How to optimise the work process with digital checklist?

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The checklist's application is universal, and one can hardly imagine managing complex processes without it. From Aviation to Construction and Safety regulations, checklists shaped the world as we know it today. It has a particular significance to safety professionals because of its role in preventing accidents and fatalities.

How are checklists doing their magic?





WHY WE NEED CHECKLISTS?

A lot of professionals are overlooking the use of checklists. The act of accepting the help of a "stupid checklist" is often in conflict with the ego. But organizing, managing and completing error-free tasks must always be above that.

This is why we need reminders of why we need checklists. The best way to admit that we can make mistakes and need checklists is to go through the most remarkable real-world examples of how checklists are helping business and society. Some examples were borrowed from Atul Gawande's book "The Checklist Manifesto".

Checklists in aviation





Have you ever heard of "The Flying Fortress"? This is the famous aircraft that has become a symbol of the power of the U.S. Air Force. The B-17 Flying Fortress was developed by the Boeing Company in the 1930s. It was a four-engine heavy bomber aircraft used by the U.S. Army during World War II. The Flying Fortress was produced as an aircraft that can carry five times as many bombs as the army requested at that time. What was more remarkable back then is that the B-17 flew faster than previous bombers.



THE FLYING FORTRESS



On the day Boeing demonstrated the Flying Fortress, the plane crashed and exploded after lifting at 300 feet. Investigators concluded that the reason for the crash was not a mechanical malfunction but the pilot's error.

What happened was that the introduction of enhanced capabilities also introduced more complexity. Long story short, the pilot had too many things to pay attention to. This led to overlooking a simple task – the pilot forgot to release a new locking mechanism on the elevator and rudder controls. Sadly, this led to the crash and the death of two people.

As a result of the tragedy, the Air Corps contracted another company to build longrange bombers. But the military didn't scrape off the Boeings. Tests pilots still hoped that they can learn to fly the aircraft. That's why they kept experimenting. The magic happened when the test pilots implemented a simple pre-flight checklist. It had all of the basic tasks that needed to be completed to fly the new plane successfully. The result? The Boening bomber flew 1.8 million miles without a single accident. The B-17 aircrafts changed the world and all thanks to a simple checklist.



CHECKLISTS IN HEALTHCARE

The growing complexity of modern medicine has led to an increased risk of harming patients. According to research data, 5 to 10% of hospitalized patients worldwide are exposed to some form of undesired accident. Again according to research data, these accidents are preventable because the nature of the contributing factors is controllable. Safety checklists proved to be efficient in reducing postoperative mortality in 8 hospitals worldwide and six hospitals in the Netherlands (WHO data).



In the period 2007-2008, eight hospitals around the world tested checklist in a pilot study. Part of the results showed that infections after surgery fell by more than 30%. What's even more remarkable is that the death rate dropped by almost 50%. WHO issued an official recommendation to hospitals to adopt checklists in their processes. The NHS didn't hesitate to require hospitals to implement checklists as a tool to reduce the accident rate with patients. Turned out that something as simple as a checklist had the power to literally save lives in hospitals. Now thousands of treatment centres in the world are using checklists as a safety measure.







CHECKLISTS IN CONSTRUCTION

When we walk about complexity in construction, we can't help but think about skyscrapers. Today, companies are constructing large buildings faster than ever. They do it with a low structural failure rate (less than 0.00002%). How they do it? The answer is what you think it is – checklists.



In the construction of buildings, there are many different teams involved. Each team works in its own field. But communication between different projects is needed in order to prevent potential problems.

Checklists help to streamline this process and get teams regularly together to discuss touching points. After the communication is finished, teams can move along with their tasks. What makes the difference is that the completed checklist means that the projects in the construction process are updated with new knowledge that's needed to complete the work successfully.







The list of industries where the checklists are applicable is long. The importance of checklists is most sensible in safety operations because the public and individual health depend on that. Hospitals, constructions sites, aviation, safety inspections in the public sector – checklist are a simple and easy method to prevent controllable accidents.

IMPLEMENTING CHECKLISTS



Many solutions work to help public organisations get better use of digital checklists. If you're looking for digital transformation solutions that can improve safety inspections and regulatory operations, <u>read how Canalix</u> <u>improves safety inspection with digital checklists</u>,

Canalix is an inspecion management software that includes the following checklist features in their offering:

- Intelligent electronic forms
- Configurable checklists
- Rules automation to red flag risks on time
- Visibility on inspection data and checklists





"I watch a lot of astronaut movies....Mostly Star Wars. And even Han and Chewie use a checklist." - Jon Stewart



