

WHITEPAPER

Navigating the Transition from PI ProcessBook: Exploring Alternatives

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1. Introduction

AVEVA PI ProcessBook has long served as a pivotal visualisation tool, empowering users in industrial settings to craft bespoke displays, analyse trends, and generate insightful reports using IoT data from their plants.

However, as the tool has reached the end of its life cycle, this whitepaper delves into the reasons and timing behind its retirement. Furthermore, it provides valuable insights into essential considerations when seeking a viable alternative for industrial data visualisation.

1.1 Why Do You Need to Replace PI ProcessBook?

In the last quarter-century, the field of software engineering has made remarkable strides, adopting new technologies and methodologies that have drastically reshaped its landscape. PI ProcessBook, introduced over twenty years ago, now faces the challenges of an aging software system.

Today's digital environment demands robust and flexible security solutions to counter sophisticated cyber threats. Unfortunately, PI ProcessBook's outdated architecture falls short of integrating with modern security protocols effectively. This dissonance between PI ProcessBook's dated code and the progressive security requirements exposes organisations to increasingly untenable risks.

The quest for suitable alternatives is not just about keeping pace with the present but also securing a path for ongoing innovation. Organisations are now compelled to seek out data visualisation and management systems that remedy existing deficiencies and lay the groundwork for future advancements.

1.2 PI ProcessBook End of Life Timeline

The specified deadlines marking the end-of-life for PI ProcessBook are as follows:

December 31, 2021 – End of sale

December 31, 2022 – End of security patches and updates

December 31, 2024 – End of support

2. PI ProcessBook Alternatives

When contemplating the replacement of PI ProcessBook, organisations must meticulously assess potential alternatives based on five critical considerations.

Each of these factors plays a pivotal role in shaping the success of the transition, ensuring that the selected replacement aligns with the organisation's immediate needs and long-term objectives. These key considerations encompass:

1

Technical Capabilities

2

Deployment Timeline

3

Total Cost

4

Integration Capabilities

5

User Training

2.1 Technical Capabilities

The technical capabilities of an alternative to PI ProcessBook are paramount in ensuring that the replacement solution can effectively meet the organisation's data visualisation and process monitoring requirements. This includes assessing the software's ability to handle real-time data, support for various data formats, scalability, and compatibility with existing infrastructure.

A thorough examination of these technical aspects ensures that the chosen alternative not only matches but potentially surpasses the capabilities of PI ProcessBook, providing a robust and future-proof solution.



2.2 Time from the Decision to Go Live

The time it takes to transition from the decision-making phase to actual implementation and going live with the new solution is a critical factor in minimising disruptions and ensuring a smooth transition. Analysing the deployment timeline involves evaluating the ease of installation, configuration processes, and the availability of necessary resources. Organisations need to weigh the urgency of the transition against the complexity of the implementation process, aiming for a solution that can be efficiently integrated without compromising the continuity of operations.

2.3 Total Cost

Cost considerations extend beyond the initial investment and encompass the entire lifecycle of the replacement solution. Evaluating the total cost involves factoring in licensing fees, implementation costs, ongoing maintenance expenses, and potential future upgrades.

A comprehensive cost analysis helps organisations make informed decisions about the financial implications of adopting an alternative to PI ProcessBook, ensuring that the chosen solution aligns with the organisation's budgetary constraints and provides long-term value.

2.4 Integration with Other Solutions

Seamless integration with existing software and solutions is crucial for maintaining operational efficiency and data continuity. Organisations must assess how well an alternative integrates with their current infrastructure, databases, and other relevant applications. This includes compatibility with data sources, APIs, and the ability to share information with other systems. An integration-friendly replacement ensures a cohesive technology landscape and minimises disruptions in data flow, contributing to a more streamlined and interconnected operational environment.

2.5 User Training

Transitioning to a new data visualisation and process monitoring solution requires users to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively utilise the new platform. User training is a critical consideration, and organisations need to evaluate the accessibility of training resources, the learning curve associated with the new solution, and the availability of support services. A well-planned training program ensures that end-users can quickly adapt to the new system, maximising the return on investment and minimising productivity losses during the transition period.



3. Cyzag: A Transformative Alternative

Cyzag is the AI Digital Operations Platform that helps organisations move beyond traditional process visualisation.

While PI ProcessBook has historically enabled users to monitor and visualise operational data, today's asset-intensive operations require a platform that not only displays information but also connects people, processes and operational knowledge to drive continuous improvement.

Rather than simply replacing legacy visualisations, Cyzag brings together live process data, digital workflows, standard operating procedures, frontline collaboration and operational intelligence within a single no-code platform.

By combining these capabilities, organisations create a trusted operational foundation that supports consistent execution today while preparing for the adoption of Industrial AI.



Unifying daily routines, process analytics and continuous improvement in one connected environment, Cyzag eliminates the need for disconnected tools. Teams can visualise, interact with and act on operational data within the context of their daily workflows, enabling faster decision-making, greater collaboration and more effective problem solving.

As organisations standardise their operations and capture valuable operational knowledge within Cyzag, that knowledge becomes an asset rather than remaining siloed within individuals or departments. This foundation enables Cyzag's AI to provide contextual answers, accelerate troubleshooting and make trusted operational knowledge instantly accessible across every shift and every site.

4. The Five Key Advantages of Cyzag

Efficiency and sustainability in process improvements hinge on well-organised operational routines, clearly defined workflows, and transparent communication channels. Cyzag excels in facilitating these vital aspects. Here are five primary benefits of Cyzag as a replacement for PI ProcessBook and more:

4.1 Increased Collaboration

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The prioritisation of knowledge and autonomy plays a key role in boosting employee retention by making individuals feel valued and empowered to take decisive actions. Within this positive and collaborative work environment, tangible benefits emerge, including heightened productivity, efficiency, and innovation. Cyzag's function as a collaboration tool goes beyond traditional methods, facilitating seamless sharing of insights, ideas, and feedback.



4.2 Faster Problem Solving

Cyzag's AI-powered Digital Operations Platform revolutionises decision-making by providing users with a dynamic environment where real-time data takes centre stage. The platform's seamless integration of live data ensures that users have access to the most up-to-date information, empowering them to make informed decisions on the fly. This real-time capability not only fosters a proactive approach to problem-solving but also facilitates quicker responses to emerging challenges.

Cyzag's AI further accelerates problem solving by enabling users to query live operational data, documented procedures and historical knowledge using natural language. Instead of manually navigating dashboards or reports, operators and engineers can quickly identify relevant information, investigate process deviations and access contextual guidance, reducing the time taken to diagnose and resolve operational issues.

Users are offered the flexibility to access and collaborate on data from anywhere with an internet connection. This accessibility breaks down geographical barriers, enabling teams to work cohesively and respond promptly to critical situations. The platform's reliance on cloud technology not only enhances collaboration but also ensures the scalability and reliability of the solution, accommodating the evolving needs of businesses in today's fast-paced digital landscape.

Illustrating its capabilities, Cyzag excels in facilitating digital root cause analysis (RCA). Directly connected to deviations and overlaid on raw data trends, it enables a coherent understanding across shifts and informs daily meetings (image 1).

Graphical representations, such as Parameter Drilldowns (image 2) and Ishikawa diagrams (image 3), go beyond being illustrative; they become part of a collaborative dialogue that seamlessly transitions into corrective tasks or continuous improvement initiatives.

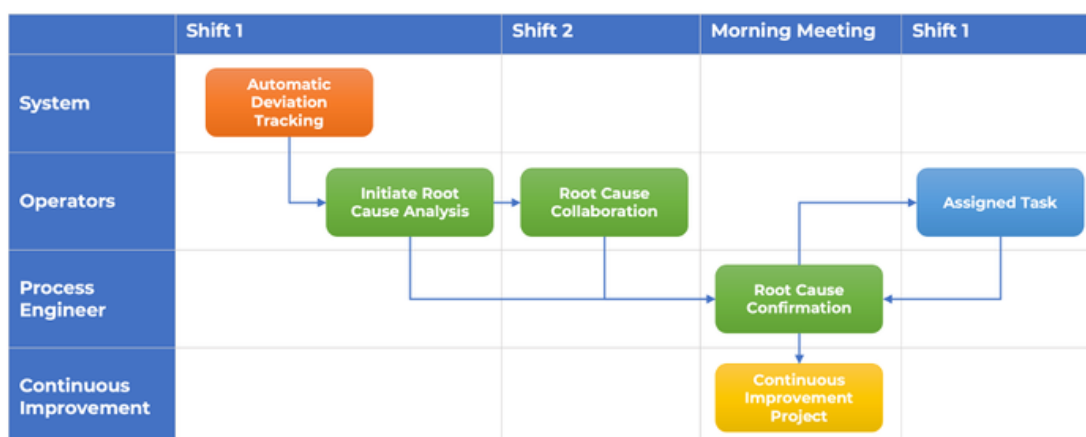


Image 1: Data & Workflow driven Root Cause Analysis example.

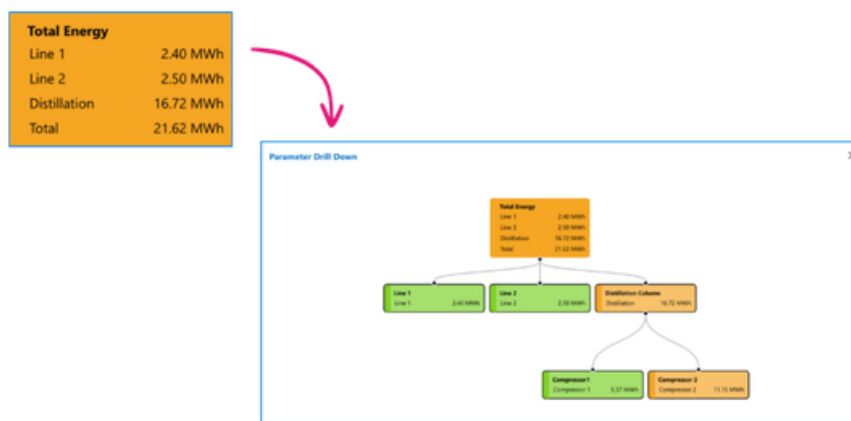


Image 2: Use our Parameter Drill Down feature to aid in root cause problem solving (from live, manual and calculated data)

4.3 Increased User Engagement

By seamlessly integrating live process data and analytics, Cyzag's approach to boosting user engagement is dynamic. This integration enables incremental decision-making, preventing information from becoming static. Furthermore, the platform's transparency promotes openness, empowering teams with clear information on organisational goals and strategies. This, coupled with a strong emphasis on inclusivity, results in a 5x increase in user engagement. Frontline teams actively contribute to identifying improvement opportunities, fostering a culture of data-driven decision-making.

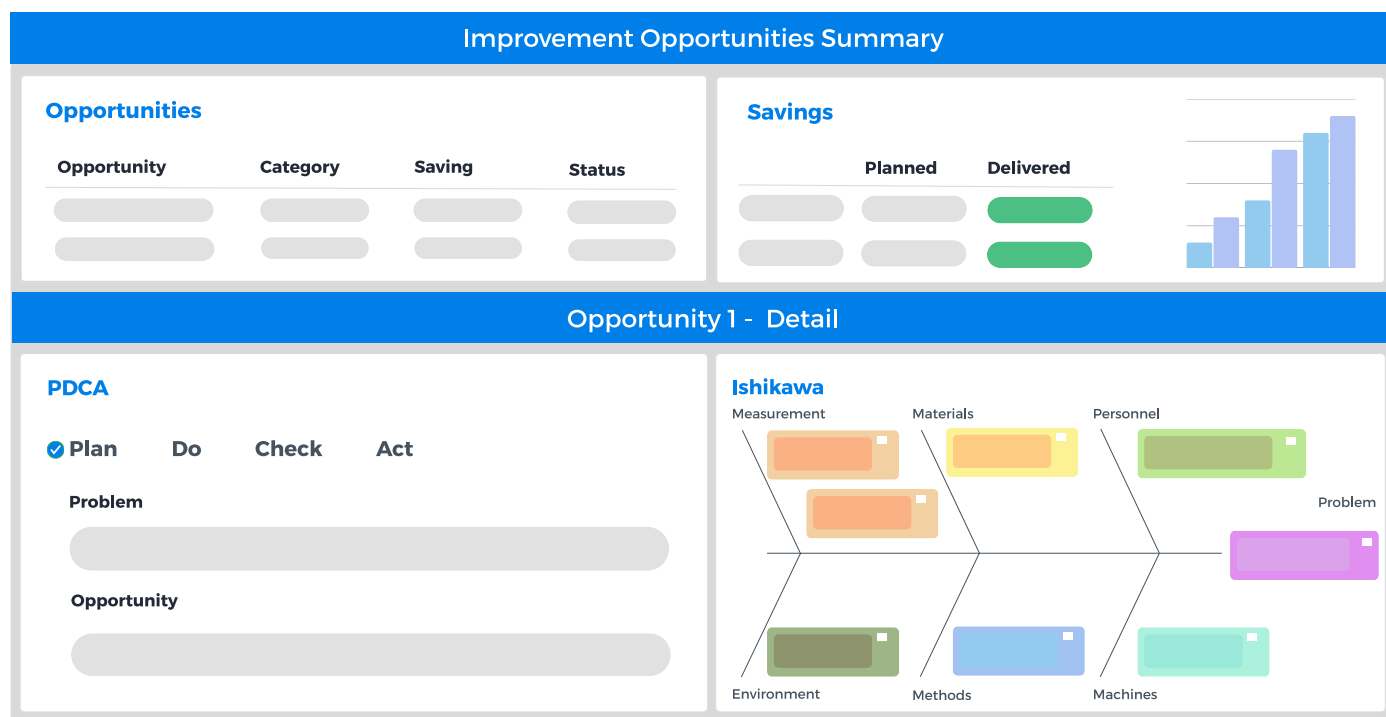


Image 3: Build engagement by ensuring transparency and easy access to data, process analysis and operational processes in one platform.

Moreover, Cyzag's impact is quantifiable through the incorporation of objectives and key results (OKRs) (see image 4), engaging individuals in a continuous improvement journey with measurable outcomes. The platform's emphasis on knowledge and autonomy recognises and leverages each employee's unique skills, driving continuous improvement, increased engagement, and improved retention.

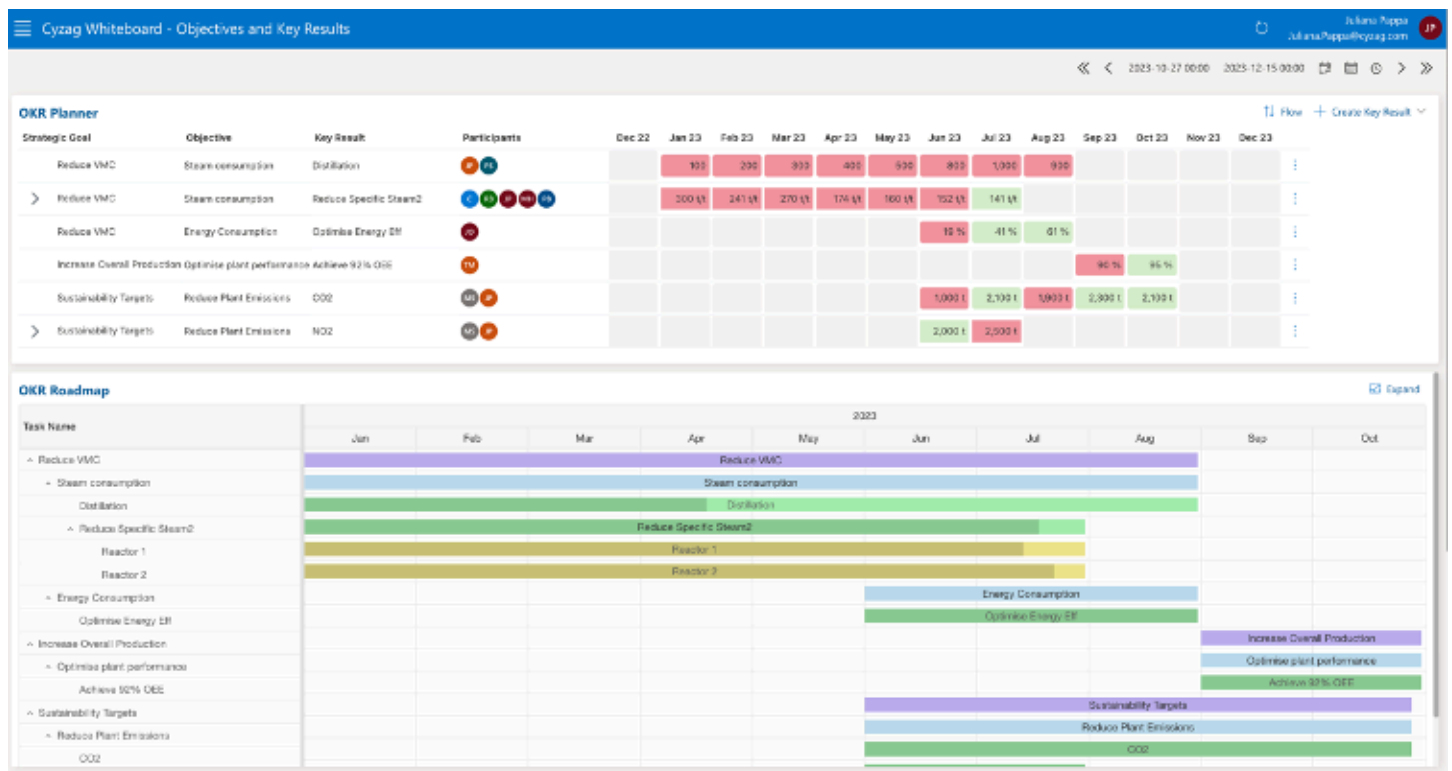
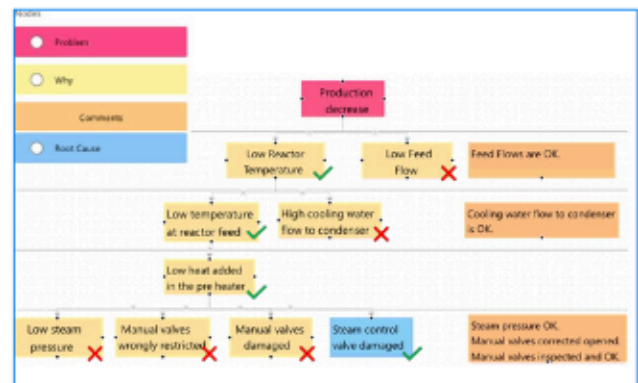
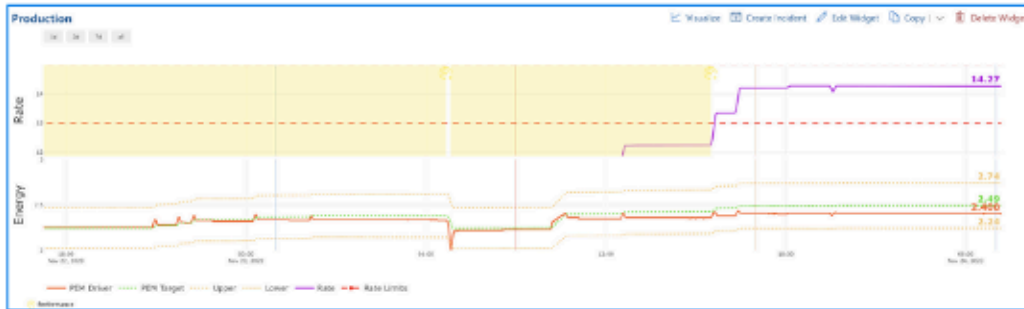


Image 4: Objectives and Key Results Dashboard

4.4 Better Decision-Making

Marking the transformation of the realm of organisational decision-making, Cyzag unlocks collective intelligence and the expertise embedded within the workforce. By seamlessly tapping into the vast reservoir of knowledge and experience held by each team member, the Cyzag platform facilitates a dynamic collaboration that goes beyond conventional decision-making paradigms. This innovative platform is designed to break free from the constraints of isolated and availability-dependent decisions that have characterised traditional processes.

With Cyzag, every member of your team becomes an integral part of the decision-making fabric, contributing their unique insights and perspectives. This shift from a top-down approach to a more inclusive, bottom-up model not only empowers individuals but also democratises the decision-making process itself. No longer confined to the limitations of a select few, decisions are shaped by the collective wisdom of the entire team.



4.5 Templatising and Standardisation

Empower users to effortlessly design and implement use cases, streamline workflows, customise forms and manage repetitive tasks using Cyzag's no-code platform. At its core, Cyzag enables organisations to template mature and proven use cases, making it easy to standardise best practices and deploy them consistently across multiple plants. More importantly, this standardisation captures valuable operational knowledge that would otherwise remain siloed within individual teams or experienced employees, creating a trusted operational foundation for continuous improvement.

Once this foundation is established, Cyzag's AI chatbot makes operational knowledge instantly accessible across the organisation. Rather than searching through procedures, dashboards or historical reports, users can ask questions in natural language and receive contextual answers based on live operational data, documented workflows and standard operating procedures. This helps accelerate onboarding, improve decision-making and preserve critical expertise across every shift and every site.

[Learn more](#)

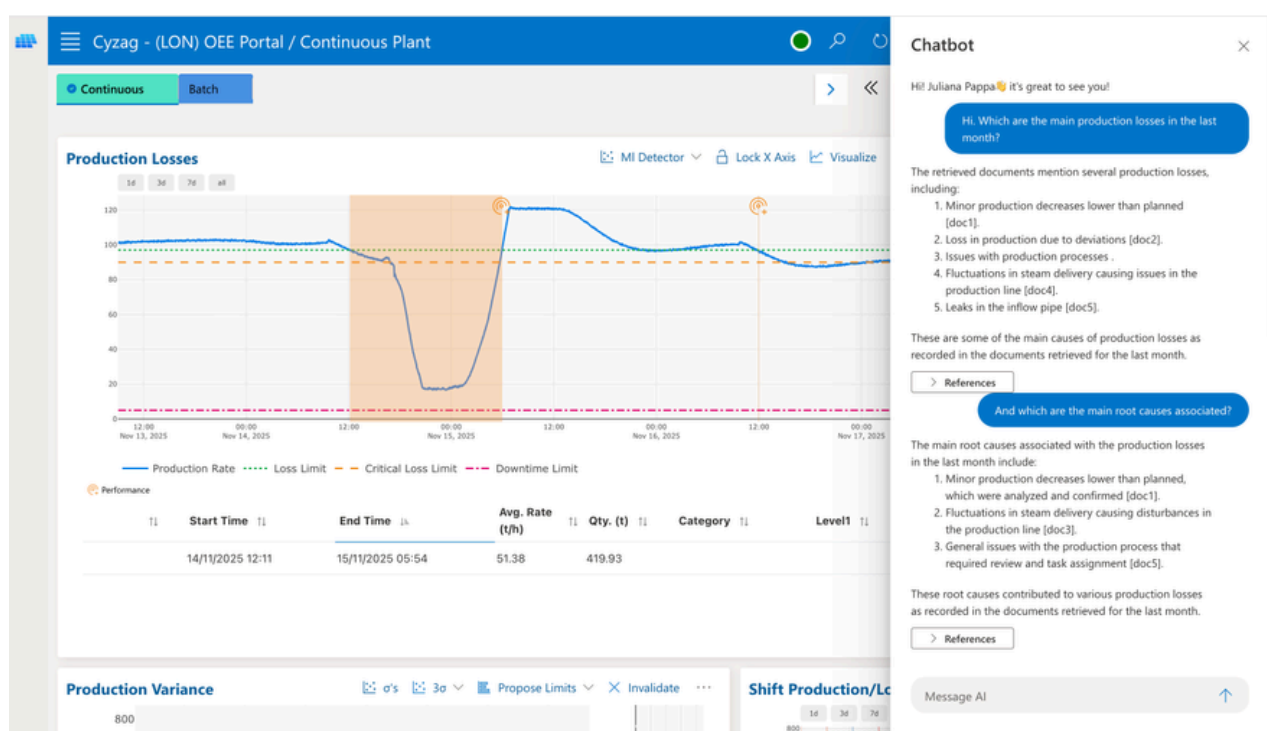


Image 6: Cyzag AI chatbot in manufacturing supports operators and engineers in identifying production losses and their causes, helping bridge knowledge gaps in an ageing workforce.

Moreover, Cyzag's commitment to a no-code environment promotes user-friendly customisation (image 7), allowing individuals with diverse skill sets to participate in the decision-making process. The elimination of coding complexities streamlines operations, reducing the dependency on IT teams and accelerating the deployment of solutions. This democratisation of innovation not only enhances the overall agility of the organisation but also fosters a culture of innovation as users can experiment with data-driven insights and embed data, tasks and activities in daily routines without the need for extensive technical expertise.

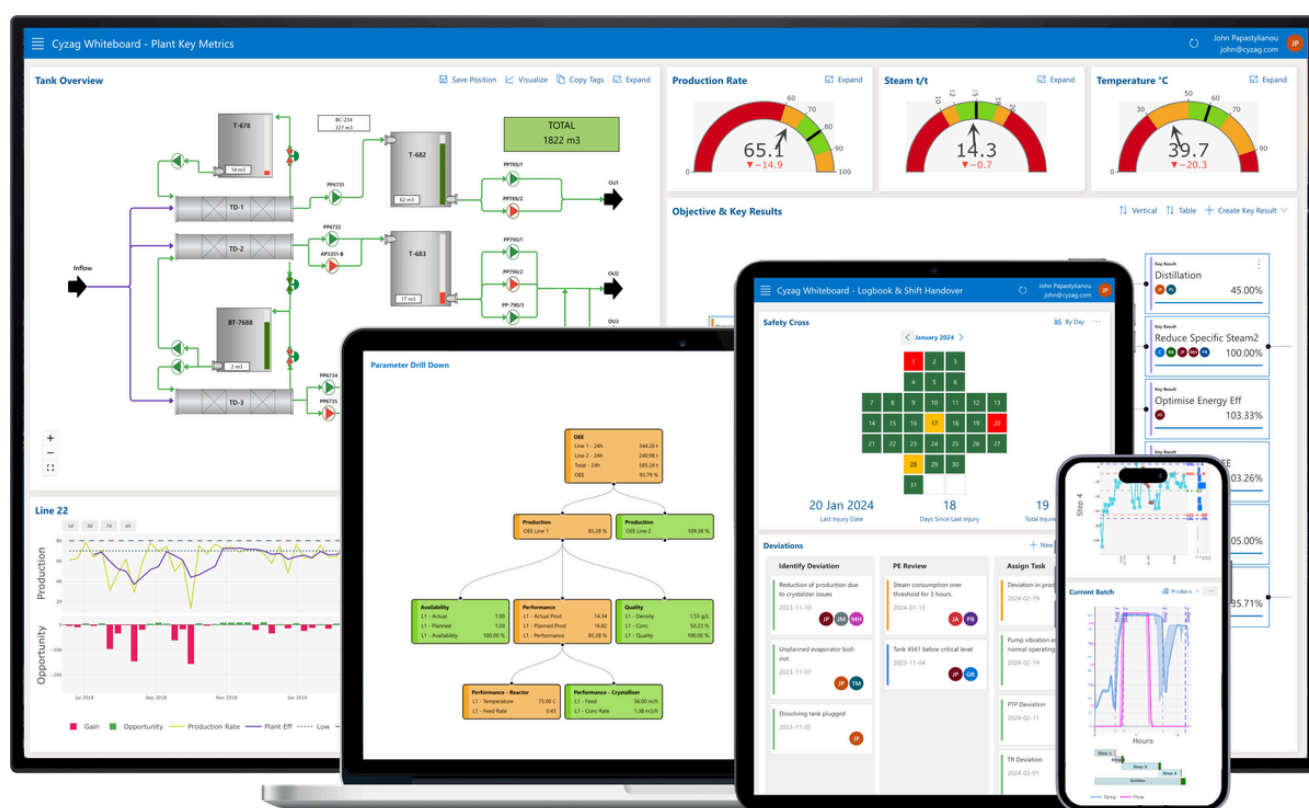


Image 7: The Cyzag platform on different devices with examples of different boards for varied use cases.

5. Integrating Cyzag

The platform seamlessly connects to AVEVA PI as a historian, ensuring a smooth and continuous flow of data. Cyzag's direct integration with AVEVA PI simplifies data access and makes it easy to leverage both historical and real-time operational data.

Using PI ProcessBook? [Learn how to migrate to Cyzag while maintaining your AVEVA PI historian.](#)

6. A Comparative Analysis: Cyzag vs. PI ProcessBook vs. Conventional Suppliers

Recognising the challenges that come with replacing PI ProcessBook or a similar process tool within an organisation, we have organised a comprehensive and detailed list encompassing all critical aspects that need consideration.

The comprehensive table below compares Cyzag, PI ProcessBook, and conventional suppliers (AVEVA, GE, SAP) across various aspects (see the next page).

Features	Cyzag	PI Process Book	Conventional*
Data Integration	Automated, real-time data integration	Automated, real-time data integration	Data intergration may vary
Operational Excellence (OPEX)	Industry leading form, workflow and collaboration functionality	None	Varied - not integrated
Real-Time Analytics	Live process analytics, tightly coupled with OPEX routines	Live Process analytics	Live process analytics varies - not coupled to OPEX
Performance Efficiency	Chemical industry proven OEE, variable cost tracking methodologies	Multi industry, generic solutions	Multi industry, generic solutions
Customisation	Extensive customisation with no-code flexibility	Limited customisation options	Generally customisable, but extent may vary between suppliers
Task Management	Scheduled, recurring, data-driven & adhoc task creation	None	Varied - not integrated
Root Cause Analysis	Graphical 5 why, ishikawa integrated with OPEX routines	None	None
User Interface	User-centric, modern, intuitive & evolving	Legacy	Legacy
Collaboration	Enhanced collaboration & sharing supported by OPEX backbone	Isolated data views, limited sharing capabilities	Varied - not integrated
Scalability	Seamless scalability with templatisation for rapid deployment	Challenging to scale across multiple plants	Challenging to scale across multiple plants
Mobile Accessibility	Full mobile optimisation for on-the-go access	No mobile support	Limited mobile support
Cost Efficiency	Predictable pricing with per-plant licensing	Potential hidden costs for scaling, updates & user type	Costs can be high, may include licensing, maintenance, and customisation
Support	Simple, fast and user focused	Will end Dec 2024	Slow and complex

Table 1: A comparison table of alternatives

**AVEVA, GE, SAP*

7. Summary

The retirement of AVEVA PI ProcessBook presents organisations with an opportunity to modernise not only their visualisation tools, but the way operational data, processes and people work together. While replacing a legacy system may initially appear to be a technical requirement, selecting the right platform can deliver far greater long-term value.

When evaluating alternatives, organisations should look beyond feature parity and consider factors such as deployment speed, total cost of ownership, ease of use, scalability, integration capabilities and the ability to support continuous improvement. The ideal solution should not simply replicate existing functionality but reduce complexity, lower the long-term cost of ownership and enable more connected, collaborative and data-driven operations.

Cyzag provides a future-ready AI Digital Operations Platform that combines live process data, digital workflows, process analytics and frontline collaboration within a single no-code environment. By bringing together operational data and daily routines, organisations can standardise best practices, improve visibility across sites and empower teams to make faster, more informed decisions.



More importantly, Cyzag enables organisations to capture and preserve operational knowledge that might otherwise remain siloed within individuals or departments. By standardising workflows, documenting best practices and embedding operational context into everyday activities, organisations create a trusted operational foundation that improves consistency, accelerates onboarding and supports continuous improvement across every site.

This operational foundation also enables Industrial AI. Rather than relying solely on raw process data, Cyzag's AI allows users to interact with live operational data, documented procedures and organisational knowledge using natural language. Teams can quickly access contextual information, troubleshoot issues and make confident decisions based on trusted operational intelligence.

For organisations operating complex, asset-intensive environments, replacing PI ProcessBook is an opportunity to do more than modernise operational visibility. It is an opportunity to create a connected operational foundation that improves performance today while preparing the organisation for the next generation of AI-driven operations.

Schedule a customised demonstration to discover how Cyzag can streamline your operations and processes [here](#).

Alternatively, stay informed with the latest content by following us on [LinkedIn](#).