



# The CFO's Guide to Leveraging AI in Accounts Payable Payments



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## Introduction

In this white paper, we explore the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in revolutionizing the accounts payable (AP) processes within the financial sector. The rise of AI technologies has been a game-changer, enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and security across financial operations. The adoption of AI in accounts payable is rapidly growing, underpinned by its ability to automate mundane tasks, provide insightful analytics, and improve decisionmaking processes.

AI's significance in the financial landscape is increasingly acknowledged by finance leaders. In 2024, AI is not just an option but a necessity, with 90% of CFO's surveyed by Gartner<sup>1</sup> projecting higher AI budgets, highlighting the technology's pivotal role in future financial strategies. This investment surge is a response to the overwhelming majority of workers (94%)<sup>2</sup> engaged in repetitive, manual tasks, signifying a massive potential for AI-driven automation and efficiency improvements.

The financial industry is on the brink of a major shift, with AI expected to burgeon into a \$309 billion industry by 2026<sup>3</sup>. Despite the promising advancements, a 2024 poll from the Institute of Financial Leadership (IFOL) reveals a concerning gap in knowledge. Only 60% of finance teams possess a basic understanding of leveraging AI to combat payment fraud, leaving 40% in the dark<sup>4</sup>. This white paper aims to bridge this knowledge gap, offering comprehensive insights into utilizing AI in accounts payable to safeguard against fraud, enhance operational efficiency, and drive financial success.

1. <https://www.gartner.com/en/newsroom/press-releases/2024-02-07-gartner-cfo-survey-shows-nine-out-of-ten-cfos-project-higher-ai-budgets-in-2024>
2. <https://zapier.com/blog/state-of-business-automation-2021/>
3. <https://www.marketsandmarkets.com/Market-Reports/artificial-intelligence-market-74851580.html>
4. <https://acarp-edu.org/how-automation-revolutionizes-accounts-payable-fraud-detection/>



# AI in Invoice Capture & Automation

The adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in invoice capture technology marks a pivotal shift in how accounts payable departments process financial transactions. AI significantly enhances the efficiency, accuracy, and speed of invoice processing by automating tasks that were traditionally manual and time-consuming.



## Examples of AI Technologies in Invoice Data Extraction and Processing:

- ◆ **Check fraud:** AI-driven OCR technology goes beyond basic text recognition, enabling the extraction of detailed information from invoices, even when dealing with low-quality scans or varied formats.
- ◆ **Machine Learning Algorithms:** These algorithms learn from processing countless invoices, improving over time to recognize patterns, validate data against historical records, and predict the correct classification and allocation of expenses.

5. <https://www.cumanagement.com/articles/2020/10/cfo-focus-8-ways-your-accounts-payable-process-leaks-and>



## Improvements in Accuracy and Processing Times Through AI:

The integration of AI into invoice processing dramatically reduces human error, ensuring data accuracy. Moreover, AI significantly accelerates invoice processing times, from days to mere minutes in some cases, by automating data entry and validation processes. According to the International Association of Contracts and Commercial Management, **a company can lose up to 4%<sup>5</sup> of the amounts on invoices due to number of different errors including duplicate invoices, fraud, missing out on early payment discounts and not catching price errors or increases.**



## Impact of AI on Invoice Processing:

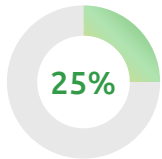
- ◆ **Digitizing Documents:** AI technologies digitize paper invoices, transforming them into editable, searchable formats without manual data entry.
- ◆ **Extracting Data:** Through advanced data extraction capabilities, AI identifies and captures critical information such as dates, totals, and vendor details.
- ◆ **Filling in Data:** AI not only extracts data but also intelligently fills it into the appropriate fields in the AP system, ensuring that all entries are accurate and complete.

The evolution of AI in invoice capture and automation signifies a revolutionary step forward, enabling businesses to optimize their accounts payable processes, improve operational efficiency, and reduce costs.

Many of PairSoft's procure-to-pay solutions leverage AI-driven technologies and machine learning in their workflows, such as GL coding. **Contact PairSoft and we can connect you with the ideal product for your team's ERP.**

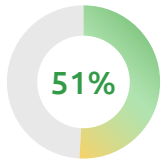
## AI in Payment Fraud Prevention

In today's increasingly digital and remote work environment, payment fraud has emerged as a formidable challenge for accounts payable (AP) departments.



of AP leaders cite the heightened risk of payment fraud as their biggest hurdle <sup>6</sup>

A concern underscored by the alarming statistic from the Global Economic Crime and Fraud Survey which found that:



of organizations worldwide have experienced fraud in the last two years, with losses exceeding \$50 million for 9% of them <sup>7</sup>

The Association for Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) warns that the longer payment fraud remains undetected, the greater the financial damage to a business.

Compounding this challenge is the revelation from a 2024 poll by the Institute of Financial Leadership (IFOL) showing that:

**83%**

of finance teams still rely on phone calls to verify changes to vendor details

**9%**

use bank account ownership validation tools <sup>8</sup>



**Enter Artificial Intelligence (AI) – a beacon of hope in this scenario.**

AI's capability to analyze historical data and identify patterns indicative of fraud is pivotal. It assesses transactional behavior, flagging irregularities and anomalies that may suggest fraudulent activities. The power of AI to process large datasets in real-time equips businesses with a proactive stance on fraud prevention.

AI's role in identifying and preventing payment fraud is multifaceted, offering a sophisticated layer of defense that was previously unattainable. By implementing AI technologies, businesses can automate the verification of vendor details, significantly reduce the reliance on manual checks, and enhance the accuracy of fraud detection.

6. <https://www.iofm.com/ap/whitepapers/5-ways-artificial-intelligence-is-revolutionizing-accounts-payable>

7. <https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/services/forensics/economic-crime-survey.html>

8. <https://acarp-edu.org/how-automation-revolutionizes-accounts-payable-fraud-detection/>



## Strategies for Implementing AI to Safeguard Payments:

### ◆ Enhance Supplier Verification Processes:

Utilize AI to automate the verification of vendor information and bank account details, reducing the need for manual intervention and minimizing the risk of human error. These systems can identify anomalies that human auditors might miss.

### ◆ Integrate Real-time Transaction Monitoring:

Implement AI tools that continuously monitor transactions for signs of fraudulent activity and analyze transaction data in real-time to identify and flag suspicious activities instantly. AI monitoring detects irregularities more efficiently than traditional manual, human-based methods, offering a proactive approach to fraud prevention.

By embracing AI, AP departments can significantly mitigate the risk of payment fraud, ensuring the security and integrity of their payment processes in the digital age.



**PairSoft ensures that businesses can safeguard their financial operations against the ever-evolving threat of fraud, by including AI fraud prevention to all customers using its payments solutions**

# Predicting Supplier Acceptance of Electronic Payments

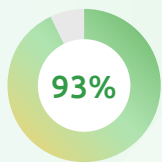
In the evolving landscape of accounts payable, the ability to predict supplier behavior regarding electronic payment acceptance is revolutionizing the way businesses manage their financial transactions.

It is possible to harness the power of Artificial Intelligence to navigate this complex terrain. By leveraging large datasets, including proprietary data from thousands of suppliers and comprehensive information from major card networks, AI-driven models can accurately predict which suppliers are most likely to accept electronic, and more specifically, virtual card payments.

The utilization of predictive analytics in determining supplier payment preferences has a significant impact on expanding electronic payment adoption and maximizes the monetization of AP payments. This approach not only streamlines payment processes and generates revenue off of existing AP spend, but but also reduces costs, and improves security for both businesses and their suppliers.

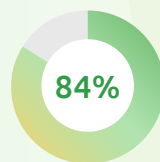
PairSoft is committed to innovation in this space and leverages proprietary AI models for predicting supplier payment preferences.

◆ PairSoft has achieved remarkable results, boasting a:



**accuracy rate in predicting conversion behavior to any payment method.**

◆ Even more impressive is our success rate in correctly identifying:



**of suppliers that transition to virtual card payments.**



## Other Use Cases of AI in Accounts Payable

Accounts Payable (AP) is identified as the most time-consuming, labor-intensive, and paper-intensive function in finance and administration, according to controllers surveyed by the Institute of Finance & Management (IOFM).



This is further emphasized by the fact that 84% of an AP practitioner's day is consumed by manual tasks<sup>9</sup>

The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in AP processes is not just a trend; it's a necessary evolution to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and strategic financial management.

- ◆ **Cash Flow Forecasting with AI:** AI can analyze historical payment data, seasonal trends, and current liabilities to predict future cash flow needs with a high degree of accuracy. This allows for better liquidity management, investment planning, and minimizes the risk of underfunding critical operations.
- ◆ **Supplier Risk Assessment and Management:** AI algorithms can scrutinize supplier data, market trends, and news to identify potential risks, such as financial instability or supply chain disruptions. This proactive approach enables AP teams to mitigate risks through diversifying suppliers or renegotiating terms before issues escalate.
- ◆ **Enhancing Supplier Relationships:** AI-driven analytics can provide deeper insights into supplier performance, compliance, and reliability, facilitating more strategic partnerships and collaboration. Enhanced data-driven negotiations can lead to better pricing, terms, and service levels, benefiting both parties.



- ◆ **Automated Reconciliation:** AI can match invoices with purchase orders and receipts, flagging discrepancies for review, thereby reducing the workload and improving accuracy.
- ◆ **Regulatory Compliance and Audit Preparedness:** AI tools can ensure transactions comply with tax laws and business regulations, while also maintaining detailed logs for audits.

The integration of AI into the AP process transcends traditional automation. It transforms AP from a back-office function into a strategic component of the financial management system, driving cost savings, risk management, and supplier relationship enhancement.

9. <https://www.iofm.com/ap/whitepapers/5-ways-artificial-intelligence-is-revolutionizing-accounts-payable>

# AI Creates More Rewarding, Strategic Jobs

A prevalent misconception surrounding the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in accounting and finance is the fear of human job replacement.



**A recent Forbes Advisor survey illuminated this concern, revealing that over 75% of consumers worry about AI-induced job losses <sup>10</sup>**

However, this perspective overlooks the transformative potential of AI to enhance job quality and strategic importance in the accounts payable (AP) sector.



## Transforming AP Roles Through AI

Leveraging AI in AP does not eliminate jobs; instead, it redefines them. By automating repetitive and time-consuming tasks, AI liberates employees to focus on more rewarding, strategic work. This shift not only enhances job satisfaction but also elevates the role of AP professionals to that of strategic advisors who can make smarter decisions based on insights derived from AI analysis. A survey by OECD AI indicates that the majority of workers experience higher enjoyment in their jobs and improved mental and physical health due to AI.<sup>11</sup>



## Increased Job Satisfaction

A survey conducted by Tech.co among 1,047 business leaders found that

**59%** of those who are using AI in their roles said it has improved their job satisfaction <sup>12</sup>

Removing the burden of manual tasks allows employees to engage in more meaningful work, leading to higher job satisfaction. For example, AI-driven automation can reduce errors in invoice processing, streamline workflows, and provide predictive analytics for cash flow management, thereby contributing to a more satisfying and impactful work environment.



## The Strategic Advantage

With AI, AP teams can transition from being seen as cost centers to becoming valuable strategic assets. AI's capability to analyze vast datasets and identify trends enables AP professionals to advise on cash management, fraud prevention, and supplier negotiations with a level of precision and foresight previously unattainable.

**AI-enhanced AP automation does not threaten jobs but rather enriches them. By automating mundane tasks, AI empowers AP professionals to focus on strategic decision-making and to contribute more significantly to their organizations' success.**


<sup>10</sup>. <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/how-artificial-intelligence-is-transforming-accounts-payable-automation>

<sup>11</sup>. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/08785bba-en/1/3/4/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/08785bba-en&csp=9f4368ffe3fc59de4786c462d2cdc236&itemIGO=oecd&itemContentType=book>

<sup>12</sup>. <https://www.hcamag.com/ca/news/general/business-leaders-using-ai-report-higher-job-satisfaction-survey/477144>

# Implementing AI in Your Accounts Payable Payments Process

Implementing Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the accounts payable (AP) process can significantly enhance efficiency and decision-making. However, successful AI integration requires careful consideration of several factors:

- ◆ **Data Quality:** The accuracy and reliability of AI-driven insights are directly dependent on the quality of the underlying data. Ensuring clean, accurate, and comprehensive data is a prerequisite for effective AI implementation in AP processes.
  - ◆ **Privacy Concerns:** With the increasing use of AI, privacy and data protection have become paramount. Implementing AI requires strict adherence to data protection regulations and ensuring that all AI models are trained and operate in a manner that respects privacy.
  - ◆ **Complexity and Integration Steps:** Integrating AI into existing AP systems can be complex, involving multiple steps such as data cleaning, model training, integration with existing workflows, and continuous monitoring for improvement. It's essential to outline these steps carefully and ensure that the AI solution is compatible with the current AP software and systems.
  - ◆ **Lean IT Support:** A robust IT infrastructure is crucial for AI integration, but this doesn't necessarily mean having a large IT staff. Instead, focus on lean IT support that can efficiently manage AI algorithms and workflows. This approach is more cost-effective and sustainable for most organizations.
- 
- ◆ **Working with a Payments Partner:** Given the complexities of implementing AI, partnering with a payments solution provider that has already integrated AI into their processes can be a strategic move. This allows your organization to leverage AI benefits without the need to manage the integration and ongoing optimization directly. PairSoft, for instance, offers such a solution, enabling businesses to improve their AP efficiency and effectiveness through AI without the overhead of managing the technology in-house.



**By considering these key aspects, organizations can navigate the challenges of AI implementation in the AP process, leading to enhanced operational efficiency, reduced errors, and better financial decision-making.**



## Conclusion

In the journey through “The CFO’s Guide to Leveraging AI in Accounts Payable Payments,” we’ve explored the transformative potential of AI in redefining the accounts payable landscape. AI’s role in automating invoice processing, enhancing fraud detection, predicting supplier payment preferences, and even creating more strategic job roles underscores a seismic shift in how businesses manage their finances.

Working with a trusted payments partner that harnesses the power of AI, like PairSoft, is not just an option but a necessity for future-proofing your accounts payable process. Such partnerships provide access to advanced AI capabilities without the need for extensive in-house expertise or infrastructure, enabling businesses to stay ahead in a competitive and rapidly evolving environment.

As we look to the future, AI in accounts payable is set to become even more sophisticated, with advancements in machine learning models, natural language processing, and predictive analytics offering deeper insights and efficiencies. These technologies will continue to evolve, making processes more streamlined, secure, and cost-effective.

Embracing AI in accounts payable is no longer a luxury but a critical strategic decision. Companies that fail to adopt AI risk falling behind, missing out on powerful insights, operational efficiencies, and a competitive edge that AI-enabled processes offer.

**As AI continues to revolutionize the way we work, its integration into accounts payable becomes an essential pathway to unlocking greater value, innovation, and resilience in the financial operations of businesses worldwide.**



## OUR ERP PARTNERS



## About PairSoft

PairSoft is a leading procure-to-pay automation solution that natively integrates Accounts Payable, Procurement, and Payments workflows into your ERP system for one seamless experience.

**Learn more about how PairSoft's AI-driven automation solutions can propel your finance team forward:**

**Get a Demo**

<https://www.pairsoft.com/get-a-demo/>



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