarily working at full capacity,” Samuel says.

“There were these old test scripts where we would be going back through the system to make sure everything was working,” she says. “It was Process Fusion and their experience that helped lead us where we wanted.”

Using PF 360 Capture can save companies like Longo's \$3,000.00 a month in technology costs alone, and approximately \$6,000 per month in non-hired staff costs.

A Proactive Approach To Customer

Success: "The Process Fusion team is a good partner to work with. They followed up with us in every step of the implementation." Samuel says. "They know the RPA business really well. Having them come in and advising us meant we could get through this project in a timely fashion. They're very organized."

Ending The Challenge Of Point

Solutions: "It's a real benefit in having one platform with one major integration, versus having multiple pieces of a platform put together in multiple ways, where errors could happen," Samuel said. "This is a great example of how technology can be an enabler of the business."



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Alicia Samuel

Vice-President of
Information Technology

Ready to Learn More?

Schedule a FREE call with us and we will help evaluate your current Accounts Payable processes free of charge. No Obligations

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About Process Fusion

Process Fusion is a digital transformation cloud solutions innovator. We help organizations to create and integrate the best cloud technologies to simplify their digital transformation experience.

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