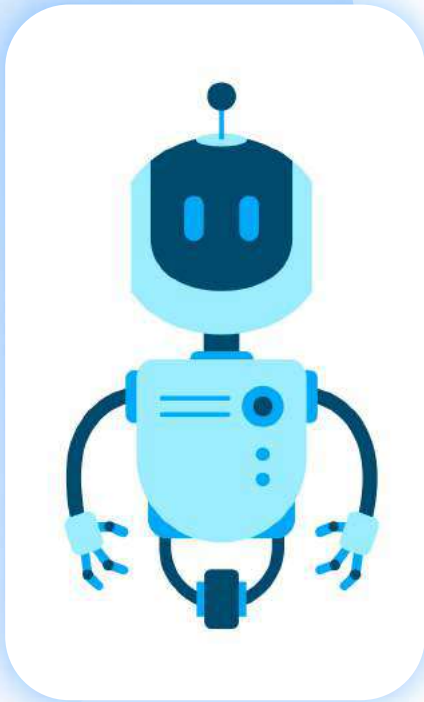

The 5 Biggest Myths

About Digital Transformation, Machine Learning and AI for Business

*Working Beyond the Buzzwords to Transform Your
Business For Intuitive, Data-Driven Decisions*





Artificial intelligence. Machine learning. AI connectivity. Digital transformation. Business in the cloud.

Regardless of industry, these are today's hype words. They're driving—or is it rather, pushing—business leaders toward innovation. In many cases, that means more tech. More spending. More solutions.

But what do those words actually mean and what value do they really bring to your business?

If you're not doing it correctly, the reality is, nada. Nothing. That's right. Nilch.

That's because in most cases, "digital transformation" is a hoax.

Wait. What?

"How can that be?" You might ask. "How can digital transformation be a hoax, if everyone is telling me I have to move all my data to the cloud and figure out machine learning and AI if I want to succeed?"

Well, while there is an inkling of truth to the idea, without going deeper—looking past the "fake news," you'll miss what AI and machine learning can actually do for your business and you'll never figure out how you can do it without busting the bank—and disrupting your business.

27%

of executives say that digital transformation is a matter of survival, but unfortunately, about

70%

of all digital transformations fail, largely because of employee resistance.



Beyond the Buzz

There's no mistaking it. Cloud computing, machine learning, and artificial intelligence will all be mission-critical in the future. And if you can harness the power effectively today, you'll be better poised to outperform your competitors now and in the future.

But it's not "digital transformation" that should drive your business. What you actually want is the ability to make data-driven decisions for critical aspects of your business. Today that means access to, and the ability to make, the valuable data flowing through your organization usable. To do that successfully, you'll want to connect the data that exists in various areas of your operation now into the cloud where most machine learning and AI models live. In the future, those decisions will be made by AI, which means the models need access to usable data.

That doesn't mean you have to move all your data to the cloud, and it doesn't mean you have to do everything all at once to be successful.

Digital transformation is merely the process you can use to get to the endpoint you really want—those data-driven decision capabilities. By feeding your critical operational data into a machine learning and AI platform, you can analyze your existing data and then improve your decision-making capabilities.

So how do you move beyond the hoax for real actionable objectives?

It's as simple as:

1. Identify the most valuable and critical data and functions within your organization
2. Connect and share that data
3. Make that data available for the machine learning and AI algorithms in the cloud or at the edge
4. Analyze and leverage that data, with the support of machine learning and AI models, to make better business decisions
5. Outperform your competitors



The Reality

When most people talk about the business of machine learning and AI, they can say the words, but they don't always know exactly what the words mean. Often, when leaders say "digital transformation," what they actually mean is "the ability to make better decisions driven by data." The data is the heart of what they really want.

In the most simple terms, machine learning takes the data you're already dealing with within your business, enables you to analyze that data, and decide how to leverage it to make better decisions than your competitors. If you jump in head-first on a mission to move all your data to the cloud as quickly as possible, you're not going to achieve what you need to actually make data-driven decisions.

Why?

Because with that approach, you miss:

- ✓ What your most critical data is
- ✓ Determining the most efficient and effective ways to use that data (might be to process it where it is)
- ✓ Processes and access to move it to the cloud or edge models
- ✓ Which connectors you need to move that data, data integrity, and usable interoperable formats

These are common failure points for many organizations. That's because most businesses make the mistake of buying into the all-or-nothing approach for cloud migration. It can be common for many businesses, especially larger ones, to run most of their workloads on premises. They usually have their own data centers or network of servers to manage all their data. That's where most of their core workloads (and related data) live.

In these cases, they may choose a massive system generator whose sole purpose is to move everything into the cloud. For mid-size and larger businesses, this can evolve into multi-year projects. They're complicated and expensive.

Here, "digital transformation" can begin with figuring out how to automate most of your manual workflow processes and then moving everything to the cloud.

But it doesn't have to be that tedious and all-encompassing.

So what are some of the biggest myths about digital transformation and how can you counter those with a more effective, proactive approach?

First, let's break down [5 common myths and explore how you can more effectively harness the power of AI to make data-driven decisions now and in the future.](#)



Myth #1: Everything should go to the cloud.

Reality:

That's not always the case. In some cases, it makes more sense to run certain parts of your workload locally, on your own servers. When you're getting pushed to move all your data to the cloud, ask yourself, "Who stands to benefit the most from your total cloud migration, you or the cloud service provider?" If your list of wins for total migration doesn't outweigh those of the service provider, then you know you're on the wrong path.

Solution:

Inventory your data. You need to understand all the data you have, which data and functions are most critical for your operational resiliency, where the data is stored, how you can access it, and which connectors you need to facilitate data transfer, while retaining data integrity.



Myth #2:

You can't make machine-learning and AI work without complete digital transformation of all your work processes and data.

Reality:

You don't have to turn your entire business upside down and reinvent the wheel to get to effective data-driven decision-making capabilities.

Solution:

After identifying which critical workflows and related data you want to target, you need a solution that easily facilitates access to that data and can enable connectors to move that data, whether it's unstructured, structured, Python, Java or other languages.



Myth #3:

Total digital transformation is imperative for businesses that want to be successful in the next five to 10 years.

Reality:

Almost 70% of large-scale digital transformations fail. Why? Because the project scope is too large. The process is too time consuming and expensive, and most businesses struggle to keep up with the cloud project, especially as their business evolves and changes during the process. And, you may be even more surprised to hear that many businesses that have completed a "digital transformation process" say it doesn't actually provide business benefits in the long run, primarily because it doesn't scale with the company beyond the initial phase.

Solution:

Remember, to get the most impact in the shortest amount of time—and to set the stage of maturing your program over time—you need to use a solution that makes your data flexible so it can easily be accessed and used in the cloud. This starts with working with a team that understands how to effectively prepare your critical data—not all of your data—so it can easily be leveraged within your machine learning models. Move your data, make it flexible so it can be used in the cloud.



Myth #4:

Digital transformation is for your tech team to worry about and you don't need executive engagement for success.

Reality:

To get to the data-driven decisions that are going to make you successful, you need executive buy-in and support across your organization. The initial steps for this project, even if not as vast as "total digital transformation," are expensive and it's important to build or select the right machine learning or AI models to get you to your goals. It's not just enough to have your leadership team say we want to have machine learning. It doesn't happen overnight. Any successful data-driven decision-making project will need a significant time commitment from your company and the related finances and resources to support that. It's not just a one-and-done (we-moved-all-our-data) project. Your project will not likely be successful without total enterprise alignment and cultural buy-in. That's why you need executive support.



Myth #4:

Digital transformation is for your tech team to worry about and you don't need executive engagement for success.

Solution:

In addition to executive support, take it one step forward and secure an executive sponsor for your project. This person should be able to communicate your needs to your executive team and key stakeholders, as well as have a general understanding of your most critical work functions, business objectives, what data you have, and how to access it. From there, your executive should be able to digest the data that's run through your machine learning and AI models for actionable business insight to make those data-driven decisions. Those processes should then be integrated into the heart of your business.



Myth #5:

Moving the data is our strategy.

Reality:

Your data transfer is just one part of your puzzle. You need goals, and those goals should align with and support your overarching business goals. It's more than just the pilot project to move your data. To keep improving your AI and machine learning processes, you'll need strategies to continuously evaluate data and critical work functions over time and introduce those new processes and data sets into the cloud as your company evolves and scales. That requires a strategy beyond the initial project scope. Basically, you need to articulate the value that the decisions can provide your business once you get to data-driven decision-making. Make that value the goal, not the transformation process.

Solution:

Work with a team of advisors who have experience tailoring these projects to unique business goals and requirements and who will help you mature and scale your project. And be sure to work with a team who can help you transition all your data into a single approach—one where you can work with your team to build the transformation into your way of business and facilitate company-wide acceptance of the value of data collection, digestion, and analysis for better decision making.

Avoid the Hype

Now that you understand you don't need to move everything to the cloud to be successful, it's time to set the stage and focus on what you need to keep your business moving forward.

Remember, it's really this simple:

- ✓ Understand the data you have
- ✓ Access that data
- ✓ Build connectors to move that data to the cloud
- ✓ Strengthen it with machine learning and AI
- ✓ Learn from that data
- ✓ Make better informed, data-driven decisions

And, most importantly, it's not about the volume of data you have, it's what you do with it.

So where do you start? Pandio can help. We've created a quick readiness assessment to help determine if your organization is ready for data-driven decision making, identify gaps, and help you put a realistic, affordable, and functional plan in place to lead you to success.



I'm ready! Let's do the assessment.