



OPPORTUNITY #30

WHAT IF WE HAD PERFECT INTEROPERABILITY?

THE REAL WORK-FROM-ANYWHERE REVOLUTION

Global software applications operating seamlessly and collaboratively across borders and sectors

WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

Proliferating software systems and expanding data volumes are causing major challenges for businesses.

Analysis within the last three years show that companies with more than 2,000 employees deployed around 130 different applications on average³⁰¹ while firms with fewer than 2,000 employees deployed an average of 73.³⁰²

Meanwhile, the total amount of stored data worldwide is expected to reach 175 zettabytes (175 trillion gigabytes) by 2025,³⁰³ with the global volume of data doubling between 2018 and 2022 and doubling again between 2022 and 2025.³⁰⁴

As a growing segment,³⁰⁵ using platforms-as-a-service (PaaS) and reliance on software-as-a-service (SaaS) does not resolve issues such as localised data protection or the ability to move data across systems³⁰⁶ and the growing lack of interoperability will continue to be a challenge.³⁰⁷ There are also various fragmented initiatives around the world to set up and support interoperable systems led by players in the public and private sectors, from Estonia's 'x-road' solution for interoperability³⁰⁸ and the European Commission's proposed new interoperability strategy for EU governments and public sector flows across borders³⁰⁹ to global consortiums for eHealth³¹⁰ and the Data Interoperability Collaborative.³¹¹

SECTORS

ADVANCED MATERIALS & BIOTECHNOLOGY · AUTOMOTIVE, AEROSPACE & AVIATION ·
ENERGY, OIL & GAS · FINANCIAL SERVICES & INVESTORS · INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY · INSURANCE & REINSURANCE · LOGISTICS, SHIPPING & FREIGHT ·
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES · UTILITIES



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THE OPPORTUNITY TOMORROW

As the number of technologies and systems continue to multiply and connectivity becomes faster and more seamless, people become more aware of interoperability problems holding them back in their daily lives with devices or systems that do not connect easily with each other.

Global agreements on interoperability of specific critical systems in sectors such as health, eCommerce and financial services can be set up with supranational harmonisation of standards and advanced intelligence proactively creating interfaces between solutions with timely and secure access to a range of applications and platforms.

BENEFITS

Improved interoperability makes systems more efficient, with more intuitive and user-friendly technological environments, lowering the financial and time costs of a range of activities, enhancing people's life opportunities and well-being. Growth is boosted as there are fewer non-tariff barriers to innovation.

RISKS

There is a risk of dominant public or private players becoming the de facto standard setters. The widespread adoption of fewer, larger systems presents the risk of unintended consequences for systemic resilience. Fewer or more deeply integrated systems increases the potential impact of malicious attacks or accidental outages.