

Punchout Shopping and cXML Integration with Vendors at an Aluminum Manufacturer - Levels the Field with Oracle

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Mike Popovic President and Founder P2Insight Inc. www.P2Insight.com





Abstract

- Kaiser Aluminum, a leading producer of semi-fabricated aluminum products, has been using Maximo at 12 sites in North America for many years. They also used Oracle EBS at one large site, that was recently purchased, where they were had implemented Punchout Catalog Shopping with Automated Order Placement and Invoicing. The many benefits of such a solution applies not only to the Supply Chain Team, but also to the Maintenance and Production Teams, and the Accounts Payable function. The value of Punchout functionality led Kaiser to deploy a similar solution with Maximo. They wanted to level the field between Oracle and Maximo Application suites!
- In this presentation you will learn about the Procure to Pay (P2P) integration and automation process and solutions Kaiser implemented recently using the P2Insight ecommerce framework for Maximo, and about the deployment process





Aluminum Manufacturer Overview

Kaiser Aluminum operates 13 North American manufacturing facilities and ships more than 1.1 billion pounds of product annually. We produce aluminum plate, sheet, coil, tubes, rod and shapes for a variety of industries including aerospace, automotive, food, beverage, general engineering.









P2Insight Overview

- A Maximo business partner focused exclusively on Supply Chain & Procure to Pay (P2P) Integration, Automation, and Optimization. We connect Buying Organizations with their suppliers, vendors and contractors, giving them:
 - Visibility
 - Control
 - Automation
- But, we are not about the Supply Chain. We are about <u>how the Supply Chain can more effectively serve the Maintenance Team</u> and the entire organization better, more effectively, efficiently, and reliably.
- Our goals are:
 - To improve the time from demand to fulfillment by at least 50%.
 - You can improve uptime by getting critical direct purchase items delivered faster.
 - You can reduce inventory levels when you can replenish faster.
 - To reduce the admirative tasks for requesters while searching for items, requesting item, expediting orders, and with any follow up activities, such as invoice discrepancies.
 - To reduce the manual tasks for supply chains professionals so that they can focus more on strategic initiatives, such as vendor selection and contract pricing.





The Situation

- Oracle EBS was deployed in 2022. It has had Punchout and other cXML integration with their leading suppliers since inception. Kaiser wanted the same capability within Maximo.
- The following integration exists:
 - Punchout
 - Order Placement
 - Order Confirmation
 - Invoice Import





The Situation

- Oracle EBS has the following vendors integrated:
 - MSC
 - Fastenal
 - Amazon
 - Staples
 - Ferguson
 - McMaster Carr
 - Stauffer Safety
 - Napa
 - Allegheny Petroleum





The Problem

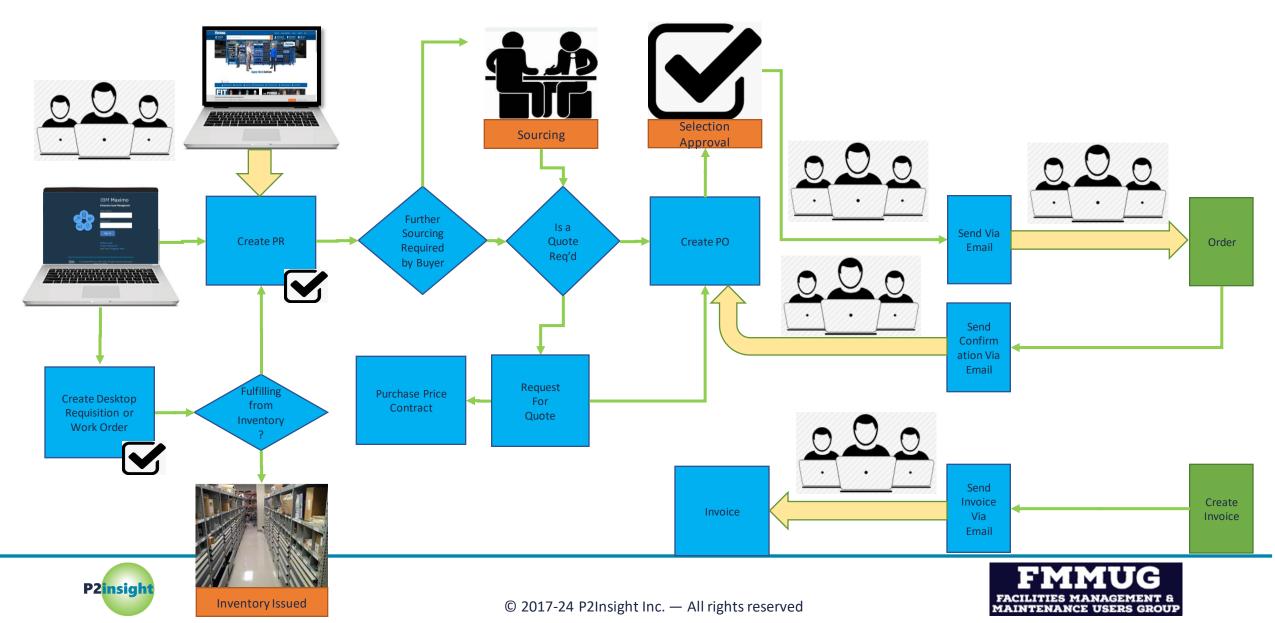
Maximo, like Oracle, has all the components required, but is not integrated with the suppliers. As such, it is a disconnected solution, requiring significant manual oversight and intervention.

- When shopping the vendor catalogs on line, we have two windows open, one with Maximo and a second with the vendor catalog, and when an item is found, we copy and past the details into Maximo.
- When the PO is approved, the Buyer presses a button, and waits for the system to create a PDF of the PO and sends it to the Vendor... not to bad, but it is one way communication.... We never quite know if there is anyone on the other end acting on our order.
- Vendor has to rekey the order from our PDF PO Print into their Order Entry system
- Vendor confirm the orders by email. We have to interpret that e-mail and manually update the PO in Maximo.
- Invoices are sent to us via email and A/P enters them with optical reader or manually. Errors can occur and delay payments.





The Problem



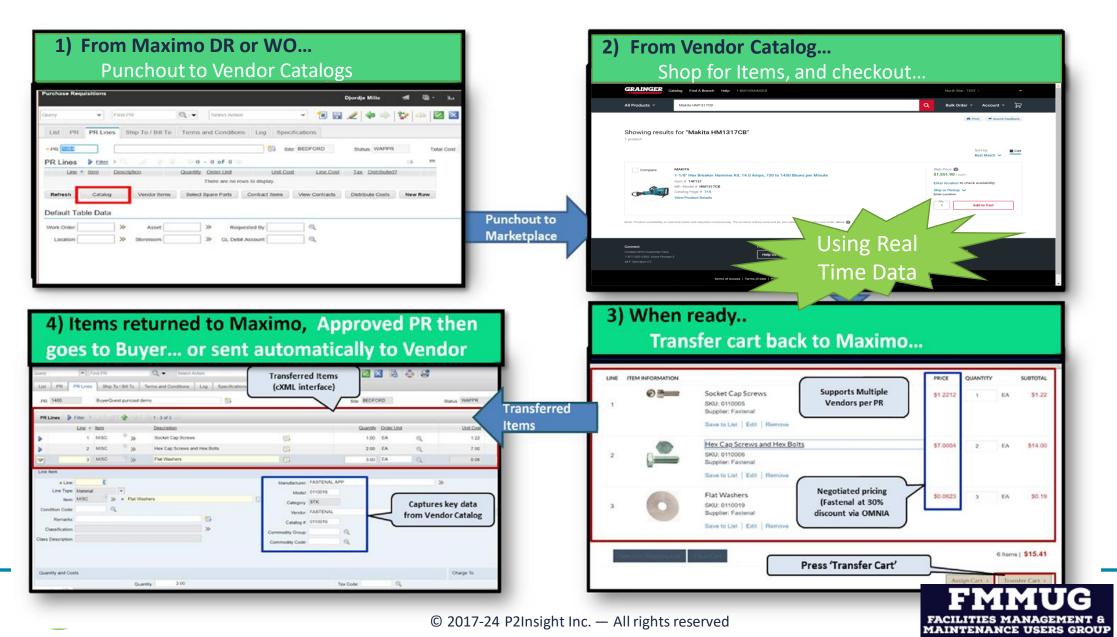
The Solution

- Saw the Northrop Grumman & P2Insight presentation at the 2023 Maximo World Conference and started talking with P2Insight.
- Attended the P2Insight organized MRO Supply Chain Matters! Conference in Houston, TX in February 2024.
- Contracted with P2Insight to deploy the following in May 2024:
 - Punchout in Desktop Requisitions and WO Tracking
 - Automated cXML Order Placement
 - E-Mailed Order Confirmation for now future cXML integration
 - Automated cXML Invoice Import





Punchout Vendor Direct Catalog Shopping



Punchout

Punchout catalogs address the following main objectives

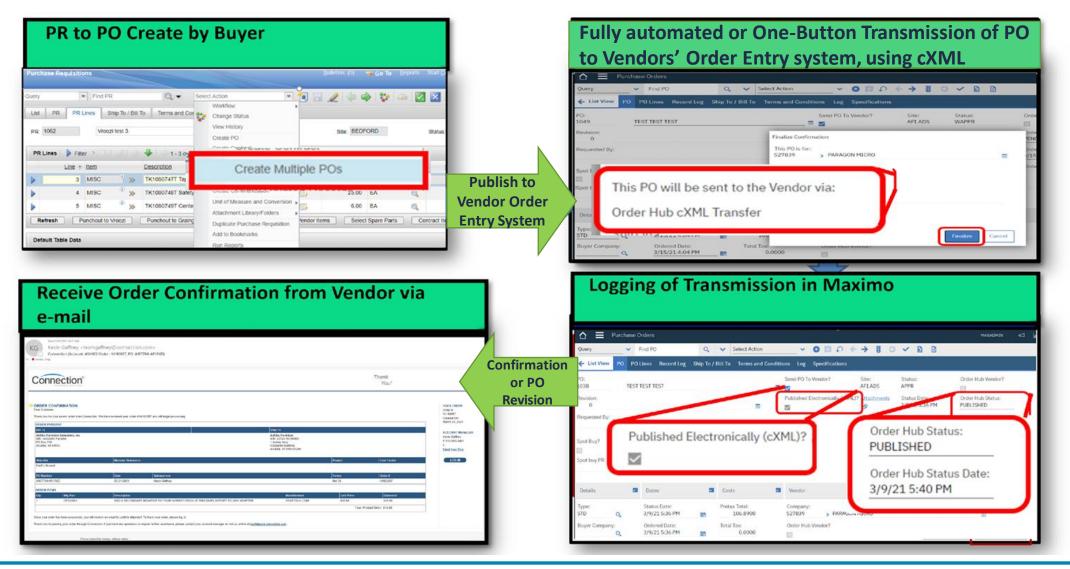
- Streamline and Automate
 - Reduce manual, non-value add tasks
 - Reduce errors, reduce clarification time
 - Move from buying to sourcing activities
- Direct Spend
 - Make it easy for requisitioners
 - Utilize suppliers with contract pricing agreements
 - Increase spend with select vendors to improve discounts and rebates
- Improves efficiency for Vendors
 - Gets the current and accurate information that will eventually be used for easier order placement.
 - Current and accurate pricing will eliminate Invoice-PO Price Discrepancies down the road.





PO Placement direct via cXML

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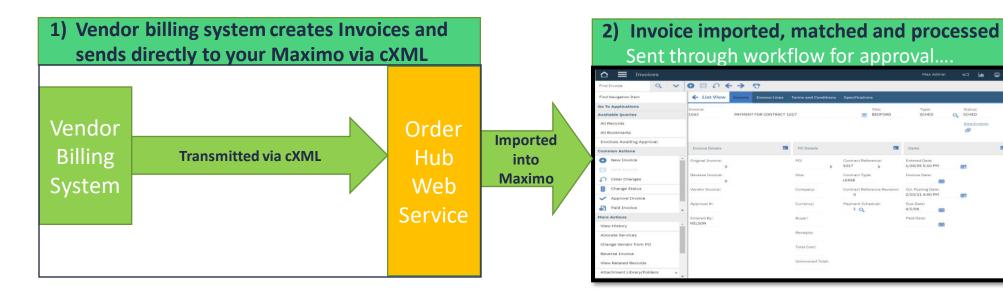
Order Placement

- Orders under a specified dollar amount are sent to supplier immediately after requisition and PO approvals.
- Pricing and stock availability are real time reducing price changes and expediting.
- Item is compared against internal inventory and can be issued from stock on-hand improving inventory utilization and turns.
- Manual purchase order creation for materials is reduced by 30%.
- Orders are processed and fulfilled faster, as no delays in data entry and no clarifications required





Invoice Import via cXML or Portal



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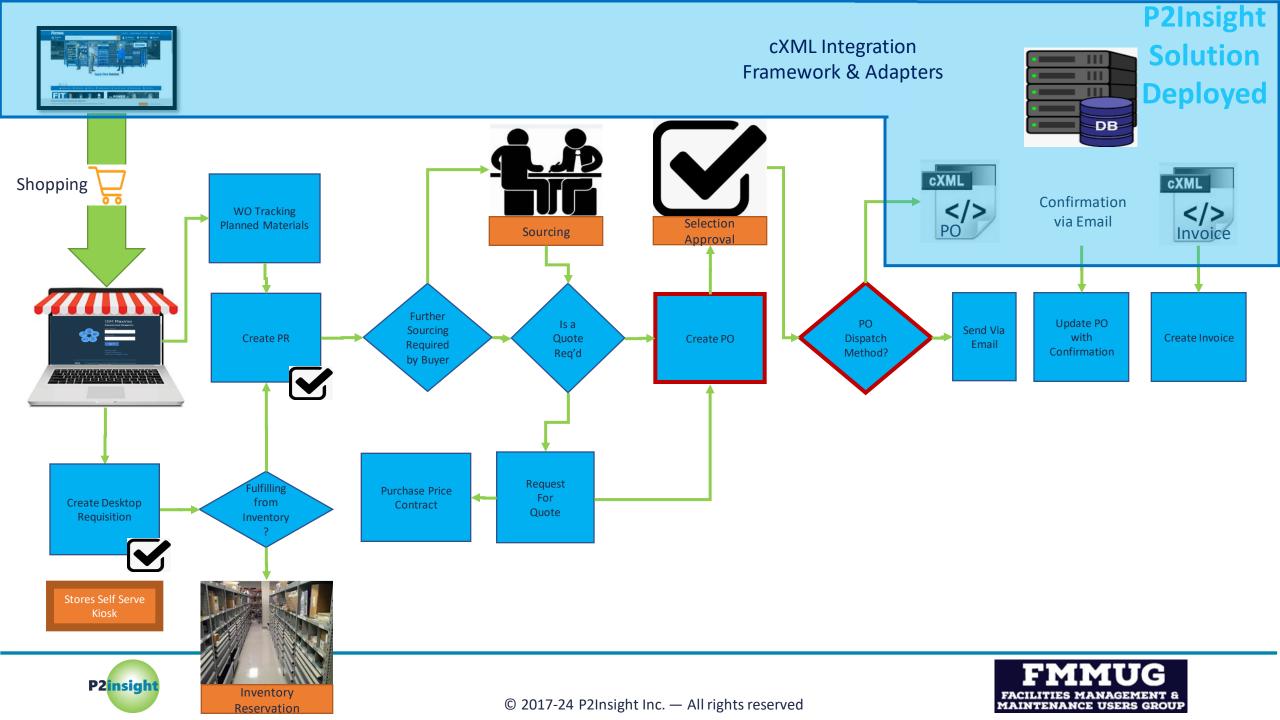
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Invoice Import

- Invoices are directly imported into Maximo (No digital to analog to digital)
- Invoice lines and PO lines are matched without intervention.
- Custom validation actions can update invoice status to APPR.
- Exceptions generate error messages for manual intervention.
- Invoices are logged.
- Credit memos follow same path as invoices.
- Any vendor freight and special handling charges create an additional invoice lines.
- For vendors that do not collect tax, a line for tax accrual is automatically created, and tax is collected to be paid directly to the government.







Implementation Process

- Allocate resource availability (Stakeholders, IT, Users)
- Define requirements
- Engage with suppliers
- System access
- Coordinate and communicate
- Review progress, redefine, review progress
- Test planning, test, adjust, test....
- Train
- Continuous improvement with additional automation





Issues Uncovered/Overcome

• Tax

- Multiple states, mixed taxable & tax exempt orders
- Miscellaneous Lines
 - Freight/Handling
 - Discounts
- UOM
 - Vendor UOM codes are different from ours
- PO# Field Length with Vendors
 - PO# send to vendor is a concatenation of PO@, Release #, and Site ID
 - Some vendors have a limitation of only 20 characters





The Technology Behind the Scenes

- We use the cXML Protocol to communicate with Vendors.
 - cXML, short for "commerce eXtensible Markup Language," is a standardized language for B2B communication
 - Taking over from EDI, which is a private network, to a public based network
- Invented by Ariba in 1999. Took about 20 years to become industry standard
- Today, just about all the major vendors support this protocol and enable this type of interaction.





These suppliers are cXML enabled...







cXML Security and Compliance

- Security Measures
 - Encryption

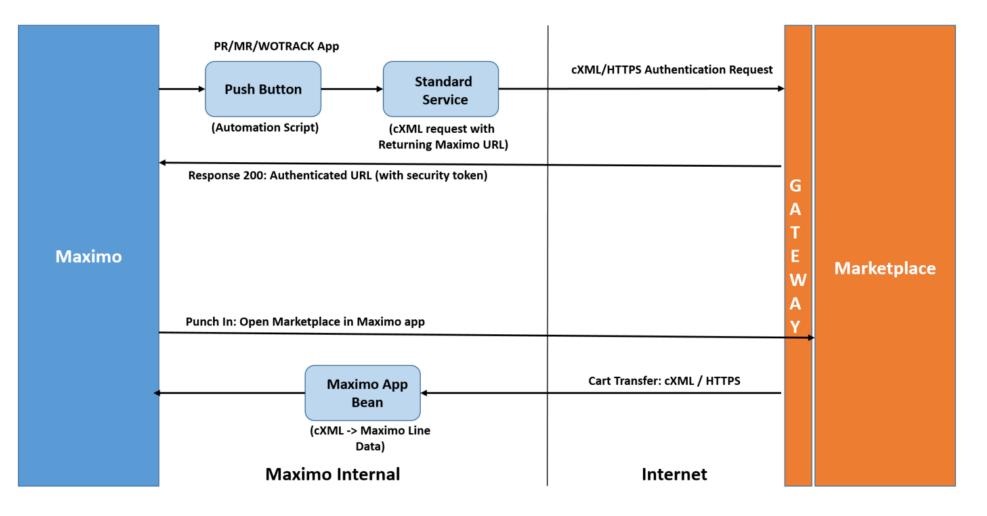
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- Authentication
- Digital signatures
- User access controls
- Compliance Standards
 - cXML specifications
 - Industry-specific standards
 - Internal security policies

- Additional Considerations
 - Regular security audits
 - Vendor security practices
 - User training



Catalog Punchout Dataflow

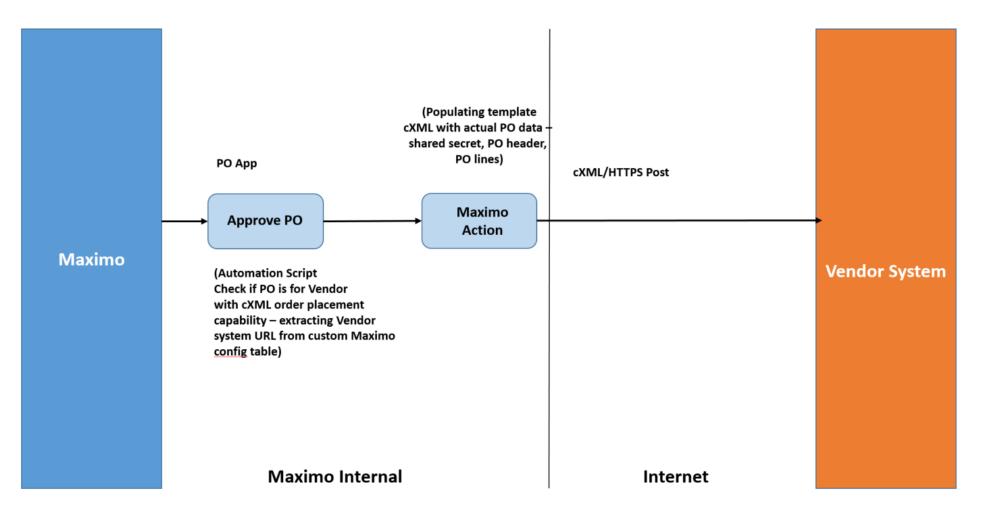






Order Placement Dataflow

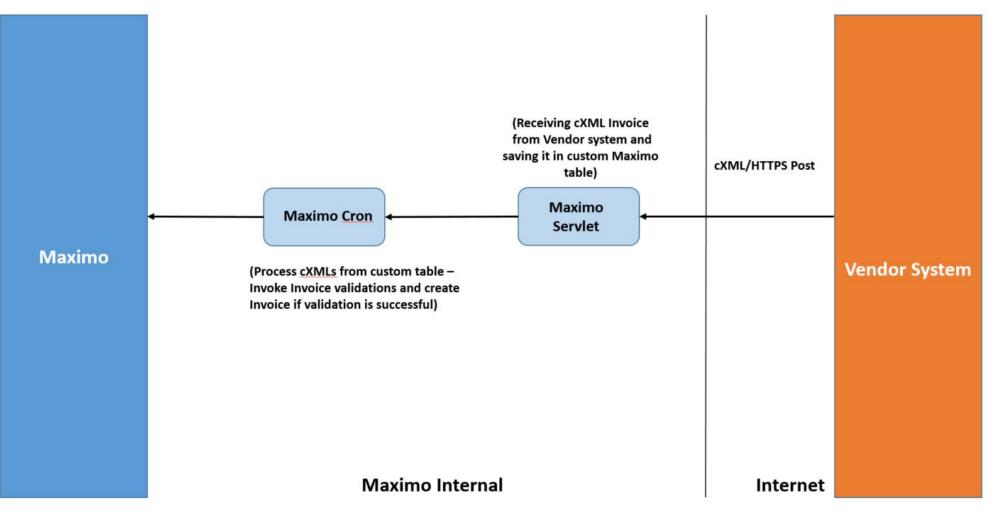
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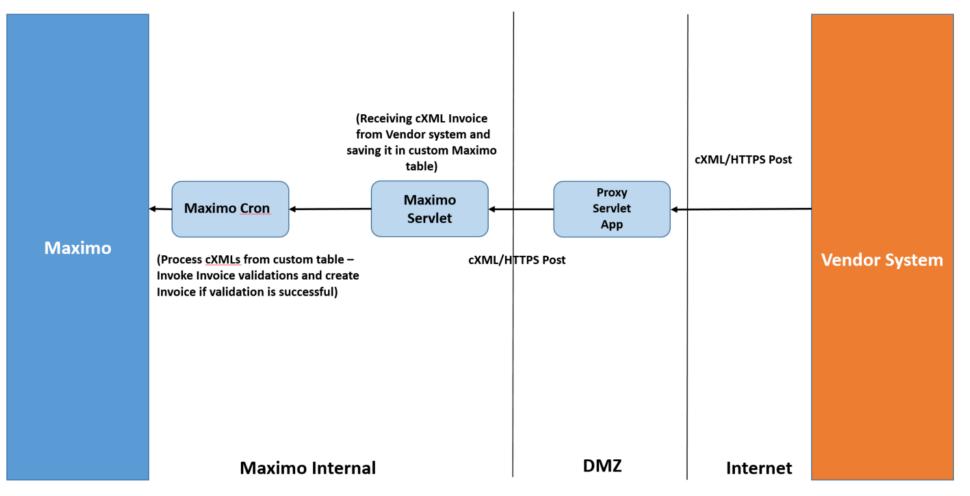
Invoice processing (public-facing Maximo)







Invoice processing (Maximo inside closed network + proxy app)







Vendors Integrated

- Amazon
- Applied Industrial
- Fastenal
- Ferguson
- McMaster-Carr
- MSC
- Plus others on way...



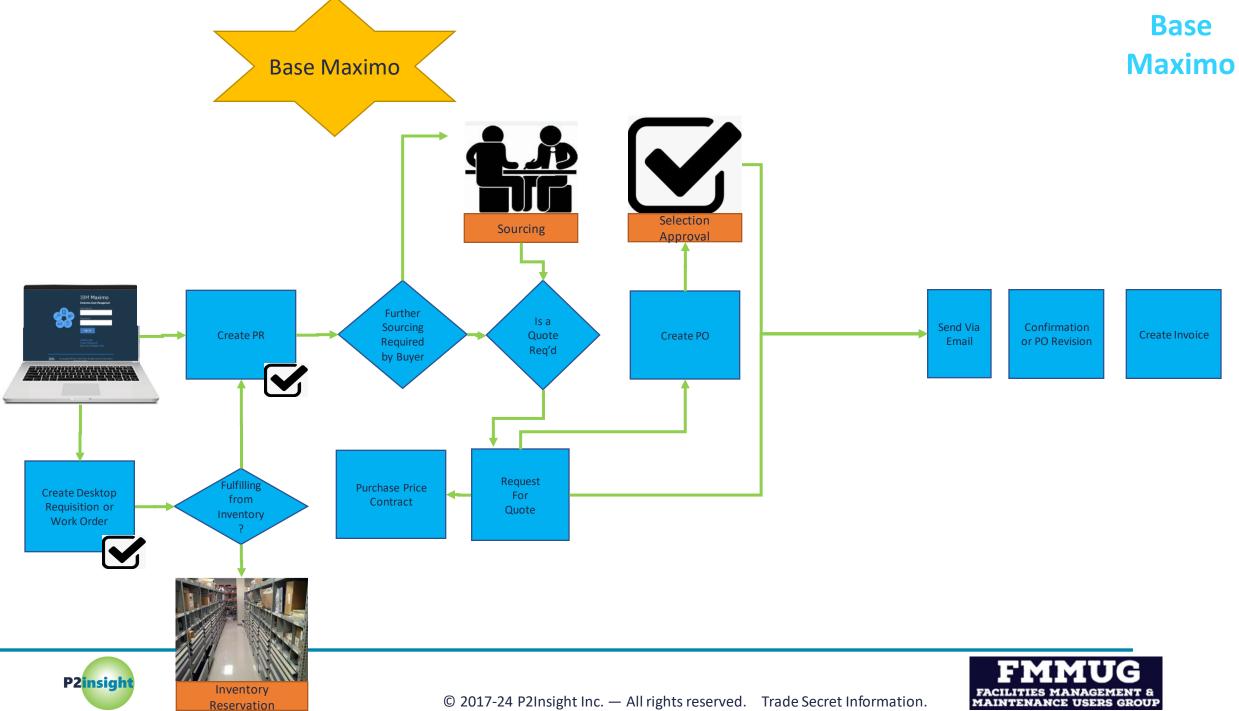


Results...

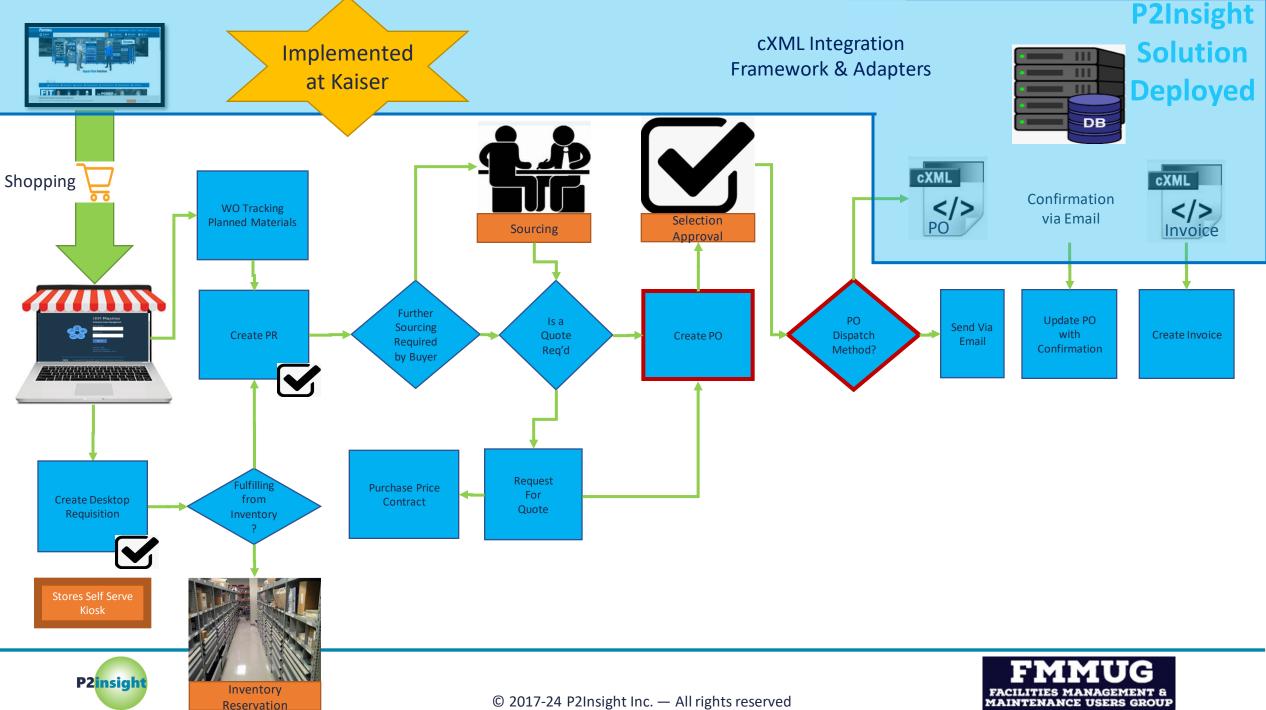
- The end users can now punchout and shop for parts with many leading Industrial suppliers.
- The Supply Chain professionals have less administrative tasks to do, and can focus on more strategic initiatives. The entire organization is more productive, efficient, and reliable!
- Now that the data is being exchanged electronically, Maximo can do things with it, so we are adding numerous automations to our processes.
 - Eg. We calculate the tax accrual on the incoming invoices.
- We have leveled the field with Oracle!

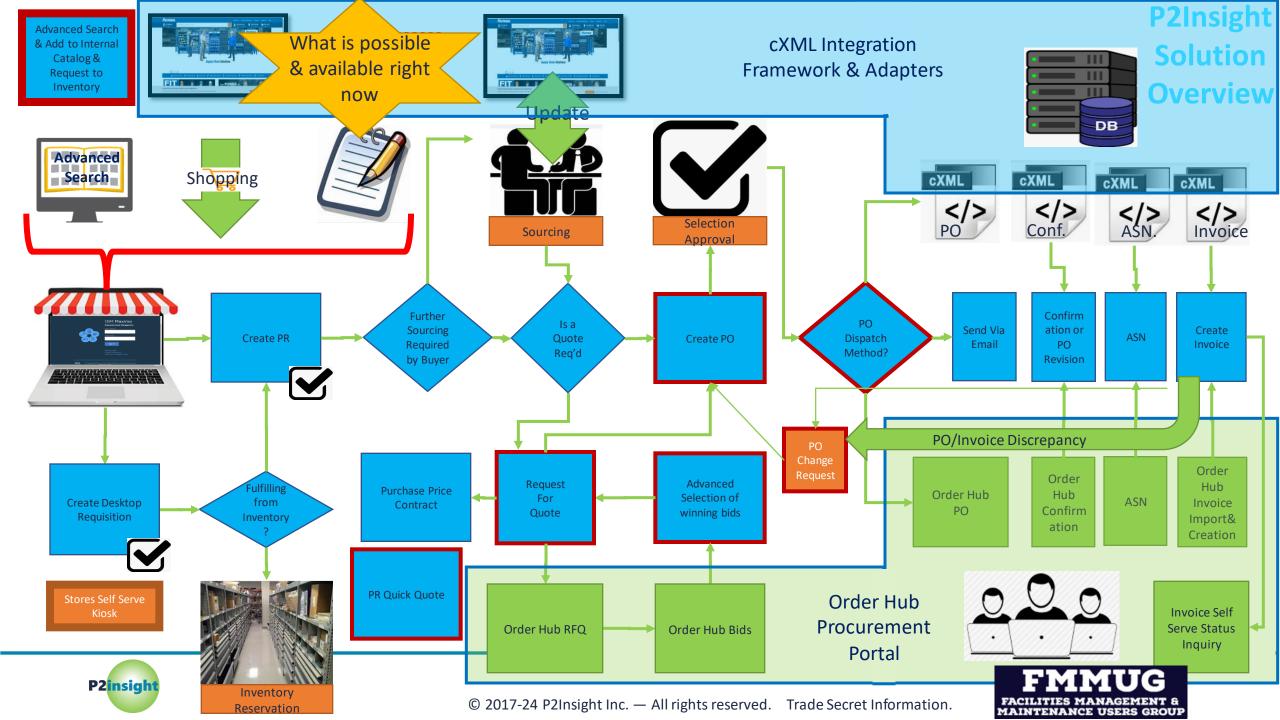






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P2Insight organizes an MRO Supply Chain only conference – The MRO Supply Chain Matters! (MSCM) Conference

- Most Maximo conferences are Asset and Maintenance focused, with very little for the Supply Chain.
- Objective is to provide Supply Chain professionals with a conference just for them.
 - No Assets, not WOs, no PM jobs, etc...just Supply chain topics: Inventory, Replenishment, Storerooms, RFQs, Purchasing, Receiving, Invoicing, Contract and Vendor Management, Logistics, etc.
- Supply Chain is an integral part of effective asset management. You cannot be fully effective, productive, and reliable, if your supply chain is not.
 - Next Conference: Houston, TX, March 3-5/25
 - See: https://mrosupplychainmatters.com/
 - Tell your supply chain professional about it! Tardy Bird Pricing until Nov. 15/24







Thank you.

If there any further questions, feel free to contact:

- Jinger Dittmer | Senior Director Supply Chain
- Kaiser Aluminum
 - Reach out to Mike Popovic for Contact Details



- P2Insight Inc. Maximo Ecommerce Enablers
 - c 905.517.2155
 - <u>mike.popovic@p2insight.com</u>
 - www.p2insight.com
 - www.mrosupplychainmatters.com





