5 Warning Signs

Your Team is in a Work Rut

How to tell when technology and processes are holding your business back instead of pushing you forward.

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Solis Digital

The Problem:

Manual data entry.
Disconnected systems.
Inefficient processes.

You may not realise it, but the day-to-day administrative annoyances that hold your organisation back from innovation can all be symptoms of a larger issue: a work rut.

A work rut is a problem that affects businesses of all sizes from a few to a few hundred, occurring when teams exhaust or outgrow the capabilities of their existing technologies or processes.

When your business is in a work rut, individuals spend more time on manual processes and administrative tasks than they do on meaningful work that adds value and contributes to scaling the business. Appliance apps and enterprise systems don't solve the problem entirely.

‣ Appliance apps can handle individualised tasks, but they aren't made for innovation.

‣ In addition to being costly, large enterprise systems have limited customisability.

Read on to discover not only the warning signs of a work rut, but also the best strategies to combat it so you can get back to doing the work that matters most.

How can you identify a work rut in your organisation?

Look for these five symptoms.

01. Frustrated team

Personnel frustration is one of the most important (and most glaring) warning signs of a work rut. Employees dealing with insufficient technology and processes quickly become discouraged, burnt out, and dissatisfied.
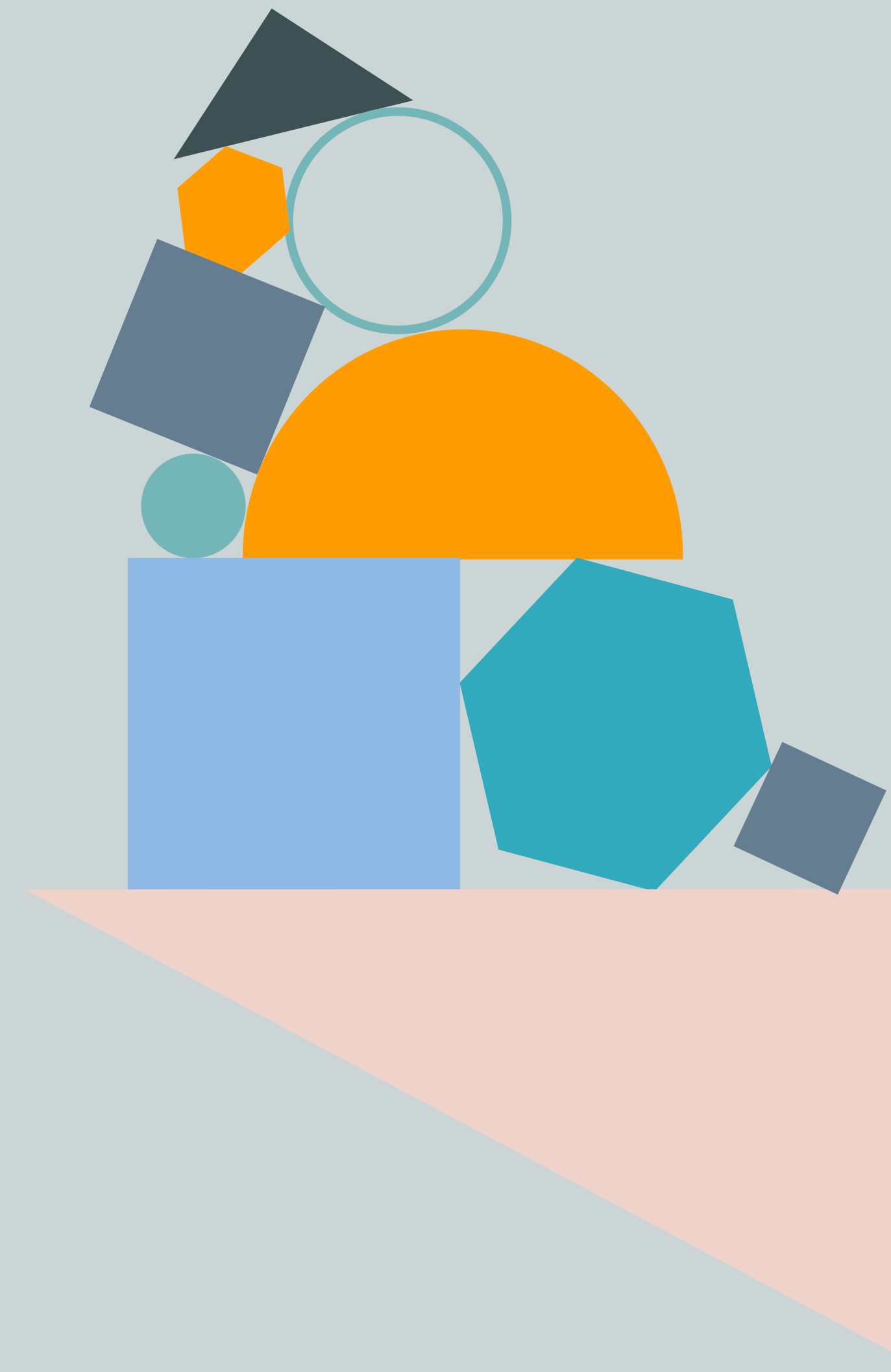
Team members and leaders who experience this symptom of a work rut feel their productivity and potential are being limited. Rather than having the freedom to focus on work that scales the business and pushes innovation, personnel are stuck on maintenance tasks.
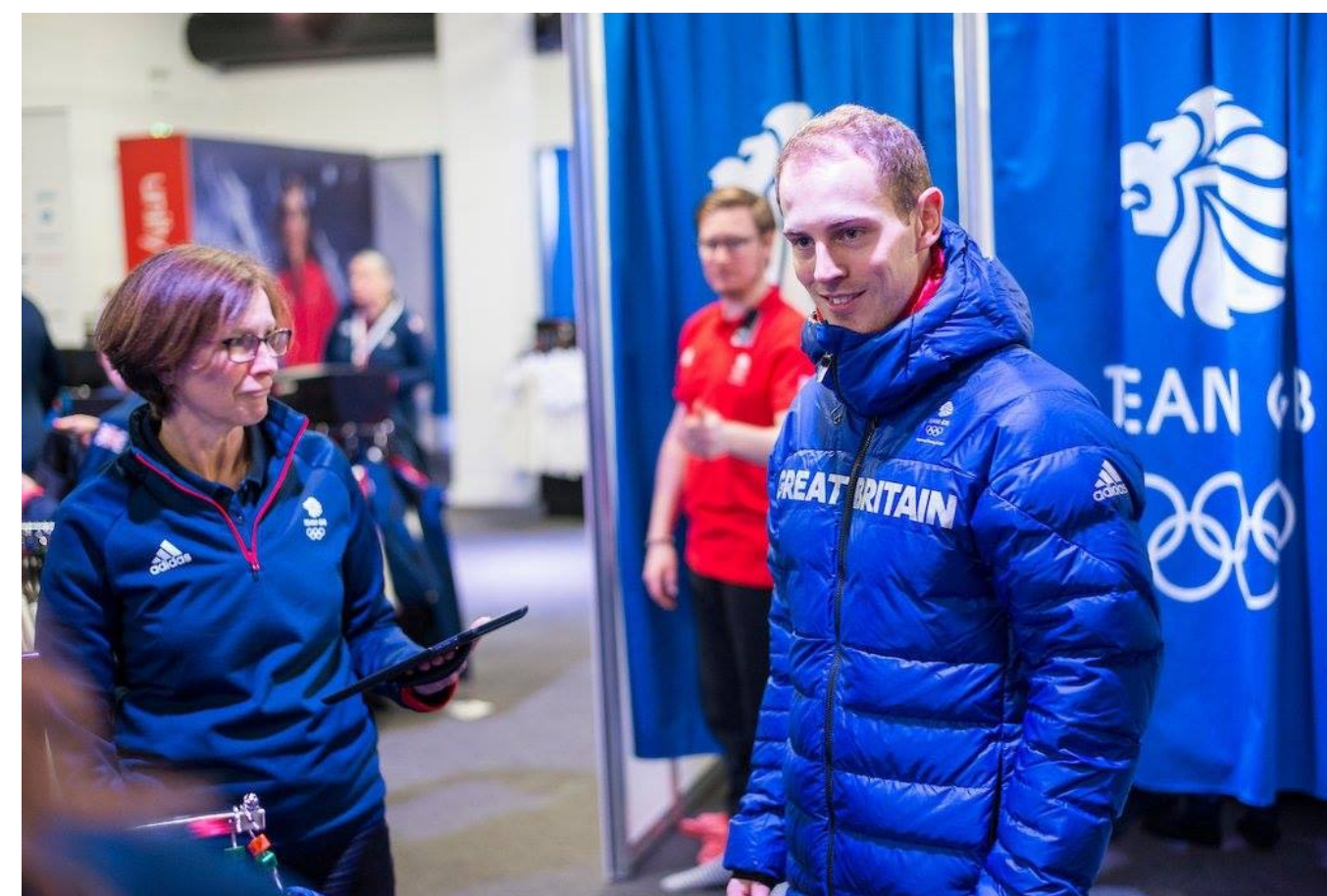
Listen For...

"I feel like I spend all day on spreadsheets."

"These manual tasks take up so much of my time."

"My expertise is going to waste."

Case Study I

"Five years ago we were chasing paper—sales receipts, kit orders, stock levels—I knew we had to go digital, and a custom app tailored to our business made the most sense.

Solis Digital delivered a custom app that allowed us to better use technology to not only enhance our team members overall shopping experience, but it has completely transformed the way in which we manage our stock both in the lead up to and during an Olympic Games."

"The custom app has transformed our process and delivery. It saves us days of time per event and has opened up new opportunities everywhere."

Joe Divall
Games Services Manager - British Olympic Association

02. Disjointed, disconnected information

How many logins do your team members use in a day? Disconnected systems lead to manual data entry as employees spend valuable time duplicating data from one system to another.

73%

of SMBs have not integrated their applications

46%

still rely on manual Excel file uploads

"Duct tape" integrations between systems may help somewhat, but these connections add more dependencies and more complexity to your business's digital environment.

Listen For...

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"These manual tasks take up so much of my time."

Case Study II

"When I started the company 20+ years ago, there was no real automated systems. It was all done on paper and excel; it was all disconnected. There was a lot of manual repetition."

Today, Red Rose Drylining has an all encompassing custom app that manages 90% of our operations from contracts, materials, timesheets, cost control, customer care, payroll, compliance and much more.

"The custom app has revolutionised our operation. Hundreds of hours of manual process per year continues to be saved, costs are being tracked and human error has been removed."

Mark Holden
Managing Director - Red Rose Drylining

03. Unreliable data

Without visibility into real-time data, employees feel unable to confidently make evidence-based decisions. They spend valuable time double-checking and confirming information from multiple sources. When your team suspects data errors because of manual processes and poor version control, they loose faith in the data. When you can't trust the data it's tough to make educated decisions and progress slows down.

‣ Paper processes contain errors, go missing, and cause bottlenecks.

‣ Entry-level systems can't handle the amount of data or provide the capabilities your organisation needs as it grows.

Listen For...

"When was this updated?"

"I don't think these numbers are correct."

"Has anyone seen that document? It's not in the file with the others."

Case Study III

"Solis digital has helped our Trust, the London Ambulance Service, implement a critical stock management system at short notice during our response to the COVID-19 response.

The system is complex, yet intuitive, and works well to join up data sets across our Trust on multiple devices. Solving a problem we had within a few days. The team have been super attentive and have continued to support us through implementation and regular product updates."

"The app has enabled us to continue to support our front line staff and therefore, care for the patients of London."

Stuart Crichton
Chief Information Officer

04. Rigid technology

When you're in a work rut, your business doesn't have the agility to adapt and customise processes to respond to changes and opportunities. Changes require IT involvement and significant time.

Innovative minds in your organisation have ideas to scale and improve the business, but they can't customise the technology and processes to power those ideas. Rigid technology also tethers your workforce. With increased mobility, teams can do work where it makes the most sense.

80%

of today's employees don't sit at a desk

74%

of SMBs agree or strongly agree that mobile solutions help improve employee productivity

57%

say at least 20% of their workforce travels for work

Listen For...

"Separate departments aren't communicating."

"I wish we had an app that could keep track of that."

"I don't have access to that data on-site, only in the office."

05. Costly, productivity-sucking processes

Time is a valuable resource. In a work rut, maintenance takes up more time than innovation, and the organisation doesn't end up with much to show for it.

Outdated or inefficient processes can cost your organisation more than wasted time.

▸ Paper processes cost money for paper itself, printing, shredding, storage, and disposal.

▸ Bloated enterprise systems may contain more capabilities than you need—and charge you for it.

Listen For...

"I could be so much more productive if I didn't have all these admin tasks taking up my time."

"We can't build our own apps from scratch, and we don't have the budget to hire someone else to do it."

"That system is so expensive, and we don't even use half of it."

Sound familiar?

Escape the work rut with a Solis Digital Custom App

Businesses rely on Solis Digital to build custom apps that address their unique problems and opportunities related to a work rut.
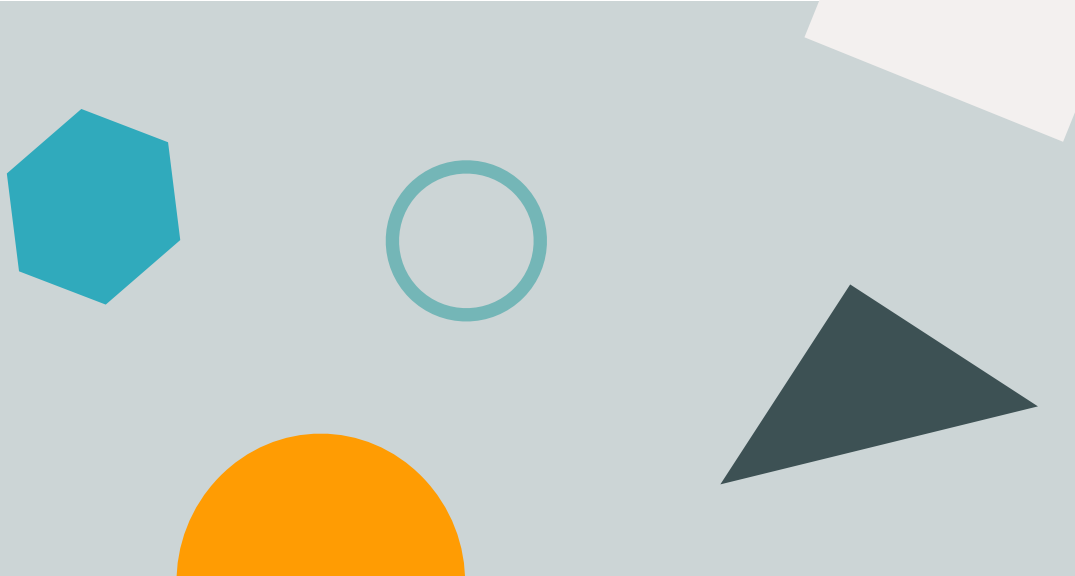
▸ These apps:

- Reduce manual tasks that drag a business's workforce down

- Allow teams to go paperless (and, with mobile capabilities, go anywhere)

- Enable consolidation of key communication and sources of information

- Free up employees' time for value-adding, innovation-focused work

▸ Custom apps are not out of reach for SMBs

- SMBs tend to settle for technology that doesn't meet their needs, but they aren't comfortable transforming their current processes.

- 55% of small business owners feel that their current technology solutions are actually "a hindrance to incorporating or adopting new technologies".

- While many software development projects require considerable time to build and maintain, Solis Digital use low code platforms to rapidly create custom apps to meet the specific needs of organisations of all sizes
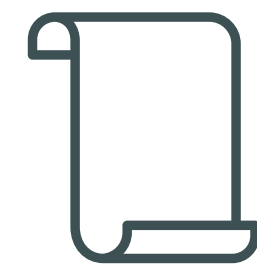
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Put technology to work for you so you can work on growing your business.
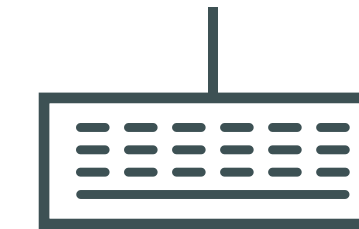
80%

of business and IT executives report that their organisations pace of innovation has significantly accelerated over the past three years due to emerging technologies.
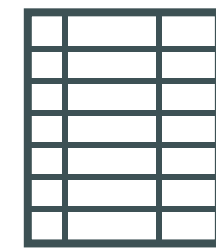
Customers cited these challenges as the pain points that led them to create a custom app:
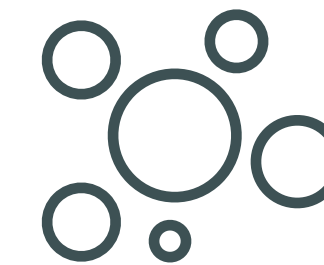
Reliance on paper processes

Significant manual data entry

Reliance on complex spreadsheets

Scattered sources of information

And they reported seeing these benefits:

Reduction in inefficient tasks

Reduced data entry

Increased productivity

ROI

The world is changing rapidly and there is a growing need for automation and digitisation

Are you ready?

Successful IT projects are essential to compete and thrive in business. However, many projects take too long, run out of budget or don't deliver the value they should. Traditionally, the biggest bottleneck has been the lack of understanding between Business and IT. Therefore, the process needs bridge builders who facilitate better collaboration, challenge set thinking and enhance the delivery process.

There is a way to make business and IT find each other and create an effective, efficient better way of working. By using the best of low-code development and by adopting proven design methodologies we strive to show businesses what the power of going digital can achieve.

No one knows how to escape the work rut better than Solis Digital, the award winning strategy and technology firm.

Learn more about how a Solis Digital Project can help your business escape the work rut.

www.solisdigital.com

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