The future of work in manufacturing
What will jobs look like in the digital era?
The increasing penetration of new emerging technologies in manufacturing production and distribution environments has created a demand for professionals who excel in this evolving technologies and manufacturing landscape. These professionals are key enablers of smart factories and developers of a collaborative human-machine workforce. They are an evolution of typical site managers, who are expert in process engineering and change management in manufacturing enterprises, and often come from a variety of backgrounds, including many that are in the technology industry. What sets them apart is their ability to understand the new technology and manufacturing landscape.
The manufacturing workforce has been absorbing new technology for more than two centuries. Today, the industry finds itself in the midst of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which is poised to transform work at an unprecedented pace through exponential technologies such as artificial intelligence, advanced robotics and cognitive automation, advanced analytics, and the Internet of Things (IoT). And, contrary to some predictions, technology is likely to create more jobs than it destroys—as it has done historically. This is evident in the tight manufacturing labor market conditions prevailing both globally as well as in the United States.

Additionally, the Fourth Industrial Revolution is creating a mismatch between available workers and the skills necessary for open jobs. In fact, Deloitte and The Manufacturing Institute anticipate the shortfall in US manufacturing during the next decade to reach the highest levels ever recorded, higher than the earlier estimates of 2 million unfilled jobs during 2015–2025. Part of the challenge the industry faces is understanding how today's jobs and associated skills are morphing into new jobs and career pathways that continue to evolve along with advanced technology. How can the manufacturing industry prepare for this future workplace and ready its workforce to work beside robots and advanced technologies? What are the skills that will become "must-haves" in the future workplace? What are the pathways for training and education to enable these skills? We begin by exploring what's possible for future jobs in manufacturing.
To help manufacturing leaders and workers visualize the possibilities of the future, we've developed a series of personas that describe what jobs could look like in 2025. We have chosen to describe these 2025 jobs from the vantage point of the workers themselves, exploring how their work has changed, what kinds of skills and career pathways they have, the types of digital tools that assist them in their work, and what a normal day on the job looks like.

Bringing these future jobs to life can help business leaders, workers, educators, and policymakers shape their vision and spark conversations around what needs to change to make this happen. These future personas represent our ongoing research on skills gaps and the future of work in manufacturing, and reflect several important themes:

• **Putting humans in the loop.** As Deloitte’s 2018 Global Human Capital Trends report explains, leading organizations are working hard to put humans in the loop—rethinking work architecture, retraining people, and rearranging the organization to leverage technology to transform business. The broader aim is not just to eliminate routine tasks and cut costs, but to create value for customers and meaningful work for people.4

• **Expanding digital and “soft” skills.** The rise of automation in the workplace has brought with it an interesting corollary for skills needed in human workers. As technology replaces many of the manual or repetitive tasks many jobs entail, it frees up space for skills that are uniquely human, often called “soft” skills. A recent World Economic Forum study found that the top 10 skills for the next decade include essential human skills such as critical thinking, creativity, and people management.5 Companies need workers that can exhibit these skills as well as the digital skills necessary to work alongside automation.

• **Leveraging the digital toolbox.** Along with the move toward automation, robotics, and artificial intelligence, manufacturing workers are increasingly relying on digital tools to effectively complete their work. As the 2018 Global Human Capital Trends study shows, tools such as collaboration platforms, work-based social media, and instant messaging can increasingly support the communication necessary for higher productivity.6 We have created a “digital toolbox” for each of the personas to exemplify the types of tools a future worker can leverage to perform their daily work.

As digital transformation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution continue to redefine manufacturing jobs of the future, leaders and workers alike need to embrace a work environment that is expected to blend advanced technology and digital skills with uniquely human skills, to yield the highest level of productivity. Understanding how work might change can help the industry as a whole prepare for a future that promises to be transformative.

This series is part of Deloitte’s fourth skills gap study with The Manufacturing Institute to understand the depths of today’s talent shortage in manufacturing, how jobs are changing due to technology and automation, and what measures manufacturers could take to solve today’s shortage while preparing their future workforce for success. Through this research, we are engaging with business leaders, educators, and policymakers to explore how the manufacturing industry can prepare for a future that will likely require a markedly different skill set to remain competitive.
DIGITAL TWIN ENGINEER

Summary

Digital twin engineers create a virtual representation of both the physical elements and the dynamics of how an IoT-connected product operates and interacts within its environment, throughout its entire life cycle. Ranging from a jet engine or aircraft to a shop floor, an assembly line, or even an entire factory building, digital twin engineers make it possible to virtually see inside any physical asset, system, or structure that could be located anywhere, thereby helping to optimize its design, monitor its performance, predict its maintenance, and improve the overall experience.

Faster computing power, a proliferation of sensors, and exponential growth in the ability to capture data locally are fueling the rise of digital twins—virtual representations of products created with 3D design software. Digital twin engineers play a crucial role in building the relationships and communication lines across silos to create a network that marries the physical and digital worlds throughout the manufacturing value chain.

Digital twin engineers leverage engineering tooling along with a product structure (including parts, sub-assemblies, and sub-components) and integrate these with the necessary digital elements (including software, data, and chips) into a single design to produce the highest-quality product. Further, they act as a link between the product twin and the performance twin, revolutionizing how manufacturers work together with asset operators and customers, enhancing collaboration, accelerating innovation, designing smarter products, and creating new services.

By creating virtual models to test in real-world operating environments, digital twin engineers help manufacturers gain an understanding of their product behavior, thereby enabling better performance through enhanced design and predictive maintenance.

Responsibilities

- Create digital twins using 3D software and run simulations to measure product performance in varying conditions
- Draw insights from in-use product data to design new products and business models
- Use machine learning along with real-time usage and performance data to optimize product performance and service
- Work closely with the sales and marketing teams to create data-driven customer insights and go-to-market strategies

Time spent on activities

- Product development: 34% (32% in 2018, 26% in 2025)
- Production design: 32% (24% in 2018, 21% in 2025)
- Collaboration across manufacturing disciplines: 16% (13% in 2018, 11% in 2025)
- Generating critical business insights: 11% (11% in 2018, 13% in 2025)
- Performing analytics and predicting future outcomes: 5% (11% in 2018, 5% in 2025)
- Customer/partner interactions: 2% (5% in 2018, 5% in 2025)
GINTAS DEFRANK

DIGITAL TWIN ENGINEER
AirTrain Engines and Co. | Danbury, CT

Proficient in creating virtual replicas of major industrial products and helping companies predict and respond to customer problems using real-time data analysis and advanced technologies.

Experience

Digital twin engineer
AirTrain Engines and Co. | Aug 2022–present | 3 years 8 months
Work closely with customers to calculate time to failure and the remaining useful life of jet engines so that maintenance is performed on a condition-basis instead of a fixed schedule.

eEngineering applications manager
Adein Corp. | Jul 2018–May 2020 | 1 year 11 months
Developed a product data management system that is used to create engineering design applications and worked with engineering managers to deliver applications for product introduction management and design of Six Sigma.

Artificial intelligence systems engineer
MITY Technologies | Jun 2016-Jun 2018 | 2 years 1 month
Conceived, designed, implemented, and delivered multiple decision support systems based on advanced technologies.

Education

Fairfield University
Master of Science, Engineering
2020–2022

Trinity College
Bachelor of Science, Computer Science
2012–2016

Skills and endorsements

- **Simulations** • 108
  - Endorsed by Janson and Harriet, who are highly skilled at this

- **Analytics** • 99
  - Endorsed by Cabe, who is highly skilled at this

- **Sensors** • 96
  - Endorsed by Melissa and Jacob, who are highly skilled at this

- **Software Development** • 88
  - Endorsed by Tina, who is highly skilled at this

- **Systems Engineering** • 81
  - Endorsed by Jacob and Tina, others who are highly skilled at this

- **Research and Development (R&D)** • 76
  - Endorsed by Milli, who is highly skilled at this

- **Algorithms** • 75
  - Endorsed by Janson and Cabe, who are highly skilled at this

- **Image Processing** • 75
  - Endorsed by Melissa and Rajat, who are highly skilled at this

- **Cross-functional Team Leadership** • 73
  - Endorsed by Scott and Mary, who are highly skilled at this

- **Program Management** • 72
  - Endorsed by Jackie and Nihil, who are highly skilled at this
TOOLBOX

THE TOOLBOX SUPPORTS THE WORKER AS A WHOLE—IN ACHIEVING EXTERNAL OUTCOMES SUCH AS PRODUCTIVITY AS WELL AS INTERNALLY FOCUSED ONES SUCH AS DECISION-MAKING AND LEARNING.

Productivity

Venus
This artificial intelligence (AI)-powered, voice-enabled digital assistant provides a conversational interface for all productivity-related tasks, from scheduling to finding answers to questions and checking the status of products and projects.

WeAR
It is an augmented reality (AR) wearable device that connects digital twin engineers to IoT devices, and receives work instructions and training. These smart glasses, paired with Bluetooth-enabled scanners and voice guidance, respond to commands and open a pop-up on monocular display, which help boost productivity.

InstaCap
It captures data automatically using digital technologies such as radio frequency identification (RFID) and speech recognition. It helps collect information from machines, images, or even sounds without manual data entry.

Symphony
This software suite runs simulations and connects digital twin engineers with other resources—people, machines, and systems, for data-driven digital manufacturing. Using advanced real-time analytics, it helps digital twin engineers create models and optimize manufacturing production performance.

Share Smart
It is an enterprise social and mobile technology tool that helps in sharing digital 3D designs and images as digital files, to improve the collaboration necessary to build a new product or assembly line right the first time.

Rosetta
It is an AI-based real-time language translator that listens to speech, converts it into text, and then translates that into the desired language, enabling collaboration among different regional markets.

Decision-making

Smart Dash
It is a visual display that presents data, live information, and analysis from multiple sources to facilitate informed decision-making.

Envision
This tool uses machine learning to identify potential problems as well as opportunities to devise solutions that make a positive business impact.

RealConnect
This application enables an engineer to seamlessly interact with suppliers, partners, customers, and the broader ecosystem.

Sixth Sense
It is a tool that incorporates machine learning, cognitive computing, and artificial intelligence to detect macro trends in the broader environment.

Learning

SkillsPro
This smart learning assistant helps digital twin engineers refresh existing skills as well as learn new and emerging skills. Its conversation mode shares tips and tricks about the tools/techniques that an engineer has learned recently. When synced with an engineer’s project planner, it shares a list of skills to be learned for implementation in upcoming projects.

SmartLab
It facilitates classroom learning using virtual reality headsets and simulation. It tests trainees on a defined skill framework and measures subjective aspects based on their response style. Each trainee receives customized learning objectives.
Gintas begins his work day from his home office and accesses Share Smart to share the digital files of his 3D product prototypes with Carlos, a mechatronics software engineer based in Frankfurt. Gintas puts on WeAR before beginning his working session on a new engine design that his company is developing in collaboration with Carlos’ company CAI, a leading cloud services provider specializing in the manufacturing industry.

As Gintas completes his meeting with Carlos, RealConnect sends out an alert reminding Gintas to update the latest prototype model and all the analyses of mechanical and other engineering systems so that AirTrain’s customers can review and provide their feedback by the next morning.

Gintas logs in into Smart Dash to share live information and analysis with Adam, his senior project manager, as they prepare for their upcoming call at noon with the head of R&D to go over the status of the project.

Adam and Gintas open the new module of Sixth Sense to discuss the results of all the analytics that ran and they detect a few major challenges identified during the build stage of the new engine prototype.

After his review meeting with Adam, Gintas goes for lunch with his wife at a Peruvian restaurant a couple of blocks from his home. On the way, Gintas asks Venus, his AI-powered voice-enabled digital assistant to find out how the latest review results compare with the earlier version of the prototype.

After returning from lunch, Gintas speaks to Rosetta in English to convert all the key findings from the differences in results of the two versions of the prototypes, provided by Symphony. Rosetta translates them into Japanese and sends it over to Ankari, the head of materials division at Yuna, an Osaka-based supplier of advanced pistons.

As Gintas begins wrapping up his workday to pick his daughter up from school, he receives a pop-up from SkillsPro suggesting a new course on hardware-in-the-loop (HIL) and software-in-the-loop (SIL) technology is now available. Gintas asks SkillsPro to enroll him into the course, which he plans to take using SmartLab next week.
PREDICTIVE SUPPLY NETWORK ANALYST

Summary

Predictive supply network analysts play a strategic role in the digital supply network (DSN). With a portfolio of digital tools, these analysts generally rely on machine learning and cognitive computing, instead of "gut feel" and static reports, to identify opportunities for calibrating demand and supply. The results enable them to maximize performance based on metrics, including customer satisfaction, productivity, and margins. Because many day-to-day decisions are automated, these analysts can focus on changing algorithms that reflect exceptions or developing situations. More importantly, they have an eye to the future, making decisions intended to give their business a competitive advantage. The analysts apply enduring human skills such as complex problem-solving, problem sensitivity, creativity, and judgment to make decisions that augment and refine the recommendations of the tools they use. These analysts typically spend more time working with cross-functional teams that, together, power the DSN. To keep refreshing their digital skills as new capabilities emerge, predictive supply network analysts rely on smart learning assistants to help them master exponential technologies.

Responsibilities

- Evaluates recommendations from the predictive system, such as scheduling and material orders, and makes final decisions
- Identifies market opportunities and proposes collaborative forecasts to customers based on analysis and insights from machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI) tools
- Delivers results against key performance indicators, such as out-of-stocks, inventory cycle times, and asset utilization, ensuring that customer service-level agreements have been met
- Works collaboratively with engineering, production, and logistics to calibrate demand and supply, and eliminate any disruptions or delays

Time spent on activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training/development</th>
<th>Data analysis/Insights generation</th>
<th>Decision-making</th>
<th>Collaborating with DSN team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting</td>
<td>Administrative tasks</td>
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2018 PAST VS. 2025 PRESENT

<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborating with DSN team</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
JAMIE SANCHEZ

PREDICTIVE SUPPLY NETWORK ANALYST
Olsen Pumps & Valves Co. | Milwaukee, WI

Predictive supply network analysts are a connected and integrated part of the broader DSN at their organization. Skilled in data sciences and big data modelling techniques, they typically use digital tools along with their innate human skills, such as complex problem-solving, to move materials and finished goods through the DSN for just-in-time deliveries.

Experience

Predictive supply network analyst
Olsen Pumps & Valves Co. | Jan 2024–present | 2 years 6 months
Develops forecast models; analyzes market demand patterns to maximize material availability, minimize inventory hold-up costs, and meet market demands

Analytics gig worker | Online analytics competition enthusiast
Various online platforms | Jun 2022–Dec 2023 | 1 year 6 months
As a recent analytics postgraduate, further enhanced knowledge by working on freelance projects and participating in online analytics competitions

Senior supply chain planner
Craft Flow Systems Co. | Jan 2019–May 2022 | 2 years 5 months
Point of contact for the purchase, production, logistics, and sales department; was the first to use data analytics to predict supply needs

Education

University of Wisconsin
Graduate certificate in advanced analytics (online)
2021–2022

University of Wisconsin
Bachelor of science, supply chain
2011–2015

Skills and endorsements

- ERP • 396
  Endorsed by Jennifer and Carter, who are highly skilled at this

- Demand analytics • 188
  Endorsed by Lucas, who is highly skilled at this

- Inventory optimization • 181
  Endorsed by Jennifer and Lucas, who are highly skilled at this

- Network planning and optimization • 176
  Endorsed by Melissa, who is highly skilled at this

- Replenishment analytics • 95
  Endorsed by Melissa and Ryan, who are highly skilled at this

- Logistics and warehouse management • 85
  Endorsed by Hemant, and Akkub, who is highly skilled at this

- Analytics • 79
  Endorsed by Melissa, who is highly skilled at this

- General tech fluency • 68
  Endorsed by Jennifer and Ryan, who are highly skilled at this

- Visualization • 73
  Endorsed by Akkub and Melissa, who are highly skilled at this

Other certifications

- EdX
  Analytics and supply chain
- OpenLearnOrg
  Blockchain in supply chain
TOOLBOX

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Productivity

**Venus**
This AI-powered, voice-enabled digital assistant provides a conversational interface for all productivity-related tasks, from scheduling to finding answers to questions and checking the status of products and projects.

**DSN Tower**
A primary digital platform for managing the complex and distributed digital supply network. It surfaces relevant information from all the connected supply chain applications across the enterprise and provides a customized interface by role and experience.

**CrowdWise**
This online dashboard collects textual data from all the social websites a company uses for feedback, complaints, and issues using text mining and web scraping. It then creates word clouds and, with the help of perception mapping, highlights the customer sentiment around the company's products and services.

**VirtuMeet**
This AR smart-glass conference room with AI capabilities allows global partners to meet and collaborate, overcoming the barriers of physical separation. With built-in AI, AR screens can present short bios or other relevant information about attendees as the user pans across their faces.

**Share Smart**
An enterprise social and mobile technology tool that helps in sharing digital 3D designs and images as digital files to improve the collaboration necessary to build a new product, supply network configuration, or assembly line right the first time.

**Rosetta**
An AI-based real-time language translator that listens to speech, converts it into text, and then translates that into the desired language, enabling collaboration among different regional markets.

**VizWizard**
A visualization tool that can create graphs and infographics with minimal text inputs from the user. It is also capable of creating topline results based on information available in charts.

Decision-making

**Smart Dash**
A visual display that presents data, live information, and analysis from multiple sources to facilitate informed decision-making.

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**RealConnect**
This application enables an engineer to seamlessly interact with suppliers, partners, customers, and the broader ecosystem.

**Sixth Sense**
A tool that incorporates machine learning, cognitive computing, and AI to detect macro trends in the broader environment.

Learning

**Career Coach**
This personal bot performs strength assessments and understands the broader talent situation at the company. It uses AI to suggest different career pathways and coordinates with the SkillsPro training course to create programs for users to accomplish their pathways. It also links in real time to the talent management system at the company to alert the user of job openings and opportunities for advancement.

**SkillsPro**
This smart learning assistant helps digital twin engineers refresh existing skills as well as learn new and emerging skills. Its conversation mode shares tips and tricks about the tools/techniques that an engineer has learned recently. When synced with an engineer’s project planner, it shares a list of skills to be learned for implementation in upcoming projects.
While preparing her breakfast, Jamie says, “Hey Venus, what’s on my calendar today?” Jamie’s virtual personal assistant reads out her morning schedule and priority tasks that need to be completed, along with a personal reminder of her meeting with Chan, a friend from her analytics certificate course.

As Jamie picks up her car keys to leave for the office, a pop-up from her wellness manager app reminds her about her fitness goals and, as the office is three miles away, suggests that Jamie cycle there. Eager to meet her goal, she goes for it.

As Jamie reaches the office and asks Venus to check her into her workspace as she exits the elevator. Soon after the check-in, Smart Dash activates, presenting Jamie with live information from all the suppliers, including an inventory of current materials and estimated time to receive additional materials. Smart Dash also flagged some deliveries that might get delayed due to weather disruptions. Jamie starts sorting the deliveries based on the supplier profile her program created from live predictions based on proximity to the disruptive weather conditions.

As Jamie leaves for a coffee break, Venus informs her about a few calendar invites from suppliers, who want to discuss the current weather delay alerts. Jamie asks Venus to send RealConnect invites to all the partners for an 11 a.m. meeting.

Jamie opens the Envision app to further analyze and fine tune the information she received from Smart Dash. She uses Envision to make a decision on procurement and the future supplies she will need for the scheduled production runs. With the help of DSN Tower, Jamie shortlists the suppliers she will contact for the immediate demands and the warehouses that will be used for categorizing and storing the products before distribution. She also downloads the final report of all the recent transactions for an upcoming meeting.

Back at her desk, Jamie’s virtual career coach presents her with a performance scorecard on how she managed the meeting and lists a few skills that she needs to learn for her career progression. Jamie asks Venus to look for upcoming classes on “stakeholder management” and enroll her in the earliest class as per her calendar.

After her discussion with the manager, Jamie shares the VizWizard report with her team, highlighting all the issues and growth/declines in the trends. The status report helps them to more easily plan and make production-related decisions.

As Jamie wraps up for the day, her wellness manager flashes the daily stress report and informs her to enjoy the evening and unwind. Venus, taking the hint, books a table for two at Jamie’s favorite restaurant for a relaxing dinner with her partner.
It is 2025. The increasing penetration of robots in manufacturing production and distribution is driving demand for professionals known as robot teaming coordinators (RTCs) who train humans and robots to work together collaboratively. Key enablers of a collaborative human-machine workforce, RTCs oversee robots from all functions that interact with humans to enable human rapport with robots and ensure optimal human-machine interactions.

RTCs are an evolution of the typical process engineer and change management experts in manufacturing enterprises. These individuals typically design business processes that integrate robotics into production and distribution operations while also considering the enduring human skills that employees bring to the value stream. They often assist employees in adopting the new, robotically augmented processes. RTCs understand the human elements that are in play at the hand-offs between robots and humans and help create a harmony that optimizes the strengths of both partners in the integrated workstream.

The RTC is generally responsible for monitoring robot performance and providing feedback to programmers to optimize robot value. Unlike robot programmers, RTCs are often not experts in programming languages, but should have the required skills to understand how robots are supposed to behave in work environments.

Summary

It is 2025. The increasing penetration of robots in manufacturing production and distribution is driving demand for professionals known as robot teaming coordinators (RTCs) who train humans and robots to work together collaboratively. Key enablers of a collaborative human-machine workforce, RTCs oversee robots from all functions that interact with humans to enable human rapport with robots and ensure optimal human-machine interactions.

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Responsibilities

- Observes robots and evaluates their performance based on how effectively they can perform predetermined tasks
- Shares feedback with robot programmers on a robot’s performance and recommends areas for improvement
- Trains human team members to help them work more collaboratively with robots in a coworking environment
- Works in tandem with robot coordinators from other departments to identify opportunities where robots can be deployed to enhance productivity
- Delivers results against key performance indicators such as enhanced customer experience, human-hours saved, and overall improvements in productivity

Time spent on activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resource allocation</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifying training opportunities/training workers</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing feedback with robot programmers</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observing and evaluating workers’ behavior with robots</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observing and evaluating robots</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting and administrative tasks</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OLIVIA DAVIS

ROBOT TEAMING COORDINATOR
Breeze Turbines | Hull, United Kingdom

Proficient in unlocking growth and productivity by enabling a collaborative human-robot working environment; applies a mix of digital, social, and human skills to enable humans and robots to leverage each other’s strengths and help the firm grow.

Experience

Robot teaming coordinator
Breeze Turbines | Oct 2024–present | 1 year 1 month
Observes and manages robots while they perform live tasks on a factory production line, identifying ways to augment human tasks that are repetitive; works closely with factory workers to pair them with robots in a way that maximizes productivity; handles employee concerns about working with new robots, and builds rapport between humans and machines on the production line.

Customer interest representative
AI Robotics Limited | Jun 2022–Sep 2024 | 2 years 4 months
Interacted with various customers to understand feedback and capture important requirements for the company’s robotic products and services; worked with various teams within the company to understand the capabilities of the robots; provided a demonstration of robots to premier clients.

Talent facilitator
StarMovies Company LLC | Jun 2020–May 2022 | 2 years
Helped coordinate directors, artists, and other crew members for many leading TV commercials; in several cases, worked as robot assistant for commercials that included robotic products.

Education

University of Illinois
Bachelor of science, psychology
2016–2020

Other certifications

- EdX
  Microdegree in human psychology
- Morgan Community College
  Certificate in humanities
- OpenLearnOrg
  Robot programming for nonprogrammers

Skills and endorsements

- Behavioral analysis • 412
  Endorsed by James, who is highly skilled at this
- Human-machine collaborator • 324
  Endorsed by Robert and Patricia, who are highly skilled at this
- Robot management • 246
  Endorsed by Sid and Byrne, who are highly skilled at this
- Administration • 195
  Endorsed by Tracy and Joe, who are highly skilled at this
- Motion capture • 86
  Endorsed by Jessica, who is highly skilled at this
- Social skills • 85
  Endorsed by Elizabeth and Susan, who are highly skilled at this
- Customer service • 79
  Endorsed by Yoanne, who is highly skilled at this
- Technical training and orientation • 68
  Endorsed by Heather and Ryan, who are highly skilled at this
## Toolbox

### Productivity

**Venus**  
This AI-powered, voice-enabled digital assistant provides a conversational interface for all productivity-related tasks, from scheduling to finding answers to questions and checking the status of products and projects.

**Visually Trainable Robot (VITRO)**  
This is a personal multipurpose humanoid robot whose size and capabilities make it suitable for individual use. It can be visually programmed by its user through motion capture software and trackers to perform household tasks. VITRO also has cloud-connected artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities that help it to optimize tasks even further.

**rMIMIC**  
This motion-capture AI tracker can scan and track the various sensors placed on a human body and create coordinates in a digital space. The tool then translates the recorded coordinates into a set of commands and shares with the target VITRO to execute.

**VirtuMeet**  
This AR smart-glass conference room with AI capabilities allows global partners to meet and collaborate, overcoming the barriers of physical separation. With built-in AI, AR screens can present short bios or other relevant information about attendees as the user pans across their faces.

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**RealConnect**  
This application enables an engineer to seamlessly interact with suppliers, partners, customers, and the broader ecosystem.

### Learning

**LNP**  
A social media interface run for and by the users. An individual can express their desire to augment a specific skill or post a problem, and other users proficient in that skill can act as a temporary buddy for help. This social learning tool employs gamification, in which both the learners and teachers "win" learning points.
## A Day in the Life

### 06:30 AM
Olivia feels a gentle nudge and a vibration on her hand. Through her half-opened eyes, she sees Ardennes—her personal VITRO—waking her up. After days of Olivia teaching the robot through rMIMIC, Ardennes was not only able to correctly identify Olivia's right arm but was also able to nudge and vibrate gently enough to break her sleep. Happy with the results, Olivia gets up from her bed and says, "Hey, Ardennes, can you make the bed, get the laundry ready, and then park yourself in the garage?"

### 07:30 AM
As Olivia gets on a train to head into her office, Venus—her smart personal assistant—reminds Olivia that she has a 10 a.m. meeting with Lee, a metal panel fabrication plant manager based in Barcelona.

### 08:30 AM
Once in the office, Olivia asks ShareSmart to connect to the company data repository and download the previous night's video footage and corresponding data metrics for all the robots on several production lines she's been tracking.

### 10:00 AM
During her meeting with Lee via a Rosetta-enabled VirtuMeet conference room, Olivia learns that the new sheet metal cutting-and-painting robot has been working with zero errors. However, the humanoid robots deployed on the plant floor to move objects around have been having a bit of difficulty navigating through a crowded workspace.

### 11:00 AM
After the meeting, Olivia calls on Venus to show the humanoid robots' movement on Smart Dash. Olivia's observations and the heat map of the robots' movements reveal that the robots are moving as per the defined guidelines. Realizing that the issue is with the human workers on the floor, Olivia asks Venus to set up a RealConnect meeting with the fabrication manager and the workers on that assembly line.

### 12:00 PM
After a busy morning, Olivia breaks for lunch at a nearby coworking space. There, she connects over lunch with her other friends who are process engineers at another division of the company. They discuss some interesting case studies and ideas.

### 02:00 PM
It is time for Olivia's Rosetta-enabled RealConnect meeting with the workers from the Barcelona metal fabrication team. Olivia explains how the humanoid robots are helping everyone enhance productivity and efficiency. She also explains to the workers that the humanoid robots are performing repetitive tasks, creating more opportunities for them to do work where their skills are required. After a lengthy question-and-answer session, Olivia utilizes her human psychology skills to mitigate workers' fears and convince them to work with robots.

### 04:00 PM
After her meeting, Olivia creates and shares the VizWizard report with her leadership team, highlighting all the process-efficiency improvements across different departments that the factory achieved by creating a congenial human-robot environment, and quickly identifying and fixing anomalies in robot behaviors. The status report helps the senior VP and her team identify areas where efficiency has been achieved.

### 05:00 PM
Back on the train to her home, Olivia logs in to her LNP portal to post that she is looking for help in managing human-machine conflicts. Soon she finds a Germany-based senior robot coordinator offering her help.
DIGITAL OFFERING MANAGER

Summary

It is 2025. Big data is the new normal and growing exponentially. With a plethora of customer data at their disposal, companies have started using it to create customized data offerings, leading to demand for professionals known as “digital offering managers” (DOMs). DOMs’ key responsibilities revolve around identifying and creating new product offerings for companies that are entirely digital—built from data, code, and analysis, and delivered virtually, making them wholly different from the physical products a company traditionally makes.

DOMs have evolved from the product manager career path. They oversee the entire product development life cycle—from the ideation through development, pricing, delivery, and support of the offering in the market. These managers must work closely with experts in data science and user interface (UX) design, and must possess knowledge about pricing and subscription models. Similarly, they need to align their data-centered offerings to the physical products a company makes and delivers to customers, often using data that comes off sensors on the machines themselves. They also track how the offering is being used in the market, and pitch additional features or make changes to the offering to match customers’ evolving needs. Senior DOMs are responsible for managing entire portfolios of digital offerings that represent a major source of revenue for their industrial company.

Responsibilities

- Works collaboratively with IT, UX designers, and data science and finance teams to design and standardize digital offerings
- Communicates and builds relationships with clients and external stakeholders
- Translates customer needs, shares inputs, and collaborates with the technical team to develop the offerings
- Collaborates with data science experts to customize the offering, ensuring that service-level agreements have been met
- Collaborates with UX designers to design the digital interface of the offering
- Delivers results against KPIs such as enhanced customer experience, new offerings created, service score, and client acquisitions

Time spent on activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collaboration</th>
<th>Client management</th>
<th>Networking</th>
<th>Research and analysis</th>
<th>Resource management</th>
<th>Reporting and administrative tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRODUCT MANAGER VS. OFFERING MANAGER

2018 | 2025

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collaboration</th>
<th>Client management</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HARUTO YAMAZAKI

DIGITAL OFFERING MANAGER
Reo Solutions and Services | Tokyo, Japan

Proficient in networking and sales, business expansion for new offerings, client management, cross-team collaboration, project management, and problem-solving.

Experience

Digital offering manager
Reo Solutions and Services | Jun 2024-present | 1 year
Playing a key role in the expansion of new digital offerings in the company’s portfolio of smart precision machinery; responsible for generating new data offerings, managing and networking with clients to create new business opportunities for the firm.

Pursuits manager
Asahi Consulting Limited | Nov 2022-Jun 2024 | 1 year 8 months
Guided proposal teams in developing the pursuit strategy, which included acting in a strategic/sales role to identify client needs and win themes, and create compelling messages for the expected audience.

Client-experience senior consultant
Asahi Consulting Limited | Apr 2020-Oct 2022 | 2 years 7 months
Was the direct interface between the client and the production team; responsible for initiating launch meetings, drafting project requirements, resource and capacity planning, and process setup and migration.

Education

Yokohama National University
Master of business administration, communications | 2019–2020

Tokyo University
Graduate in behavioral science | 2016–2019

Other certifications

- EdX
  Microdegree in human psychology
- LinkedIn Learning
  Certificate in humanities
- OpenLearnOrg
  Collaborating for results

Skills and endorsements

Sales and marketing • 430
Endorsed by Lyra and Daromu, who are highly skilled at this

Behavioral analysis • 412
Endorsed by Haru, who is highly skilled at this

Customer experience • 350
Endorsed by Sonal and Chiara, who are highly skilled at this

Communication • 324
Endorsed by Ruko and Sora, who are highly skilled at this

Networking • 246
Endorsed by Lyra and Sandy, who are highly skilled at this

Collaboration • 195
Endorsed by Lannister and Joe, who are highly skilled at this

Client management • 186
Endorsed by Daromu, who is highly skilled at this

Social skills • 85
Endorsed by Michael and Cersei, who are highly skilled at this

Change management • 79
Endorsed by Jaona, who is highly skilled at this

Project management • 68
Endorsed by Ruhi and Aziz, who are highly skilled at this
TOOLBOX

THE TOOLBOX SUPPORTS THE WORKER AS A WHOLE—IN ACHIEVING EXTERNAL OUTCOMES SUCH AS PRODUCTIVITY AS WELL AS INTERNALLY FOCUSED ONES SUCH AS DECISION-MAKING AND LEARNING.

### Productivity

- **Venus**
  This AI-powered, voice-enabled digital assistant provides a conversational interface for all productivity-related tasks, from scheduling to finding answers to questions and checking the status of products and projects.

- **Rosetta**
  An AI-based real-time language translator that listens to speech, converts it into text, and then translates that into the desired language, enabling collaboration among different regional markets.

- **Share Smart**
  An enterprise social and mobile technology tool that helps in sharing digital 3D designs and images as digital files to improve the collaboration necessary to build a new product, supply network configuration, or assembly line right the first time.

- **Gen4-Conservatory**
  These are smart meeting rooms for teams that are co-located but are from different functions. Smart-glass boards plugged with AI-enabled devices can pull data from multiple sources and conduct basic data transformation. Voice-activated, these devices can operate with basic sound commands. These capabilities help the data team in ideation and offering formulation.

- **VizWizard**
  A visualization tool that can create graphs and infographics with minimal text inputs from the user. It is also capable of creating topline results based on information available in charts.

### Decision-making

- **Smart Dash**
  A visual display that presents data, live information, and analysis from multiple sources to facilitate informed decision-making.

- **RealConnect**
  This application enables an engineer to seamlessly interact with suppliers, partners, customers, and the broader ecosystem.

- **CuSu—Customer Supporter**
  An AI and natural-language-processing-enabled client management tool that keeps track of client offerings along with state-of-art data security. More like after-sales services, it monitors the offering's consumption pattern, analyzes these patterns, and proactively suggests what clients expect next or will prefer as a next offering.

- **Sixth Sense**
  A tool that incorporates machine learning, cognitive computing, and AI to detect macro trends in the broader environment.

### Learning

- **ELWIE**
  (enabling learning, wellbeing, (personal) interest, and (overall) excellence)
  A mobile bot and a personal smart wellbeing assistant that takes care of professional and personal wellbeing. It can suggest new learning opportunities as well as help to plan vacations or leaves based on personal interests.
### A DAY IN THE LIFE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06:30 AM</td>
<td>Haruto is surprised when Venus wakes him an hour early to remind him about his breakfast meeting with Kaito, the CIO of Sunriser Group. Venus reads all of Haruto’s notes to him about Sunriser Group and reminds Haruto about Kaito's promptness and dislike toward latecomers. Worried about being late, Haruto asks Venus to book a flying taxi for him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07:30 AM</td>
<td>On his way to the restaurant, Haruto activates VizWizard to connect his mobile app to the company’s data repository and update the data source with the previous night’s data and metrics. He cross-checks VizWizard, and after seeing the charts, he is quite confident about his meeting with Kaito.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:00 AM</td>
<td>Once at the restaurant, Kaito informs Haruto that Sunriser Group has recently added Reo’s smart injection molding equipment to its production line and is looking for a data offering that can improve the precision of the equipment, including both maximizing output and machine uptime. Haruto directs Venus to synthesize a few of these sources and VizWizard to update the dashboard as per those sources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Haruto reaches his office and asks Venus to check him into his workspace as he exits the elevator. Soon after the check-in, Venus sets up a meeting with the data and IT teams for 10:30 a.m. in Gen4-Conservatory. Venus also sets up a RealConnect meeting with the design manager and finance team for 3:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Using his VizWizard dashboard, Haruto explains the new requirements to the IT and data teams. The data team activates the smart-glass board of the Gen4-Conservatory. The board starts compiling data from all the available sources, highlighting the variables that require transformation. Haruto requests that the IT and data teams fine-tune and finalize the transformation and share their final database with him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Haruto rushes to make a Rosetta-enabled RealConnect team meeting. He has to connect with his offshore vendor data team to understand the energy consumption data of urban dwellers. Thanks to Share Smart, he efficiently records all the details so that he can share them with his data team to build customized offering details for his client meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>After a busy morning, Haruto breaks for lunch. As he opens his mobile phone to search for a nice eatery, Elwie suggests a new sushi place across the street, which has a great review for his favorite dish, maguro sashimi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>Back from lunch, Haruto receives Smart Dash from the IT team, with the data details required for Sunriser Group, which he shares with the design team. He then logs into the CuSu portal dashboard where he finds that another client has shown interest in expanding their services to include additional customizations and data. He asks Venus to schedule a meeting. Venus shares the invite with the data team for Wednesday and schedules a brunch with the client on Friday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03:00 PM</td>
<td>RealConnect reminds him about his meeting with the finance team and designers; Haruto dials in. The designer presents him the Sixth Sense file with a feasible project timeline. The group discusses various scenarios and runs Sixth Sense simulations on the file. It shortlists the offering version to share with the Sunriser Group team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04:30 PM</td>
<td>After his meeting, Haruto creates and shares the VizWizard report with Kaito’s team, with the initial offering price quotations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05:00 PM</td>
<td>In the cab on his way home, Haruto asks Venus to brief him about his upcoming meetings for the remaining work week. This week is not going to be easy for him: He has three more clients lined up. Getting the cue, Elwie informs him about a musical event in Ariake Colosseum on Saturday, where he can enjoy an amazing performance by Drum Tao. Venus books the tickets for him.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The construction sites in 2025 are different than in 2019—autonomous drones, cranes, robots, and other automated equipment perform repetitive, heavyweight, and hazardous tasks. This has created a new human role, a coordinator to exploit data from fleets of drones. Drone data coordinators (DDCs) have on-site and off-site responsibilities, including coordination with drone service providers and lifecycle responsibility for the data the drones capture.

DDC is a new full-time role for many engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) firms. As data has become the digital thread across the job site, this role has emerged to coordinate the data that leased fleets of autonomous drones can capture for safety, inspection, operations, and risk managers. DDCs work with the contracted drone service provider on a project basis. Since these are tethered autonomous drones, the DDC is tasked with identifying any new information requests and communicating them with the drone service provider, who performs maintenance, programming, and Federal Aviation Administration airspace coordination on behalf of the EPC.

In addition to key on-site responsibilities, DDCs also perform various off-site responsibilities, including flight data analysis, route optimization, resource planning, handling requests for new information from stakeholders, and managing the drone service provider relationship. DDCs can work both on-site or from remote locations around the corner or across the globe. In the case of remote locations, they coordinate data collection through a digital twin of the construction site.

**Responsibilities**

- Oversee the collection of drone surveillance, safety, inspection, and operation data and conduct analysis on it.
- Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) and increase the number of drone data collection opportunities at the site.
- Plan for any changes in the daily data capture routines of the drone fleets, moderating the routine as the build progresses, and ensuring turnaround of critical data insights to stakeholders.
- Cultivate relationships with drone service providers, and work in difficult and fast-changing environments.
- Identify new data-capture opportunities to solve for business needs across various stakeholders.

**Time spent on activities**

- Resource planning: 20%
- Collaboration: 10%
- Data life cycle coordination and management: 20%
- Data analysis and process optimization: 40%
- Share analysis and feedback with drone service provider: 30%
- Reporting and administrative tasks: 5%

2018 Past vs. 2025 Present

- 2018: 10% Resource planning, 20% Collaboration, 20% Data life cycle coordination and management, 25% Data analysis and process optimization, 20% Reporting and administrative tasks
- 2025: 20% Resource planning, 10% Collaboration, 20% Data life cycle coordination and management, 25% Data analysis and process optimization, 5% Reporting and administrative tasks
ERIC DENSON

**DRONE DATA COORDINATOR**  
True Constructions LLC  |  Detroit, Michigan

Proficient in project, resource, and equipment management; business expansion for drone data collection; client management; cross-team collaboration; agile management; and drone data analysis and communication.

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**Experience**

**Drone data coordinator**  
True Constructions LLC  |  Oct 2023–present | 1 year 8 months  
Plays a key role in the expansion of drones into the company’s life cycle data management model; has executive responsibility for managing and networking with drone service providers to create new efficiency, safety, and risk management opportunities for the EPC firm

**Systems integration engineer**  
Aquila Motor Works Pvt. Ltd.  |  Jan 2022–Sep 2023 | 1 year 9 months  
Developed and assessed the scope for new technologies and applications, performing feasibility testing; led the company’s technological innovation efforts, overseeing a team of robotic process automation developers

**Solution architect associate**  
Aquila Motor Works Pvt. Ltd.  |  Sep 2019–Dec 2021 | 2 years 3 months  
Served as the primary technical escalation point, supporting teams with specialist knowledge, code validation, and data flows using the company’s visual and operations platform; initiated new projects and requests to meet customers’ expectations; implemented cloud solution with continuous delivery models and auto-scaling infrastructure

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**Education**

**Viterbi School for Higher Engineering, University of Southern California**  
Master of science, Systems architecting and engineering  
2019–2020

**Viterbi School of Engineering, University of Southern California**  
Bachelor of science, Mechanical engineering  
2015–2018

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**Other certifications**

- EdX  
  Certificate in human machine interface designing
- EdX  
  Certificate in software architecture
- OpenLearnOrg  
  Certificate in project management

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**Skills and endorsements**

- **Data life cycle management**  
  Endorsed by Steve and Jennifer, who are highly skilled at this
- **Resources optimization**  
  Endorsed by Kelvin and Michael, who are highly skilled at this
- **Analytics**  
  Endorsed by Steve and Robert, who are highly skilled at this
- **Communication**  
  Endorsed by Steffi and Jennet, who are highly skilled at this
- **Networking**  
  Endorsed by Parker, who is highly skilled at this
- **Automation**  
  Endorsed by Benny, who is highly skilled at this
- **Client management**  
  Endorsed by Kelvin and Steve, who are highly skilled at this
- **Collaboration**  
  Endorsed by Parker and Michael, who are highly skilled at this
- **Change management**  
  Endorsed by Shanta, who is highly skilled at this
- **Project management**  
  Endorsed by Rahul and Raj, who are highly skilled at this
TOOLBOX

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**Productivity**

**Venus**
This AI-powered, voice-enabled digital assistant provides a conversational interface for all productivity-related tasks, from scheduling to finding answers to questions and checking the status of products and projects.

**VirtuMeet**
This AR smart-glass conference room with AI capabilities allows global partners to meet and collaborate, overcoming the barriers of physical separation. With built-in AI, AR screens can present short bios or other relevant information about attendees as the user pans across their faces.

**InstaCap**
It captures data automatically using digital technologies such as radio frequency identification (RFID) and speech recognition. It helps collect information from machines, images, or even sounds without manual data entry.

**Share Smart**
An enterprise social and mobile technology tool that helps in sharing digital 3D designs and images as digital files to improve the collaboration necessary to build a new product, supply network configuration, or assembly line right the first time.

**Gen4-Conservatory**
These are smart meeting rooms for teams that are co-located but are from different functions. Smart-glass boards plugged with AI-enabled devices can pull data from multiple sources and conduct basic data transformation. Voice-activated, these devices can operate with basic sound commands. These capabilities help the data team in ideation and offering formulation.

**VizWizard**
A visualization tool that can create graphs and infographics with minimal text inputs from the user. It is also capable of creating topline results based on information available in charts.

**Decision-making**

**Smart Dash**
A visual display that presents data, live information, and analysis from multiple sources to facilitate informed decision-making.

**RealConnect**
This application enables an engineer to seamlessly interact with suppliers, partners, customers, and the broader ecosystem.

**Learning**

**SkillsPro**
This smart learning assistant helps digital twin engineers refresh existing skills as well as learn new and emerging skills. Its conversation mode shares tips and tricks about the tools/techniques that an engineer has learned recently. When synced with an engineer's project planner, it shares a list of skills to be learned for implementation in upcoming projects.

**SmartLab**
It facilitates classroom learning using virtual reality headsets and simulation. It tests trainees on a defined skill framework and measures subjective aspects based on their response style. Each trainee receives customized learning objectives.
A DAY IN THE LIFE

04:30 AM
After an early breakfast, Eric—a DDC—views a VizWizard-standardized project status report summarizing weekly project status for two sites with ongoing construction work. Eric reviews the reports and autonomous drone maps to ensure the right data is being collected to monitor, track progress, and inspect for safety issues at each site. Appropriate instructions are provided to the drone service provider through Share Smart. Given the successes of the drone use at both project sites, Eric asks Venus to provide a copy of the report to attendees of the cross-functional meeting at which he will present today.

05:00 AM
Eric starts his day early to beat the summer heat and reaches construction site A. Venus checks him into the office.

05:30 AM
Using VirtuMeet, Eric leads a meeting with True Constructions LLC security and analytics teams (based out of corporate offices) to discuss the use of DEXT drones at a new project (project site C), with construction scheduled to start in one month. Before construction begins, Eric discusses the planned data capture of the drones and the security and analytics teams provide feedback on DEXT drones and whether they meet True Constructions’ standards in protecting intellectual property (construction methods, materials to be used, site images) at the highly publicized site C. Eric schedules a RealConnect meeting with DEXT to meet the drone fleet manager and discuss SOPs at site C.

07:00 AM
Venus reminds Eric of the scheduled live meeting with the drone service provider at site A. During the meeting, the drone service provider explains how InstaCap is utilized in the drone technology to overlay drone maps with site plans such as utility, wastewater, and equipment clearances. To demonstrate, the drone service provider navigates the drone to capture images and perform inspections for potential safety or maintenance concerns. Using SkillsPro, Eric keeps notes from the discussion with the drone service provider.

08:00 AM
Using the Gen4-Conservatory at site A, Eric attends a cross-functional meeting with site A project managers. Using data from the VizWizard report reviewed earlier, Eric presents an update related to ongoing regulatory developments for drones and unmanned aircraft, identifying new opportunities to utilize this technology for True Constructions’ advantage using drone aerial imagery. Smart Dash allows project managers to see live data and expected efficiencies of adding additional drones to the existing fleet at site A.

10:00 AM
Eric breaks for brunch followed by a quick game of table tennis with his colleagues.

11:00 AM
Eric receives an urgent call from the project manager at site B in Zurich, Switzerland, and learns about mechanical issues with one of the on-site drones. Via RealConnect, Eric sends a message to the drone service provider to arrange a replacement drone within the standard turnaround time. Eric reminds the project manager at site B about the SmartLab course he is facilitating on-site next week; the course is designed to help the workforce work more collaboratively with drones.

12:00 PM
Eric meets with one of site A’s drone service providers to discuss the incorporation of 3D models from drone imagery into existing planning, design, and management workflows, along with aerial insights to help catch problems early and perform safety inspections. In his role as the DDC, efficiency of drones is expected, to keep the project within budget.

01:00 PM
Before wrapping up for the day, Eric reviews the VizWizard report showing daily project status, site surveillance images, and safety and security updates by project site, to prepare for a site C project status meeting the next day. As Eric leaves the office to drive across town to watch his son’s baseball game, Venus makes dinner reservations for Eric and family after the game.
SMART FACTORY MANAGER

Summary

In the smart factory of 2025, the changing nature of when, where, and how parts, subassemblies, and final products are made has transformed the role of the human manager at its helm. The smart factory manager (SFM) wears many hats: production operations and quality responsibilities, as well as DevOps (product design/engineering), along with expanded IT and cyber responsibilities. Their expanded responsibilities place them in the unique position of integrating advanced manufacturing, secure connectivity, and actionable data analytics together to drive a new level of overall equipment effectiveness (OEE).

In their expanded role, SFMs are responsible for more of the manufacturing value stream than in traditional manufacturing sites. SFMs determine build schedules and inventory levels based on demand forecasts that have been derived from artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning algorithms. With their widened aperture, SFMs apply their judgement to set parameters related to allocation of product, profitability, or new product introductions, for example.

SFM们 work with the director of quality to identify data patterns to predict quality issues and direct actions in response to these insights. They also leverage predictive maintenance analytics dashboards to proactively identify machines that are operating outside of established parameters and direct preventative maintenance to address the issue.

Responsibilities

• Identify and facilitate the addition of advanced technologies that will enable self-optimization of the connected assets on the production line(s).

• Build a variety of automated manufacturing capabilities, including: robot cutting, computerized knitting, and 3D printing.

• Work with the production team to manage the stream of customer requirements for unique configurations of products that come into the factory through automated demand planning, e-commerce portals, and connected products in the field.

• Manage the installation, operations, and maintenance of all levels of the smart factory solutions “stack” that delivers continuous connectedness, including establishing service level agreements (SLAs) with vendors and ensuring cybersecurity protocols are followed.

Time spent on activities

20% 10% 15% 5% 20% 30%
5% 20% 40% 30% 4%
DAVID BADGLEY
SMART FACTORY MANAGER
Zimbals Products & Services | Lexington (KY), US

Proficient in applied technology, automation, connectedness, and driving OEE. Leader of factory innovation via smart use cases. Experienced in change management and robust value chain integration.

Skills and endorsements

- **Operational excellence** • 430
  Endorsed by Syan and Meera, who are highly skilled at this

- **Deep learning** • 412
  Endorsed by Josephine, who is highly skilled at this

- **Innovation** • 350
  Endorsed by Tina and Melissa, who are highly skilled at this

- **Automation** • 324
  Endorsed by Ritesh and Daniel, who are highly skilled at this

- **Digital prototyping** • 246
  Endorsed by Tom and Kiara, who are highly skilled at this

- **Industrial technology** • 195
  Endorsed by Edward and Lee, who are highly skilled at this

- **Client management** • 186
  Endorsed by Farida, who is highly skilled at this

- **Collaboration** • 85
  Endorsed by Danny and Ruby, who are highly skilled at this

- **Change management** • 79
  Endorsed by Jennifer, who is highly skilled at this

- **Project management** • 68
  Endorsed by Diana and Marry, who are highly skilled at this

Experience

**Smart factory manager**
Zimbals Products & Services | Jun 2024–present | 1 year 4 months
Key sponsor of smart factory initiative with executive responsibilities to develop connected solutions. Advancing company's cybersecurity capabilities to drive productivity and efficiencies.

**Transformation consultant**
Zimbals Products & Services | Jan 2023–Jun 2024 | 1 year 6 months
Zimbals' smart factory evangelist; implemented use cases by applying advanced technologies to assets to develop smart, connected environment.

**Automation and innovation lead**
Bright Lights Pvt Ltd | Jan 2022–Dec 2022 | 1 year
Led company's technological innovation efforts, overseeing a team of RPA developers; assisted the teams in integrating new technologies into the company's operational systems.

**RPA specialist**
Bright Lights Pvt Ltd | Oct 2019–Dec 2021 | 2 years 2 months
Provided RPA solutions to reduce manual efforts and built a Web platform to address client needs. Visionary in exploring new technologies and innovation in targeted business processes.

Education

**Illinois Institute of Technology, School of Applied Technology**
Industrial Technology and Management (INTM)
Master of industrial technology and operations
2017–2019

**Illinois Institute of Technology, College of Science**
Bachelor of science in computer science
2014–2017

Other certifications

- **6SIGMA**
  Lean Six Sigma Green Belt in operational excellence

- **INTM Certificate Program**
  Industrial enterprises

- **INTM Certificate Program**
  Industrial project management

- **OpenLearnOrg**
  Collaborating for results
## TOOLBOX

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Smart meeting rooms for teams that are collocated but are from different functions. Smart-glass boards plugged with AI-enabled devices can pull data from multiple sources and conduct basic data transformation. Voice-activated, these devices can operate with basic sound commands. These capabilities help the data team in ideation and offering formulation.

**VizWizard**
A visualization tool that can create graphs and infographics with minimal text inputs from the user. It is also capable of creating topline results based on information available in charts.

**Symphony**
This software suite runs simulations and connects smart factory managers with other resources—people, machines, and systems—for data-driven digital manufacturing. Using advanced real-time analytics, it helps smart factory managers create models and optimize manufacturing production performance.

**VirtuMeet**
This AR smart-glass conference room with AI capabilities allows global partners to meet and collaborate, overcoming the barriers of physical separation. With built-in AI, AR screens can present short bios or other relevant information about attendees as the user pans across their faces.

### Decision-making

**Smart Dash**
A visual display that presents data, live information, and analysis from multiple sources to facilitate informed decision-making.

**Sixth Sense**
A tool that incorporates machine learning, cognitive computing, and AI to detect macro trends in the broader environment.

**Orderectory**
This order directory is a dashboard for inventory-level visibility across different warehouses and facilities.

### Learning

**ELWIE**
(“enabling learning, wellbeing, (personal) interest, and (overall) excellence)
A mobile bot and a personal smart wellbeing assistant that takes care of professional and personal wellbeing. It can suggest new learning opportunities as well as help to plan vacations or leaves based on personal interests.

### Smart use cases

- Engineering collaboration and digital twin (Digital upgrading and engineering twin, or DUET)
- Advanced manufacturing (3D printing lab)
- Command center
- RPA (gen-4 production facility)
- Quality sensing and detection (RTD tower)
- RealConnect
- Smart conveyance
- Smart WIP warehousing solution

For more information, visit Manufacturing goes digital: Smart factories have the potential to spark labor productivity.
A DAY IN THE LIFE

07:30 AM  
David starts his Monday morning by dropping his kids off at school, when Venus reminds him about a materials delivery scheduled for the Kentucky plant. He asks Venus to access Orderectory and highlight the real-time location of the delivery truck on his car console. He can see the materials will be at the facility in time for the scheduled production run.

08:30 AM  
As David enters the gen-4 production facility, Venus checks him in and activates RealConnect on his workstation. He heads toward a new use case he's helping to pilot. It's a smart WIP warehousing solution. IoT data scientists are working together with technology vendors to ensure cybersecurity protocols and the company’s security standards are maintained. David performs a few dry runs to ensure the solution is functioning as designed. These iterations are uploaded on Symphony, and Hema, a digital twin engineer, gets an update of this on the DUET system.

09:30 AM  
David reaches his workstation, where RealConnect highlights two requests that need to be handled as top priorities. The first request is from Zimbal's key customer, requesting some design customization in their next order. David asks the 3D printing lab to develop an inspection-ready prototype. The second request is from one of their valve customers, who has increased their order size and requested delivery for Thursday. David updates Orderectory to recalibrate the demand projection. The system highlights three facilities that have product in their warehouse and can deliver in a day to Kentucky. David reaches out to Jake, a predictive supply network analyst, and asks him to manage this transfer.

10:30 AM  
David takes a coffee break, when Elwie alerts him of elevated blood pressure levels. David opts for a decaffeinated green tea instead. He then connects with Charles, the robot teaming coordinator monitoring all the human-machine collaborations at the gen-4 production facility. Charles has successfully implemented three Smart Conveyance systems in production. The command center LCD is showing green for increased throughput ratio, driven by the new technologies. Yet the RTD tower is highlighting a rejection rate of 12 percent, higher than the target rate of 2 percent. David calls Rupert, the quality director, who informs him of an evening connect with the Philadelphia quality team who had to troubleshoot the same issue. He then loops in Charles to start working on a solution.

12:00 PM  
Venus reminds him about his “new use cases to test” list. Taking the cue, David plans his lunch with an IoT data scientist team. The team liked his idea about a prescriptive service tool. And they plan to run the simulations in the gen-4 conservatory with their aftermarket-sales team to develop a feasible service model.

01:00 PM  
Back at his desk, David opens Smart Dash. Summary screens show all use cases are going well. He opens the predictive maintenance page, highlighting all of Zimbal's connected products installed in various client locations. Downloading a few key highlights, David shares these using VizWizard with his aftermarket team, asking them to analyze these for new service opportunities.

02:00 PM  
David’s mobile device shows an update from Charles, who shares the status of fixing the quality issue. Charles has already initiated a simulation of the proposed robot movement sequence model in Symphony and will be meeting IoT data scientists to discuss a timeline for reconfiguring the robotic arm’s sequence.

04:30 PM  
David and Rupert log into VirtuMeet to connect with the Philadelphia quality team, and they start analyzing the situation. Smart Dash records all the information, runs a few models using Sixth Sense data, and highlights the key results for the live discussion. The team finalizes the quality models and uploads them on DUET’s cloud. Digital twin engineers will run these models and will share their results. The team is optimistic about these models achieving their target rejection rate.

05:30 PM  
David has had quite a productive day today. Happily, he heads toward his car, setting the navigation for home, when Elwie reminds him about his daughter’s dance recital. He changes the location to the auditorium address to make the 6:00 p.m. performance.
Endnotes

2. Deloitte, Technology and people: The great job-creating machine, August 2015.
3. Craig A. Giffi et al., The jobs are here, but where are the people? Key findings from the 2018 Deloitte and The Manufacturing Institute skills gap and future of work study, Deloitte Insights, November 14, 2018.

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