

Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to be on the rise, and it has brought a lot of positive opportunities for businesses. Buyers have started to get better experiences as AI has enabled businesses to approach consumers more creatively. In many cases, by providing personalization or customized messaging. B2B vendors have also been transforming the way they do business. Many have undertaken digital transformation journeys, and they now look towards AI to gain greater benefits. But how is AI driving change in the B2B space?

AI accelerates growth and revenue

*A recent survey by Gartner showed that by 2020, **30%** of B2B companies will employ AI to augment at least one of their primary sales processes. These companies have implemented an AI strategy to accelerate their growth and revenues by:*

/ Using relevant data for insights. AI helps B2B vendors identify and segment buyers based on their needs, location and historical preferences. They can create tailored marketing approaches to target clients with the use of valuable insights about prospects throughout the buying cycle. This approach helps deliver the right products and services to clients, ultimately increasing conversion rates and revenue.

*/ Generating quality leads. A study by Harvard Business found that companies that use AI for sales were able to increase their leads by **50%**. By leveraging AI, businesses can gain insights from a wide base, increasing their capacity to identify the best B2B buyers. This helps increase the number of leads generated by the sales team while also ensuring its quality.*

*/ Streamlining internal tasks. A report says that **80%** of a sales teams' time is spent on cold-calling and lead nurturing activities. That leaves them with just enough time and energy to actually work on closing leads. Adopting AI can significantly reduce the time spent by employees on menial tasks by **40%**, according to McKinsey. Labor-intensive tasks such as data management can be minimized by embedding AI into different data management and automation solutions. AI can free up employees, thus encouraging collaboration and improving internal work processes.*

/ Delivering accurate product content. Buyers are extremely selective when it comes to purchasing products from a website or a store. They require accurate and consistent product content whether they are at a physical store or visiting an e-commerce site. And they want access to rich and up to date product content all the time. AI makes it possible for B2B vendors to deliver the most up to date and accurate content by efficiently delivering the right content to the right channels.

AI enhances buyer experiences

By adopting AI, B2B vendors can also:

/ Predict buyer behavior. Without AI, it is almost impossible to forecast buyer behavior and use it to benefit the business. By relying on buyer data and historical actions, B2B vendors can tailor product offerings that fit the needs of its buyers anytime. AI further helps by creating more relevant messaging and more accurate published product content on every channel.

/ Simplify data analysis. Analyzing product data to gather insight can be error-prone and difficult. Incorrect or inconsistent product data causes confusion within and outside the organization. AI helps solve complex problems over short periods of time, thus enhancing data analyses as well as helping to store and retrieve product information efficiently.

/ Measure product performances. Analyzing and measuring past product performance from a campaign or promotion is necessary for B2B vendors. AI helps businesses gauge how products perform in the market for a period of time and measures it against historical benchmarks to guide the decision-making processes and create recommendations.

/ Improve the buying process. Searching an entire catalog for a single product is taxing and time consuming for B2B buyers, especially if the need is urgent. AI can be used to provide buyers with efficient and easy ways to look for the products they need at any given time. Faceted search, text-to-speech and image recognition are some of the tools that can be utilized to improve on the search functionality of a system. Removing obstacles to the buying process means better experience for the buyers and faster conversion for the business.

B2B businesses that embrace AI has started to become the norm, and it is no longer just for big businesses either. Small and medium-sized companies can take advantage of its benefits thanks to the widespread use of the cloud.