Modernize Your Warehouse with the Zebra Maturity Model
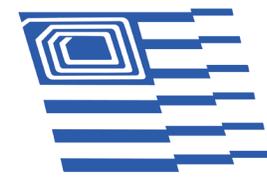
AB&R®
identify.
track.
manage.

The Zebra Warehouse Maturity Model helps you determine where you are, where you need to be, and which steps and strategies you can employ boost efficiency, reduce errors, and lower your operating costs.

Phase 0
Basic data capture

Siloed and Reactionary
Meeting static performance goals
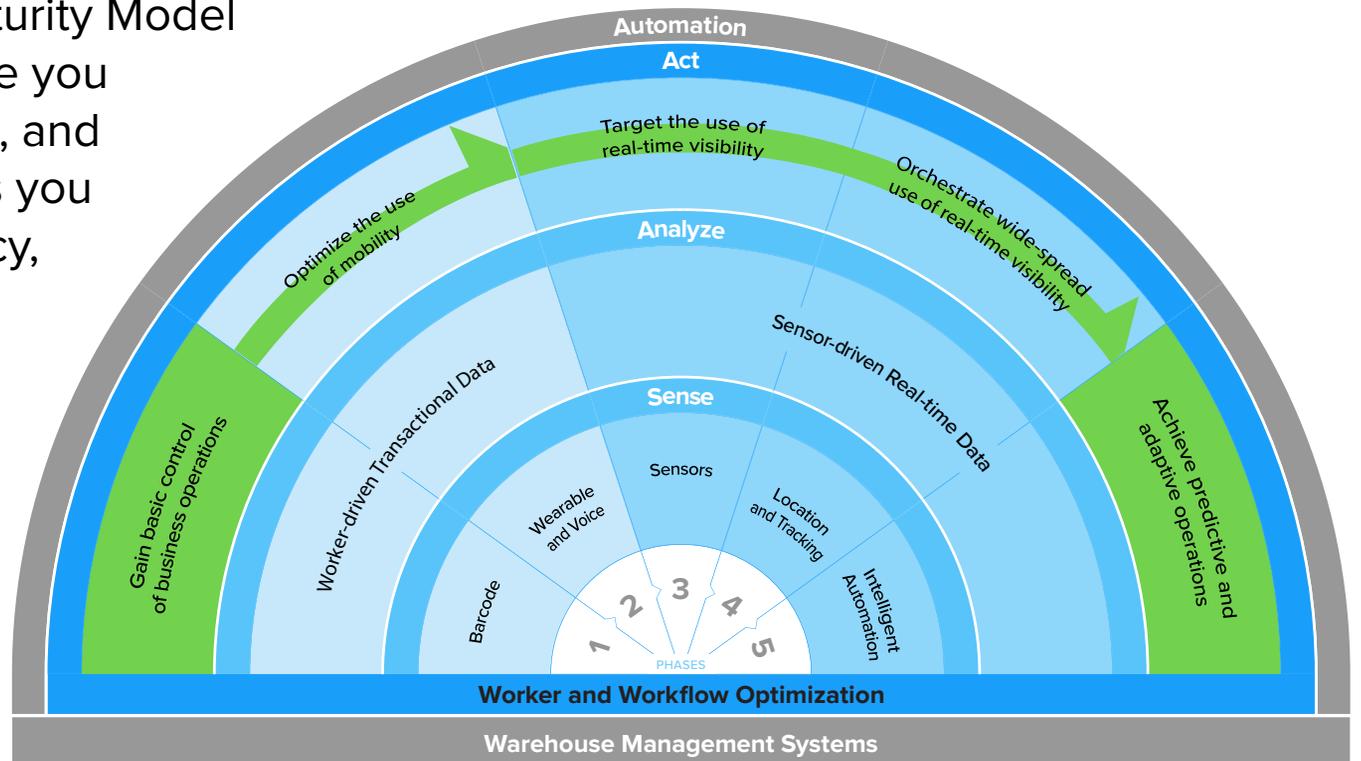
Automation

Act
Target the use of real-time visibility
Optimize the use of mobility
Orchestrate wide-spread use of real-time visibility

Analyze
Worker-driven Transactional Data
Sensor-driven Real-time Data

Sense
Gain basic control of business operations
Achieve predictive and adaptive operations
Sensors
Wearable and Voice
Location and Tracking
Barcode
Intelligent Automation

1 2 3 4 5
PHASES

Worker and Workflow Optimization

Warehouse Management Systems

5 Phases and 3 Near-Term Objectives

Each of the 5 Phases at the core of the model involves three objectives: **Sense, Analyze** and **Act.**

1
Sense your warehouse inventory and activity by leveraging relevant and effective technologies.

2
Analyze your sense data to reveal business-critical insights and operational intelligence.

3
Act on the resulting insights to achieve your goals and create a more modern warehouse.

Plan Your Next Moves

Identify, prioritize and solve your operational challenges with Zebra's Warehouse Maturity Model.

Phase 1

Do we know what we have on hand?

If inventory inaccuracy is creating out-of-stocks and inefficiency, start with actions from Phase 1.

- Track every inventory item and its movement with better accuracy.
- Connect each worker to your WMS for real-time inventory.

Phase 2

How do we handle more volume?

To support higher order volume, take Phase 2 actions to enable more daily transactions.

- Deploy technologies to simplify and automate warehouse tasks.
- Enable easier and more efficient mobile workflows and data capture.

Phase 3

How do we get rid of bottlenecks?

If your processes aren't fast and efficient enough, take Phase 3 actions to alleviate congestion.

- Manage by exception and focus on the biggest problem areas of labor inefficiency.
- Automate tasks and enable real-time visibility where speed and efficiency are mission-critical.

Phase 4

How do we prioritize our next moves?

If you're unable to quantify decisions and optimize in the moment, work on Phase 4 actions.

- Get operational visibility with real-time location and movement data.
- Reduce process steps with automated alerts and deploy the closest worker for the task.

Phase 5

How do we respond to changing demand?

To get out of reactive mode and get ahead of rapidly changes in demand, take these Phase 5 actions.

- Fuse all data sets together using intelligent automation.
- Predict and adapt in real time with inventory, location and transactional data.

Checklists to Help You Find Your Phase

Start with these checklists and identify which of these challenges you need to tackle.

PHASE 1

Improve operations: Increase individual worker productivity

- ☐ Siloed workers and workflows challenge our productivity.
- ☐ Slow, error-prone processes leave us missing deadlines and KPIs.
- ☐ Inconsistent or faulty barcode scanning leads to inaccuracy and loss of productivity.
- ☐ Key entry and green screens add to our inefficiencies.
- ☐ We need to capture all of our inventory processes.
- ☐ Unavailable or unapplied security patches expose our organization to security risks.
- ☐ Staging and deployment of devices are time-consuming.

PHASE 2

Connect workers: Increase team productivity and workflow efficiency

- ☐ Key entry slows down processes.
- ☐ Inconsistencies in workflow execution lead to errors and mistakes.
- ☐ Poor device ergonomics impact both productivity and accuracy.
- ☐ Lack of team communication and manager accessibility leads to under-utilized workers.
- ☐ Our WMS or infrastructure doesn't capitalize on new edge technology to optimize worker productivity.
- ☐ New employee on-boarding takes too long to reach full productivity
- ☐ Antiquated device management can't handle increased IT assets.

PHASE 3

Integrate: Greater asset visibility and utilization

- ☐ Human-initiated, scan-based processes are not fast or accurate enough to meet business needs.
- ☐ Poor asset visibility is allowing bottlenecks and delays at key operational points.
- ☐ Legacy systems cannot provide the needed and meaningful visibility into physical processes (e.g. moving work in process to finished goods).
- ☐ Device usage isn't optimized and needs to be expanded and improved.

PHASE 4

Anticipate and respond: Best-next-move guidance and decision-making

- ☐ We don't have true real-time data, so we can't make real-time decisions.
- ☐ Absence of data-driven tools keeps us from quantifying decisions or optimizing operations.
- ☐ Execution systems are not fully integrated, so notifications are not consistently facilitating best-next-moves.
- ☐ Lack of real-time visibility of equipment and assets, such as pallets, pick carts, and lift trucks, results in poor utilization and excess search time.

PHASE 5

Prescribe and adapt: Proactive performance improvement

- ☐ Human-initiated data interpretation is not sufficiently holistic or real-time, leaving us with incomplete information to predict and work proactively.
- ☐ We're unable to determine optimal flows or react quickly to workflow disruptions, slowing our ability to maximize productivity and efficiency.
- ☐ We lack visibility beyond the four walls of the warehouse, causing us to be reactive and inefficient with our supply chain partners.

Learn More and Start Using the Warehouse Maturity Model

AB&R and Zebra are working together to transform and future-proof their warehouses using the Warehouse Maturity Model. Using the checklist, identify where you are today and share your phase at abr.com/findmyphase. We will reach out to discuss the best ways to modernize and how to identify, plan and execute your next moves.

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