spreadsheets:
work like it's 2015, not 2005

Modern workers are killing spreadsheets. And it's not like they are reverting to paper and pencil. Ironic, isn't it? Spreadsheets started the PC movement. Going back as far as the early 1980s, it was spreadsheets that drove sales of PCs and Apple II computers. Now, modern workers crave a smarter tool that offers collaboration, fast data analysis, user permissions, security and more. Are spreadsheets dead? Not yet, but modern workers are making sure it will go the way of the slide rule — extinct.

We work dramatically different now than 20 years ago, 10 years ago, and even 5 years ago, and these changes are fueled by the continual evolution of technology. This evolution has made it possible for professionals to remain productive anywhere and at any time. But while the way we work has changed, some of the tools that power our work have failed to keep pace with that change.

Spreadsheet tools have been commonly used for managing and tracking crucial business functions. But despite their prevalence in modern businesses, the technology behind them hasn't advanced. And perhaps nowhere is this more apparent than in their lack of mobile functionality. The massively limited functionality of spreadsheet tools is one of the biggest roadblocks to staying efficient, and mobile versions of current spreadsheet tools suffer from the same lack of forward-thinking functionality and modern features. With business increasingly conducted on the go, professionals need to be able to work seamlessly and maintain productivity away from their desks.

It's the reason that Citizen Developers are leading the charge, developing tools that remove the barrier of outdated tools and developing software that better meets the needs of the modern workforce. It's time that we stopped working like it's 2005.

We hope you enjoy this report from TrackVia.

Sincerely,
Walker Fenton, SVP Product
TrackVia, Inc.

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Professionals Just Aren't Using Spreadsheets on the Go

Only 25% of professionals use spreadsheets on their phone or tablet

25%

Spreadsheets Lose Functionality on Mobile Devices

85% of those who use spreadsheets on a phone or tablet say they are *not* able to do everything they can on their computers
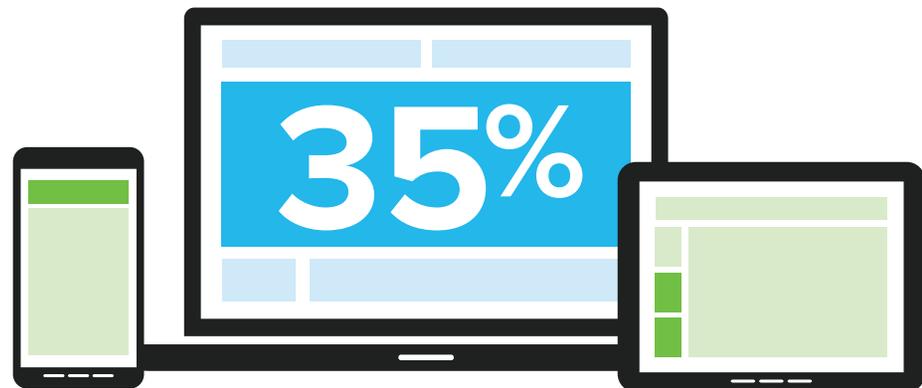
85%

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90%

Spreadsheets Lose Functionality on Mobile Devices

90% of those who use spreadsheets on their phone or tablet say they are able to view, but not edit their spreadsheets

Citizen Developers Want Functionality Across Devices

35% of Millennials use their own apps because corporate apps can't be used across different devices

35%

THE MOBILE DILEMMA
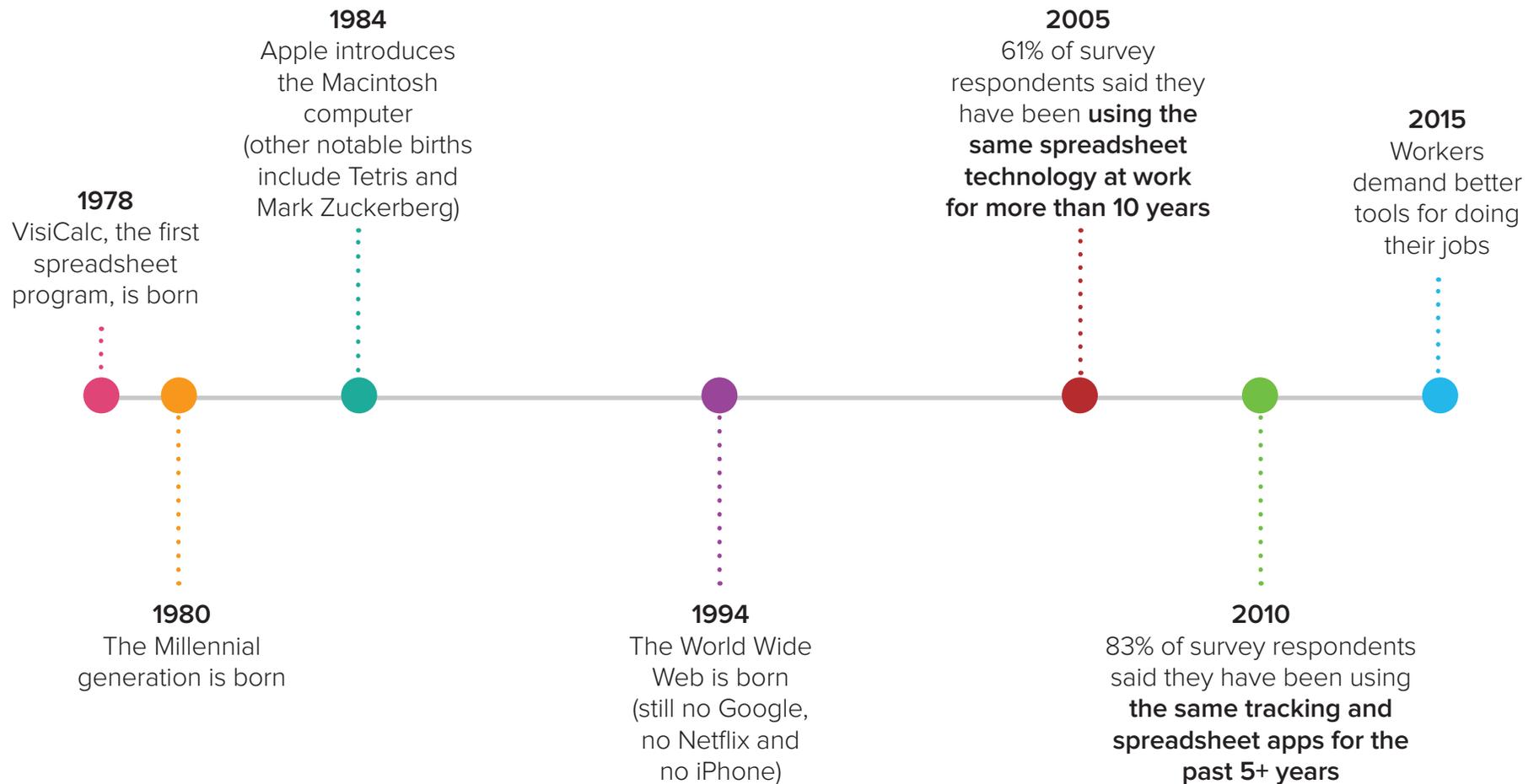
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WHAT WE LEARNED

There's an app for that — *or at least that's what they say*. But this doesn't seem to be the case with commonly used spreadsheet tools. Spreadsheets have failed to adapt to an increasingly mobile workforce, despite a dramatic increase in the use of smart phones and tablets over the past decade, and the result is lost productivity and efficiency. And because more and more smart phones and tablets are going to be used for work, the tools that fuel our work have to be seamless across devices.

Citizen Developers, led by the emerging generation of Millennial professionals, know that outdated spreadsheet tools just aren't cutting it and don't measure up when it comes to today's mobile devices.
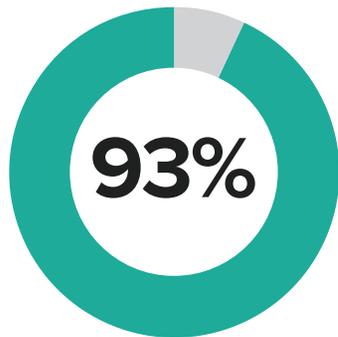
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ENTERPRISE

Mobile technology has invaded the enterprise and IT departments need to listen to their employees' needs. IT departments are in an unique role where they can genuinely foster greater productivity through mobile devices by giving employees access to more than just spreadsheets — evolving to use apps and other tools that help employees work smarter.
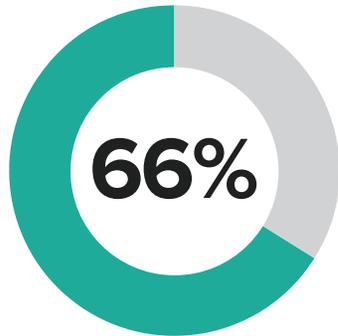
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Work Like It's 2015, Not 2005

1978
VisiCalc, the first spreadsheet program, is born

1980
The Millennial generation is born

1984
Apple introduces the Macintosh computer (other notable births include Tetris and Mark Zuckerberg)

1994
The World Wide Web is born (still no Google, no Netflix and no iPhone)

2005
61% of survey respondents said they have been **using the same spreadsheet technology at work for more than 10 years**

2010
83% of survey respondents said they have been using **the same tracking and spreadsheet apps for the past 5+ years**

2015
Workers demand better tools for doing their jobs

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Wait, There's An App For That?

93%

93% of respondents initially say their spreadsheet tools meet all of their needs...

66%

...but that number drops to only 66% when asked if they would stick with typical spreadsheets even if there was an app that automatically handled version control, lost data, user permissions, security and more

Spreadsheets Are Simply Outdated

67%

of spreadsheet users say they choose spreadsheet tools over other tools because they are free and/or already on their computers

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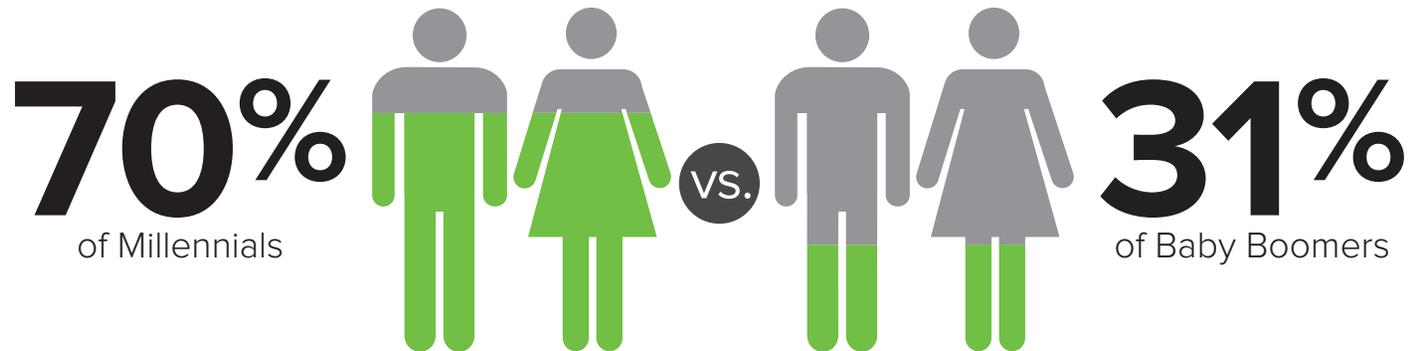## Citizen Developers Ignore Outdated Tools and IT Policies

ONE-THIRD

of employees use their own apps
and devices because the tools at
the company are outdated

Nearly 70% of Millennials Admit to Bringing Applications

from outside the enterprise to support their work — going against corporate policies — versus just 31% of Baby Boomers

70%
of Millennials

VS.

31%
of Baby Boomers

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WHAT WE LEARNED

Spreadsheets started out as a useful tool in the office, but today's workers are using them as they were never designed to be used. They weren't designed to be multi-person and multi-department tools, but that is how today's workers are using them. Because spreadsheets are installed on every desktop and laptop, employees who know how to use them are doing just that — making them hesitant to learn different ways of working. This behavior is causing companies to lose out on one of the most important factors to success — employee productivity.

Citizen Developers understand that there is a different way to do things and they aren't afraid of limiting corporate IT policies. They are using Web apps to save time. These Web apps can collect data and analyze it with just a few mouse clicks. This means that a task that used to take hours to complete can be done in minutes. This increase in productivity means that employees can have the information they need to make business decisions in almost real time.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ENTERPRISE

The modern worker no longer needs a one-size-fits-all set of technology. IT departments historically install spreadsheet programs without any thought to the end user. And then employees are stuck using inadequate tools that don't work in a way they need them to — prohibiting collaboration, requiring manual manipulation to data, etc. Today, IT should look to understand how the employee works, what types of apps they need to be productive and offer the necessary tools.

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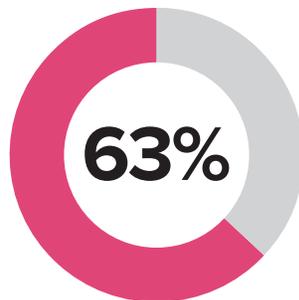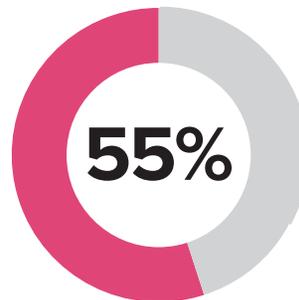**Analyzing Data in Spreadsheets is a Time-Consuming Process**

65%

of respondents said their spreadsheet tool does not offer automatic data analysis

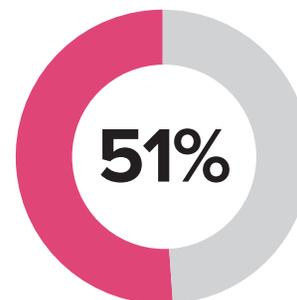**Spreadsheet Functionality Misses Key Features for Today's Workers**

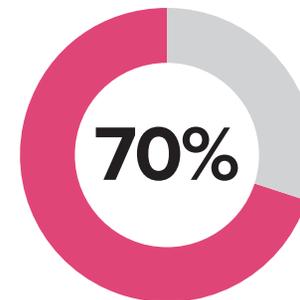Respondents said their spreadsheet tools do not offer the following:
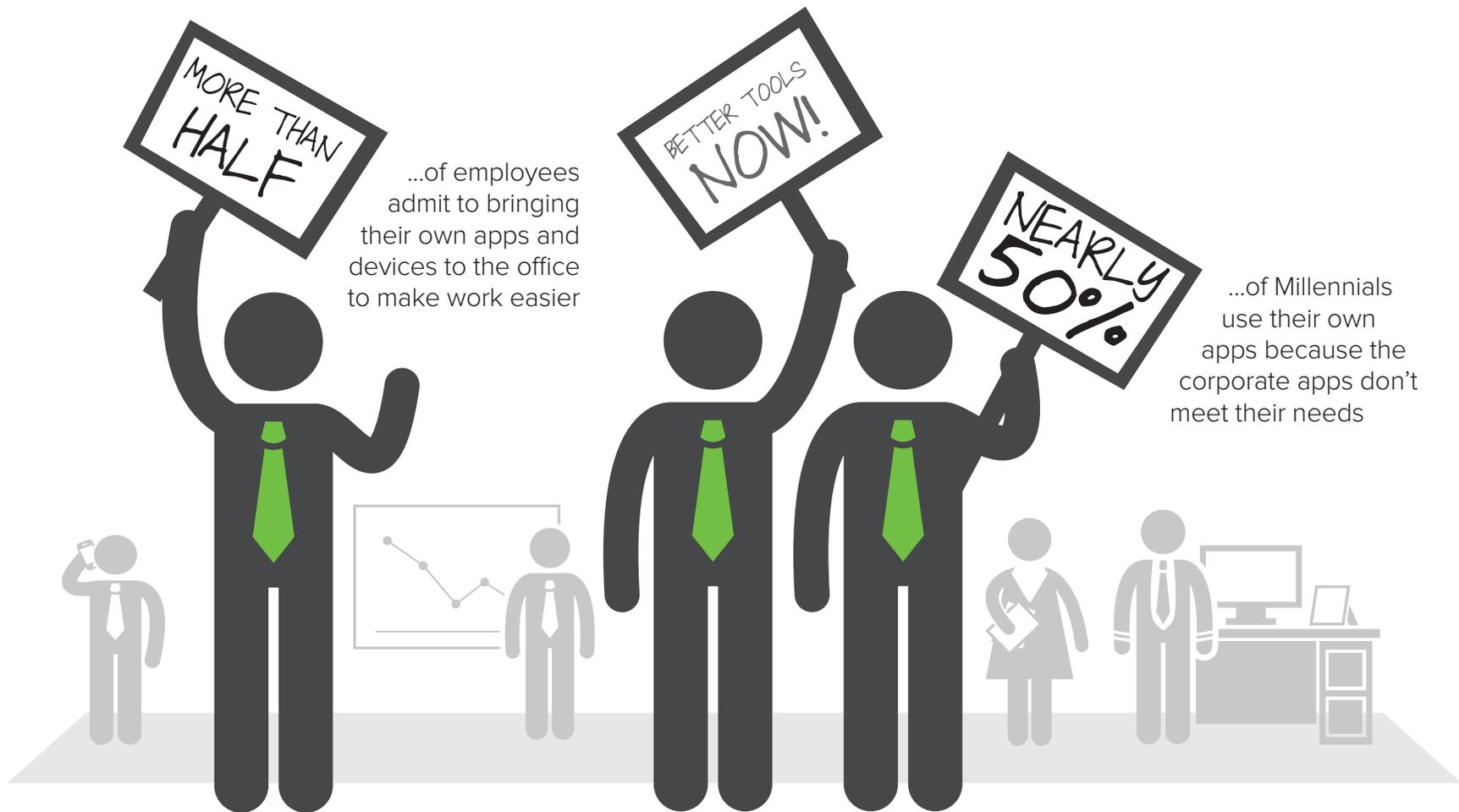
63%

Collaboration function

55%

Permission management

51%

Security control

70%

Version control

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Citizen Developers Find Better Tools to Work Smarter

MORE THAN HALF

...of employees admit to bringing their own apps and devices to the office to make work easier

BETTER TOOLS NOW!

NEARLY 50%

...of Millennials use their own apps because the corporate apps don't meet their needs

THE AGE OF FUNCTIONALITY

WHAT WE LEARNED

The cliché is true: Old habits die hard. Today's workers continue to rely on spreadsheets, even though the functionality doesn't meet their needs. For example, spreadsheets can't meet simple needs like maintaining version control or security. Imagine if an employee accidentally emails a spreadsheet with 2015 pricing or sensitive employee personal information to the wrong person — maybe even to a competitor. There is nothing the organization can do to protect that spreadsheet once the email is sent — the security features are just not there. Also alarming, as a recruitment tool, today's companies and work environments boast collaboration across departments and employees, but spreadsheets just don't work that way. Once spreadsheets are sent around, each employee is working in their own silo to review, update and make changes. Where is the collaboration?

Citizen Developers are leading the path forward by identifying the functionality they need — features like collaboration, permission management and version control. Because they can't find this in the spreadsheet world, they are bringing their own apps to the office that better meet their needs.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ENTERPRISE

Spreadsheets sent around by email and saved on laptops don't have the security controls enterprises need to not only protect their intellectual property, but also to maintain compliance. In addition, spreadsheets just lack the needed functionality that modern workers require to be successful. To attract smart employees and improve productivity, companies need to ensure they offer contemporary tools to their employees.

METHODOLOGY

TrackVia surveyed more than 1,000 individuals in November 2014 through an online survey. Responses were collected from both male and female respondents, ages 18 and up, in the United States. Responses were random, voluntary and anonymous. The surveys consisted of approximately 10 questions, using multiple option questions with one or more answers.

About TrackVia

TrackVia is a do-it-yourself mobile and Web application platform for business users. We empower people to quickly build mobile and Web apps to manage workflow and process for departments or entire companies. We refer to building apps with clicks, not code and deploying apps in days, not months. These apps are tailored exactly to your business needs and are a fraction of the cost of heavier enterprise apps. More than 2,500 businesses in 15 countries rely on TrackVia. Join the Citizen Developer revolution at trackvia.com.