The robots may be coming for healthcare insurance. But rather than replacing people, they will set us free to strengthen relationships, improve interactions and create a better, more human experience both internally and externally.

The rise of robotics
Thanks to the advancement of robotic process automation (RPA) technologies, this friendly digital takeover is gaining momentum. Once, RPA technology was limited to automating actions within a single application, such as setting rules to filter emails. Now, "autobots" can link multiple applications and streamline the performance of rote processes across an entire organization.

Owing to the technology’s increased sophistication, the global RPA market is growing rapidly. In 2015, it was valued at $125.2 million; by 2024, it will have soared to $8.75 billion.\(^1\)

Why autobots are good for healthcare insurance
For heavily manual and disconnected healthcare insurance environments, the new generation of RPA will be transformative. Traditionally, handling just one inquiry has involved jumping between several systems, workstation monitors and even departments, making the process painfully laborious and creating tension between staff and customers.

Wouldn’t it be great to pull up all the data you need on a single screen in just a few key strokes, for swifter service and greater customer satisfaction?

Better yet, what if an autobot did it all for you, so you could use your expertise when it is needed the most?

\(^1\) Grand View Research – RPA Market Analysis, October, 2016
A new generation of processing power

Powered by robotics, a simple process that normally takes 15 minutes could be completed in under a minute. Multiply that for two- and three-step processes and you could shave hours of tedious tasks from a working day. By providing a one-stop system and presenting the same data in a uniform way to all staff, healthcare insurers can reduce both call and processing times and improve the quality of information being handled. There will be less risk of human error – such as pulling up the wrong records – and data can be automatically updated across all systems at once.

Ultimately, RPA solutions have the potential to take whole sets of repeatable tasks off human hands altogether – completing them simultaneously without having to wait for another system or person to respond. We often wish we could replicate ourselves to get more work done; now with autobots, it is possible. In this sense, RPA technology is enabling firms to support exponential growth without taking on more staff.

Robots give healthcare the personal touch

While they can help organizations improve their performance, what the robots are not doing is taking human beings out of the picture. Think of them, instead, as giving people a promotion.

By ridding staff of low-value, mundane tasks, autobots allow them to use their brainpower more effectively for increased job satisfaction. Robotics also leaves employees more time to focus on innovation and generating revenue – and, above all, to develop stronger personal relationships with co-workers and customers alike.

With human lives and wellbeing at stake, healthcare insurance customers deserve the highest levels of personal care and attention. Through implementation of robotic technologies, insurers can run their business more efficiently and also deliver a next-generation customer experience with a uniquely human touch.

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