

Top Reasons To Switch: From Spreadsheets to a Cloud CRM?

written by Vicky Barry | September 20, 2023



Businesses and solopreneurs are constantly seeking tools to streamline their business, enhance customer relationships, and boost sales. Enter CRM ([Customer Relationship Management](#)) systems, the superheroes of modern business tools. But like every superhero, there are variations: the in-house CRM and the SaaS (Software as a Service) CRM. So, which one should you choose? Let's dive deep into the battle of the CRMs.

From Spreadsheets to SaaS CRM: The Modern Shift

Many businesses, especially startups and [SMEs](#), begin their customer management journey with tools like [Excel](#) or [Apple Numbers](#). While these tools are great for basic data storage, they lack the advanced features, security, and ease of use that a dedicated CRM system offers.

Why make the shift?

1. **Security:** Online CRMs, especially SaaS versions, come with robust security features, ensuring your customer data is safe from breaches.
2. **Centralization:** No more juggling between multiple sheets or files. Everything you need is in one place.
3. **Automation:** From sending follow-up emails to generating reports, automation features in CRMs save time and reduce errors.
4. **Collaboration:** Multiple team members can access and update the CRM in real-time, ensuring everyone is on the same page.

In-house CRM: The Homegrown Hero

What is it? In-house CRM systems are software solutions developed internally or customized by a third-party but hosted on a company's own servers.

Pros of Homegrown In-house Software:

1. **Customization:** Since it's developed in-house, you can tailor it precisely to your business needs.
2. **Data Control:** All data remains within the company's infrastructure, which can be a plus for businesses with sensitive information.
3. **Offline Access:** No need for internet access to get to your data.

Cons of Homegrown In-house Software

1. **High Initial Costs:** Development, hardware, and software licenses can be pricey.
2. **Maintenance:** You're responsible for updates, bug fixes, and dealing with potential downtimes.
3. **Scalability Issues:** As your business grows, you might need to invest more in infrastructure and further customization.

SaaS CRM: Online Software to Run Your Business

What is it? SaaS CRM is a cloud-based service. Instead of being hosted on a company's servers, it's hosted on the provider's servers and accessed via the internet.

Pros of Online SaaS CRM

1. **Cost-Effective:** Typically, you pay a subscription fee. No hefty initial investments. And most online CRM's, have the ability to increase the size of your database as you grow. And will allow you to add additional users as you grow without any need for programmers come in and reprogram your servers or add additional equipment.
2. **Easy Upgrades:** The service provider handles updates and new features. As opposed to what happens with in-house systems, where any customization requires an expense
3. **Scalability:** As your business grows, you can easily adjust your subscription to fit your needs.
4. **Accessibility:** Access your data from anywhere with an internet connection. This is a big one, it allows entrepreneurs to run their business, even when on vacation or offsite. For example, the other day I was in the hospital, waiting for my significant other, and I was still able to run my business from my phone.

Cons of Online SaaS CRM

1. **Internet Dependency:** No internet, no access. This is definitely a concern if your business is in the wilderness or you wish to access your database remotely. But remember, in-house systems only work in house and the availability of Internet today is pretty universal. Especially with companies like [Starlink satellite Internet](#) available, almost worldwide
2. **Customization Limits:** While many SaaS CRMs offer customization, there might be limits compared to in-house solutions. However, most sass CRM have all the tools you need to run your business. It may not look the way you're used to, but after a little bit of utilization, in most cases, you'll be better off then with an in-house system.
3. **Data Control:** Since data is stored off-site, some businesses might have concerns about security and compliance. But this is usually not the case anymore with SSL certificates and bank level user security that most CRM's use to protect customer data.

The Verdict

The choice between in-house and SaaS CRM boils down to your business's specific needs and resources. If you have the budget, technical expertise, and a need for deep customization, in-house might be the way to go. However, if you're looking for a cost-effective, scalable solution with minimal maintenance, SaaS CRM is a strong contender.

As the great business thinker Peter Drucker once said, "Efficiency is doing things right; effectiveness is doing the right things." Whether you choose in-house or SaaS, the key is to ensure that your CRM aligns with your business goals and enhances your relationship with your customers.

Ready to explore the world of SaaS CRM? Check out Selling Lane, where efficiency meets effectiveness, and watch your business soar to new heights!

Everything you need to grow your thriving business. Get higher quality leads, close more deals and manage customers all in one place with Selling Lane CRM
Try For Free [Get Sellinglane CRM](#) No credit card needed

[How to Use SellingLane to Close More Deals](#)

written by Vicky Barry | September 20, 2023



SellingLane is a powerful [CRM system](#) that can help you close more deals. Here are a few tips on how to use SellingLane to your advantage:

Unlocking Business Potential: Mastering Deal Closures with SellingLane

1. Lead Mastery

"Every contact we have with a customer influences whether or not they'll come back." – Shep Hyken

With our CRM software, every lead is a story waiting to unfold. From the initial point of contact to the final handshake, track your leads seamlessly. This holistic view ensures you're always a step ahead, anticipating needs and addressing concerns.

2. Prioritize with Precision –

"The key is not to prioritize what's on your schedule, but to schedule your priorities." – Stephen Covey

Not all leads are created equal. SellingLane's lead scoring mechanism evaluates leads on various parameters, ensuring you channel your energy where it matters most.

3. Pipeline Visualization –

"Efficiency is doing things right; effectiveness is doing the right things." – Peter Drucker

SellingLane's intuitive dashboard offers a bird's-eye view of your sales pipeline, spotlighting areas of excellence and avenues for improvement.

4. Sales Automation –

"The first rule of any technology used in a business is that automation applied to an efficient operation will magnify the efficiency." – Bill Gates

Why get bogged down with mundane tasks when our Business Software can automate them? From timely follow-up emails to appointment scheduling, let technology do the heavy lifting.

5. Performance Analytics

"Without big data analytics, companies are blind and deaf, wandering out onto the web like deer on a freeway." – Geoffrey Moore:

SellingLane's in-depth analytics provide a clear picture of your sales

metrics, from conversion rates to sales cycles, empowering you to strategize effectively.

6. Selling Menu's

Our Business Software includes a wonderful [selling menu system](#) that allows you to show customers multiple choices and have them pick the one they want. Which makes the customer experience that much better and easier for an average person to sell on a consistent basis.

Extra Nuggets of Wisdom:



- **Personal Touch –**

“A person’s name is to that person the sweetest and most important sound in any language.” – Dale Carnegie

SellingLane equips you with detailed lead insights, enabling personalized outreach that resonates.

- **Consistent Follow-ups –**

“Diligence is the mother of good luck.” – Benjamin Franklin

SellingLane’s automated reminders ensure you’re always on your lead’s radar, enhancing deal closure chances.

- **Nurturing Relationships –**

“Business is all about the customer: what the customer wants and what they get.” – Peter Drucker

With SellingLane, nurture your leads by offering value-driven content and resources, laying the foundation for a lasting business relationship.

Final Thoughts: SellingLane is not just a tool; it’s a partner in your journey towards unparalleled sales success. Let SellingLane be your collaborator in this journey. Ready to transform your sales game? [What are you waiting for, try for free today.](#) ☐☐

Everything you need to grow your thriving business. Get higher quality leads, close more deals and manage customers all in one place with Selling Lane CRM
Try For Free [Get Sellinglane CRM](#) No credit card needed

We Buy with Emotion, Then Justify with Logic

written by Vicky Barry | September 20, 2023



The Art of Persuasion in Sales.

"People don't buy for logical reasons. They buy for emotional reasons." –

Zig Ziglar

In the intricate dance of sales, understanding the psychology of the buyer is paramount. Time and again, studies and real-world experiences have shown that emotion, rather than cold hard facts, drives purchasing decisions. But once that emotional trigger is pulled, the brain seeks to [rationalize the choice with logic](#). This delicate balance between heart and mind is where the magic happens, and where SellingLane's Menu Selling System shines.

The Emotional Drive: Tapping into the Heart of the Buyer

"The aim of marketing is to know and understand the customer so well the product or service fits him and sells itself." –

Peter Drucker

Every purchase, whether it's a pack of gum or a luxury car, is driven by emotion. It could be the desire for pleasure, the need to avoid pain, the drive to feel secure, or the wish to be admired. These emotions are powerful motivators, often overriding logical considerations like price or features.

For instance, why do people buy high-end brands when similar products are available for less? It's the emotional payoff – the feeling of prestige, the status symbol, or the personal reward for a job well done.

The Logical Justification: Making Peace with the Mind

“Make it simple. Make it memorable. Make it inviting to look at. Make it fun to read.” –

Leo Burnett

Once the emotional decision to buy is made, the brain steps in to justify the choice. This is where features, benefits, and value propositions come into play. The buyer seeks reasons to validate their emotional decision, to ensure they've made the right choice.

This is where a tool like SellingLane's Menu Selling System becomes invaluable. By presenting options in a clear, logical format, it provides the buyer with the rational justification they need. They can see the value, understand the benefits, and feel confident in their decision.

SellingLane's Menu Selling System: Bridging Emotion and Logic

“Sell the problem you solve. Not the product.”

The Bard Dad from the site Barddad.com

The brilliance of the Menu Selling System lies in its ability to cater to both the emotional and logical aspects of buying. By presenting options in a menu format, it taps into the buyer's desire for choice and control, an emotional need. At the same time, the clear presentation of features and benefits provides the logical justification required.

Moreover, the system's interactive nature encourages engagement, allowing the buyer to explore, compare, and customize, further enhancing the emotional connection while providing logical reasons for every choice made.

The Power of Storytelling in Sales

“Stories are the single most powerful weapon in a leader's arsenal.” –

Howard Gardner

One of the most effective ways to tap into a buyer's emotions is through storytelling. By weaving a narrative around a product or service, salespeople can create a connection, evoke emotions, and make the offering more memorable.

SellingLane's Menu Selling System can be integrated into this narrative, providing a logical structure to the emotional story. It's not just about presenting options; it's about crafting a journey that resonates with the buyer, making them the hero of their own story.

Final Thoughts: Mastering the Art of Emotional Selling

"Don't find customers for your products, find products for your customers." –

Seth Godin

In the world of sales, understanding and leveraging the interplay between emotion and logic is crucial. By tapping into the emotional drivers of a purchase and then providing the logical justification, salespeople can create a powerful, persuasive narrative that resonates with buyers.

With tools like SellingLane's Menu Selling System, this balance between heart and mind becomes easier to achieve, leading to more successful sales and satisfied customers.



**Get Logical
With Selling Lane**

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30 Days Free– then Upgrade for Only \$5

No credit card needed to try, [click here](#)

[Ditching Your Job? The Top 10 Reasons](#)

People Quit Their Job And Start A Company

written by Vicky Barry | September 20, 2023



Ah, the daily drudgery of the 9-to-5—where your soul feels like it's wrapped in bureaucratic bubble wrap. It's as exciting as a tofu sandwich on gluten-free bread, am I right? But hold onto your neckties and pantyhose, folks! There's a whole other universe beyond the taupe walls of your cubicle, zoom calls and meetings that should've been emails. Ready to start a company, to take the red pill? Here are the top 10 reasons folks are tossing their ID badges into the 'meh' pile and diving headfirst into the kaleidoscopic chaos of entrepreneurship!

- 1. Chasing the Dream, Not the Dollar,** Ever felt like your job was as inspiring as watching paint dry? Many do. Entrepreneurship is the canvas where passions come alive, turning hobbies into hustles and dreams into dividends.
- 2. Bye-Bye, Alarm Clock Tyranny,** Who decided 9-to-5 was the golden window of productivity anyway? Owning a business means you can ditch the alarm clock and work when you're at your brilliant best, be it at the crack of dawn or the witching hour.
- 3. Escaping the "Boss-zilla",** start a company the old adage, people quit bosses not companies, is so true. Bad bosses aren't just the stuff of movies. They're real, they're out there, and they're making employees dream of escape. Why endure the daily drama of a boss-zilla when you can be your own benevolent leader?



Bad Bosses Ruin Businesses

Ah, the world of bad bosses—a peculiar universe where every day feels like Monday! Here are some types you might have crossed paths with or heard about at the water cooler;

- 1. The Micromanager:** Watches your every move like a hawk eyeing its prey. Did you really need approval to staple those papers together?
- 2. Ghost Boss:** Almost mythical in nature. You've heard tales of their existence but rarely see them. Communication? Ha, good luck!

3. **Credit Thief:** Your ideas are suddenly theirs in every meeting. “Oh, that breakthrough strategy? That was all me.”
4. **Mr./Ms. “Because I Said So”:** No reasoning, no logic, just the good old “my way or the highway” approach.
5. **The Volcano:** Calm one moment, erupting the next. Their mood can switch faster than a light bulb.
6. **The Buddy-Boss:** Tries too hard to be your friend, often blurring professional boundaries. Sure, you wanted to discuss your weekend plans—but not during the yearly review.
7. **The Unrealistic Expectations Setter:** Wants a year’s worth of work done in a week and wonders why it’s not achieved.
8. **The No Feedback Freddie:** Never offers any guidance—positive or negative. It’s like working for a wall.
9. **The Over-promiser:** Regularly makes promises they can’t (or won’t) keep. “You’ll definitely get that raise... soonish... maybe.”
10. **The Perpetual Pessimist:** No matter how well things are going, they can always find the dark cloud.

It’s worth noting that everyone can have an off day, but these boss types display a consistent pattern of such behaviors, turning workdays into an endless game of survival. If you’ve encountered one of these or have your own to add to the list, solidarity! And here’s to hoping for better workdays ahead. ☐

4. Climbing Imaginary Ladders Ever felt like you’re trying to ascend a corporate ladder that’s just... painted on the wall? Entrepreneurship offers a real trajectory, with sky’s-the-limit potential and no glass ceilings in sight.

5. Side Hustles Turn Main Hustle That weekend gig designing quirky T-shirts? It just might out-earn your “real” job. When side gigs start raining cash, it’s a sign from the universe to take the entrepreneurial plunge.

6. Financial Freedom (and Maybe a Yacht) Fixed salaries are so last century. Entrepreneurship is the golden ticket to financial freedom, where you’re not just earning but building an empire. And who knows? Maybe there’s a yacht in your future.

7. Unleashing the Inner Maverick In the corporate world, thinking outside the box often means picking a different shade of grey. Entrepreneurs, on the other hand, get to paint with the entire color spectrum. It’s where innovation dances with creativity.

8. Crafting a Culture, Not Just Fitting In Tired of corporate jargon and soulless office spaces? As an entrepreneur, you’re the master of your domain, creating a culture that’s a reflection of your values, quirks, and that penchant for Funko Pop collectibles.

9. Because Plan B Became Plan A Sometimes life throws curveballs, like layoffs or recessions. But as the saying goes, when one door closes, a window

to entrepreneurship flings wide open. Necessity, after all, is the mother of invention.

10. Building a Kingdom, Not Just a Career Entrepreneurship isn't just about making a living; it's about building a legacy. It's the chance to create something that'll outlive you, be it a brand, a product, or a legend.

The Bottom Line (With a Twist) Leaving the predictable world of traditional employment for the unpredictable seas of entrepreneurship isn't just a decision; **it's an adventure**. It's about chasing dreams, dodging "boss-zillas," and maybe, just maybe, buying that yacht. So, if the entrepreneurial bug has bitten you, remember: life's too short for boring 9-to-5s. Dive in, dream big, and let the adventure begin! □□□□

We would love to help, by giving you free software to get started.



**Avoid the Bad Bosses
With Selling Lane**

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No credit card needed to try, startups get the CRM **free forever**

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[Time is Money: 5 Ways an Easy CRM Can Help You Protect Your Most Valuable Asset](#)

written by Vicky Barry | September 20, 2023



As [Benjamin Franklin](#) once said, "Remember that time is money." In the world

of business, this couldn't be more accurate. But let's add a little twist to it: "Remember that time is money... and you don't have to be a time-traveling wizard to manage it well!"

1. Prioritize Your Tasks

"You may delay, but time will not."

– Benjamin Franklin

A CRM helps you prioritize your tasks based on their urgency and importance. It's like having a personal assistant who's always reminding you, "Hey, this task is crucial, and it's due tomorrow. Get on it!"

And the best part? This assistant doesn't raid the office snack cupboard or need coffee breaks! ☹️

2. Automate Repetitive Tasks

"I always wanted to be someone, but now I realize I should have been more specific."

– Lily Tomlin

Why waste time on repetitive tasks when a CRM can do it for you? From sending follow-up emails to updating customer records, automation is the secret sauce to being more specific with who you want to be: a successful business owner, not a repetitive task robot!

So, you've got your shiny CRM set to autopilot, and suddenly, you've got all this free time! What to do? Well, you could try learning a new language, picking up that guitar that's been gathering dust, or even going on that vacation you've always dreamt about! ☹️ Or, you know, you could just use the time to focus on the bigger picture – strategic planning, market expansion, product development, world domination – the fun stuff! After all, no one ever said on their deathbed, "I wish I had sent more manual follow-up emails." ☹️

3. Streamline Communication

"I don't need time. What I need is a deadline."

– Duke Ellington

With a CRM, every communication is tracked and stored in one place. It's like having a personal deadline setter that says, "This customer asked a question. You need to respond by this time." No more sifting through countless emails or sticky notes!

And the best part? You no longer have to play detective every time you need to find a specific client interaction. Remember the time you had to find that one email where the client promised to send in the missing documents? Yeah, those days are over! With CRM, you can locate all your customer communication faster than a toddler can find the most inopportune time to throw a tantrum. ☐ It's like your very own time machine, bringing back memories (or in this case, emails) in a snap! ☐

4. Improve Team Collaboration

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Helen Keller

A CRM isn't just for you; it's for your team too. It helps everyone stay on the same page, preventing the classic "Oh, I thought YOU were doing that" scenario. Remember, a team that collaborates well is a team that saves time!

And let's face it, nobody enjoys those awkward moments when two team members have done the same task, or even worse, when a task has fallen into the workplace equivalent of the Bermuda Triangle. ☐☐ With a CRM, it's like having a virtual town crier that bellows, "All right, mates, this task is handled. Move along, there's nothing to see here!" ☐ Ensuring your team works together like a well-rehearsed symphony, not a garage band on their first rehearsal. ☐☐

5. Gain Valuable Insights

"Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana."

– *Groucho Marx*

With a CRM, you can generate reports to see where your time is going. Are you spending too much time on less profitable clients? Is one service taking up too much of your time? With these insights, you can make decisions that will help you manage your time more effectively.

In the grand theater of business, your CRM is like the director who knows exactly how to cast the characters. It's whispering, "Psst, you're spending way too much time wooing that one client who keeps complaining about the price. Maybe it's time to give the understudy a chance?" ☐☐ With these data-driven insights, you can perform a breathtaking juggling act, skillfully allocating your time where it'll make a standing ovation-worthy difference! ☐☐☐ So, step into the limelight of productivity and let the applause roll in. Bravo!



To Wrap Up, Why Time Management is So Important in a CRM

Time management isn't just about working hard; it's about working smart. And with a CRM, you can do just that. So, remember:

"Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going."

– *Sam Levenson.*

And let your CRM be the tool that helps you keep going, efficiently and effectively.

To wrap up our show, remember, being a time management virtuoso isn't just about breaking a sweat; it's about orchestrating your tasks in harmony. 🎵 And with a CRM, you're not just a conductor; you're Mozart, composing a symphony of productivity. 🎼 Your CRM is your loyal metronome, keeping the tempo while you jazz up the business world with your effectiveness. 🎷 Onwards and upwards, maestro! 🌟

7 Killer Things Your Business Software Should Have

written by Vicky Barry | September 20, 2023



In our crazy, wild digital/social age, snagging the right business software is like grabbing the life preserver that keeps you from becoming shark bait. But, with the software sea teeming with so many species, how do you reel in the right one? Fret not, captain! We've got the treasure map leading to the 7 golden features your business software absolutely needs. Without them, you might as well walk the plank! Let's set sail towards success, savvy?

□ □  □ □ □ □  □

1. Manage Customers with a [CRM](#)

Customer Relationship Management (CRM) is the backbone of any successful business. A good [CRM](#) system helps you manage your customer interactions, track leads, and build strong relationships. It's like having a personal assistant who knows your customers as well as you do!

2. Make it easy to get payment with [Simple Invoicing](#)

Invoicing can be a tedious task, but it's crucial for maintaining a healthy cash flow. Your business software should have an invoicing feature that makes creating, sending, and tracking invoices a breeze. Say goodbye to manual calculations and hello to accuracy and efficiency!

3. Make it easy for Employees to Find Their Way with [Route Optimization](#)

If your business involves any kind of delivery or service calls, route optimization is a must. This feature ensures your team gets to their destination in the most efficient way possible, saving time, fuel, and frustration. It's like having a GPS that doesn't just give directions, but also finds the best route in real time.

4. Let Customers Upsell Themselves with a [Menu Selling System](#)

Upselling is an art, and a menu selling system can be your paintbrush. This feature allows you to present your customers with a menu of options, making it easier for them to choose additional services. It's a win-win: your customers get more value, and you increase your revenue.

5. [Task Management and Reassignment](#)

Keeping track of who's doing what can be a challenge, especially as your business grows. A task management feature allows you to assign tasks, track progress, and even reassign tasks as needed. It's like having a project manager in your pocket!

6. Link to Pay

In today's digital world, customers expect to be able to pay quickly and easily. Your business software should include a link to pay feature that integrates with popular payment platforms like PayPal, Venmo, and Google Pay. This not only makes it easier for your customers to pay, but also ensures you get paid faster.

7. Simplicity

Last, but certainly not least, your business software should be easy to use. You don't have time to spend hours learning a complicated system. Look for software that's intuitive and user-friendly. After all, software is supposed to make your life easier, not harder!

The Bottom Line

The right business software can transform your operations, boost your productivity, and drive your success. Make sure yours has these 7 killer features, and you'll be well on your way to achieving your business goals.

More on [Business Software](#)



**Selling Lane The Easy CRM,
Free For Life or Upgrade as Needed**

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[Salespeople and Real Estate Agents Need Their Own Personal CRM?](#)

written by Vicky Barry | September 20, 2023



[Continued from 10 reasons Salespeople Must Have a Private CRM](#)

Introduction: The Power of Personal CRM ☐

In the competitive fields of automotive and real estate sales, having a personal Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system is a game-changer. It's not just a tool; it's your secret weapon for success. But why is a personal CRM so crucial for salespeople in these industries? Let's dive in.

1. Independence: Your Business, Your Rules ☐

When you have your own personal CRM, you're not tied to the systems provided by your dealership or real estate agency. This means you can move between companies without losing your valuable customer data. Your relationships stay with you, giving you the freedom to control your own destiny.

2. Customer Loyalty: Building Strong Relationships ♥☐

A personal CRM allows you to track every interaction with your customers, from the initial contact to the final sale and beyond. This helps you build strong, lasting relationships, which are key to earning repeat business and referrals in both the automotive and real estate sectors.

3. Efficiency: Streamline Your Workflows ☐☐

With a personal CRM, you can automate many of your daily tasks, such as following up with leads, scheduling appointments, and sending out marketing emails. This saves you time and allows you to focus on what you do best: selling.

4. Insights: Know Your Customers ☐

A personal CRM provides valuable insights into your customers' needs and preferences. This information can help you tailor your sales approach, improving your chances of closing deals.

5. Professionalism: Impress Your Customers ☐

Using a personal CRM shows your customers that you're organized, professional, and committed to providing excellent service. This can enhance your reputation and help you stand out in a crowded market.

Conclusion: Take Control of Your Success with a Personal CRM ☐

In the fast-paced worlds of automotive and real estate sales, a personal CRM is not just a tool; it's a necessity. It gives you the independence, efficiency, and insights you need to take your sales to the next level. So, why wait? Start exploring the benefits of a personal CRM today.

#AutomotiveSales #RealEstateSales #PersonalCRM #SellingLane #SalesSuccess

Questions about a private CRM For Salespeople:



- [What are the top 10 reasons to have a private CRM](#)
- How does a Private CRM protect my time investment?
- [Why do I need a second CRM for MY customers?](#)
- Are my customers Mine?



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What is a CRM? [Watch this](#)