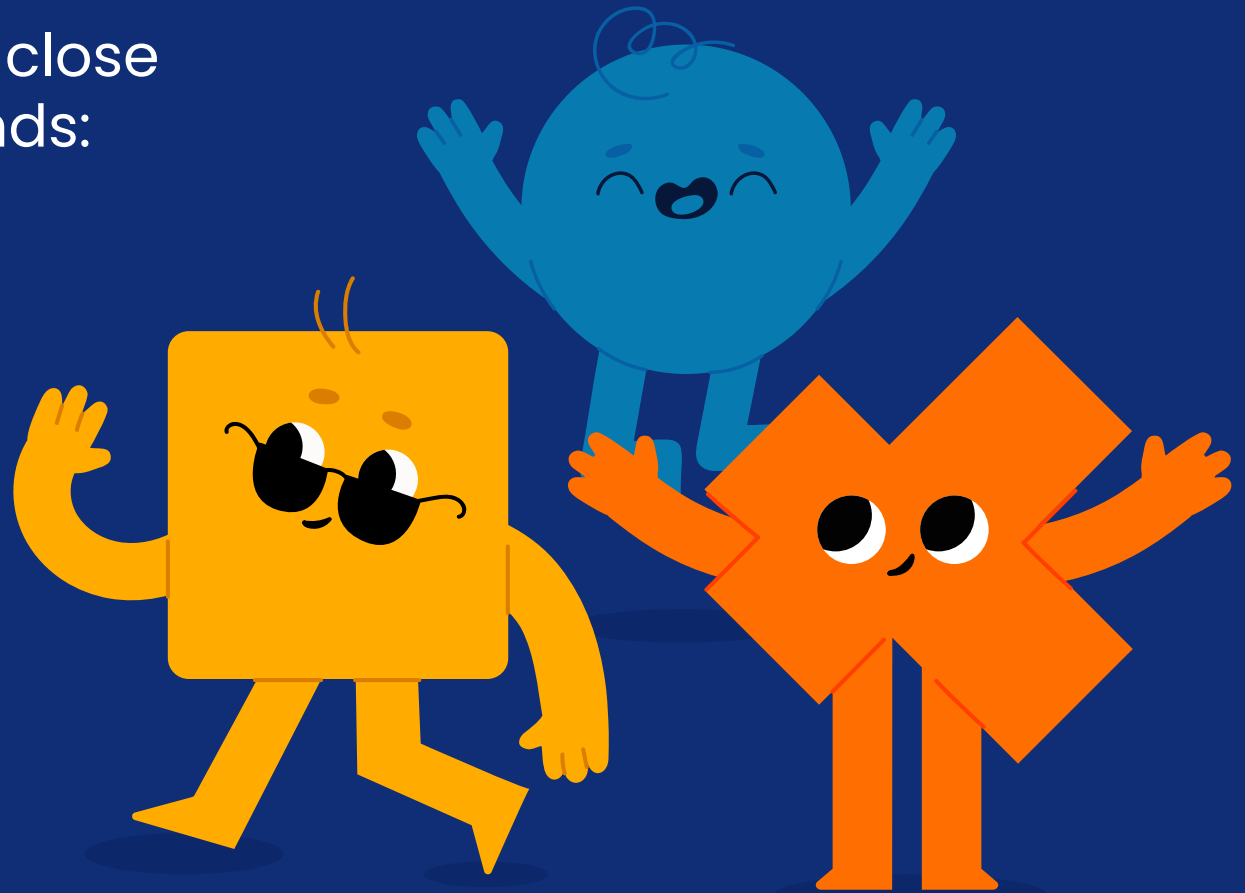


# The definitive guide to modernizing month-end:

5 steps to a stress-free close  
with your new best friends:  
Automation and AI





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# The definitive guide to modernizing month-end:

## 5 steps to a stress-free close

The month-end close can feel like a recurring nightmare. Inefficiencies, manual tasks, and errors leave accounting teams scrambling to gather data, reconcile accounts, and meet deadlines, making it a stress-inducing burden.

Outdated accounting tech stacks and disjointed data continue to slow teams down during the month-end close.

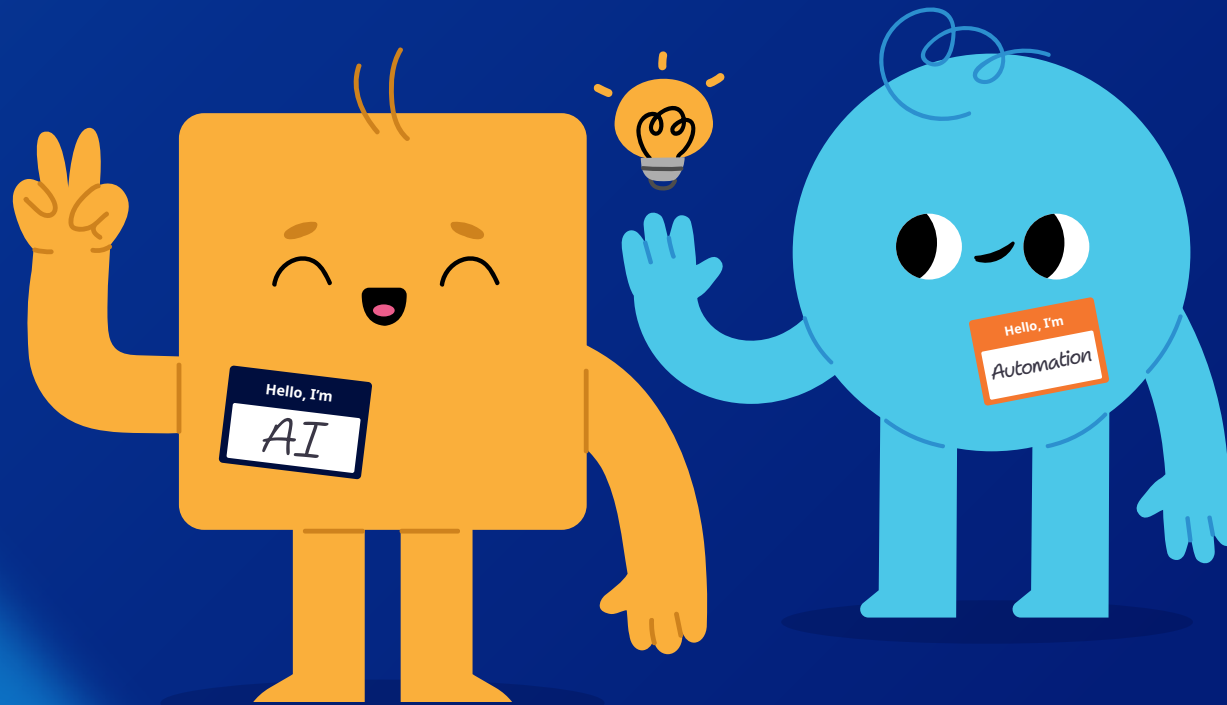
It doesn't have to be so hard.

The right tools and mindset can transform a last-minute rush into a seamless, continuous operation that adds strategic value to your organization.

## Meet your new best friends: automation and AI.

They let you move beyond your old friend – the spreadsheet – while reducing manual tasks, creating trust in your numbers, and gaining the time you need to focus on high-impact work.

This e-Book will guide you through five steps to transform your close process into a smarter, faster, and more reliable operation – all while reducing stress and empowering your accounting team to focus on what matters most.



## THE PROBLEM

# Your old friends (spreadsheets) are holding you back

As the month-end close approaches, you may find yourself bracing for the chaos of late nights, last-minute reconciliations, and endless email chains requesting documentation or approvals.



## The truth is, the tools and processes you've relied on for years are the very things holding you back.

Spreadsheets are powerful and flexible, but they're not ideal for organizing large amounts of financial data. In fact, they can become a roadblock on the path to an efficient close. Here's why:



### Version control nightmares

When multiple people are working on a spreadsheet, it's easy to lose track of the latest version, leading to errors, wasted time, and no clear audit trail.



### Manual work overload

Spreadsheets require repetitive manual data entry, which wastes valuable time and increases the risk of errors.



### Lack of accountability

Teams waste hours chasing down support documents and sign-offs without clearly defined roles and responsibilities.



### End-of-month backlog

Waiting until the end of the month to start the process creates a mountain of work that's overwhelming to tackle.



### Inefficient journal entry reviews

Manually reviewing and validating journal entries drags on for days, delaying the close.



### Disorganized project management

Without a centralized way to track tasks, progress, and approvals, your team spends more time "managing the close" than actually "closing."

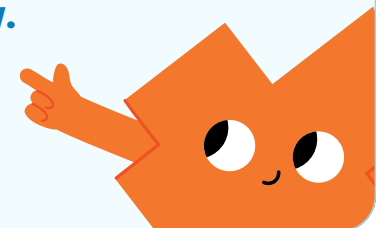
Spreadsheets may feel like a trusted friend, but they create silos, slow your team down, and make it harder to gain visibility into your business's financial health.

Moving beyond spreadsheets transforms the close from a burden into an opportunity to add strategic value.

**It's time to make some new friends.**

**See how much time and money you could save with a better workflow.**

[Calculate Your ROI →](#)



## THE SOLUTION

# Reimagine the process and make new friends (automation and AI)

Adopting new technology can feel like making new friends: It seems intimidating at first, but once you take the leap, you'll wonder how you ever managed without them.

Automation and AI will be your new best friends on the journey to a faster, smarter, and less stressful close. Here are five steps to reimagine your month-end close and discover the true potential of a modern accounting workflow.

## STEP 1

# Shift your mindset from monthly close to continuous close

First, rethink how you approach closing the books. The traditional month-end close is inherently stressful because it crams an entire month's work into a short window. But what if you were able to do small chunks of work each day so it's not so insurmountable when month-end comes along?

When you shift to a continuous close, you reconcile accounts and match transactions regularly throughout the month. When the month-end arrives, most of the work will be done.

## How to make the shift:

- Use automation tools like **bank reconciliation** software and **open banking** to automate capturing, classifying, and matching transactions. Instead of manually entering and reviewing hundreds (or thousands!) of transactions, you focus on resolving a handful of exceptions.
- **Identify repetitive monthly tasks** and shift them into smaller, daily tasks. A continuous approach helps your team avoid a last-minute crunch and reduces errors caused by fatigue or rushed work.



## STEP 2

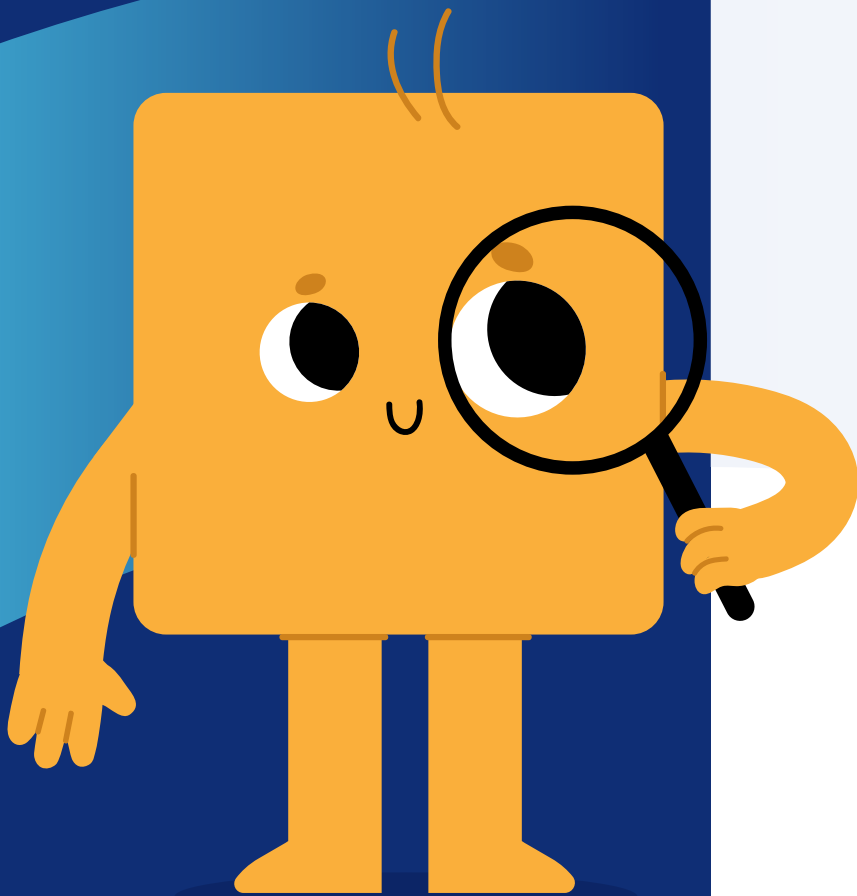
# Standardize your process for better tracking and on-time deadlines

A disorganized close process is one of the biggest barriers to efficiency. If your team is constantly chasing down approvals, documents, or colleagues, it's time to implement structure.

A standardized process provides clear roles, responsibilities, and workflows, ensuring everyone knows what to do and when. Leveraging technology to give visibility into each step in the closing process allows you to track tasks, address bottlenecks, and consistently hit deadlines.

## How to standardize your close:

- Start with a comprehensive **monthly close checklist** outlining every step of the process, from bank reconciliation to asset depreciation and statement preparation. This will help you ensure that no step is missed.
- Take it a step further by tracking each step of the process directly in your enterprise resource planning (ERP) system with a **close accounting solution** that simplifies task management. Integrating tasks into the system where the work happens centralizes the process and improves accountability. Having real-time insights into your close status and outstanding tasks improves cross-functional collaboration and lets controllers intervene when necessary to keep progress toward the close on track.



### STEP 3

# Centralize your data in your ERP for full visibility

Data silos are the enemy of efficiency. If your financial data is scattered across spreadsheets, documents, emails, and disconnected systems, your close process will inevitably suffer from delays, errors, and stress.

Unfortunately, few accounting teams use software to manage the close process.

According to the **Controllers Council**:

- **Only 28% of companies** have automated month-end close processes.
- **Just 38% of executives** have visibility into progress toward the close at any time.
- **Over one-quarter (29%)** of companies continue to rely on spreadsheets.

That's a whole lot of missed time savings and efficiency gains.

But adopting close software isn't enough — it has to be the right software. If it's not embedded into your ERP, it simply creates another data silo that forces your team to toggle between disconnected systems.

The goal is to **centralize your close process** within your ERP system (where it belongs) so you can save time, reduce errors, and strengthen trust in your numbers.

With full visibility into the close process, you can remove bottlenecks, avoid potential delays, and get your team working from a single source of truth — not just another isolated platform.



## STEP 4

# Use automation and AI to cut down on manual tasks and errors

Automation and AI aren't "nice-to-haves" in modern accounting — they're essentials.

Automation and AI support the mindset shift mentioned in Step 1 and **simplify the close process**. They can:

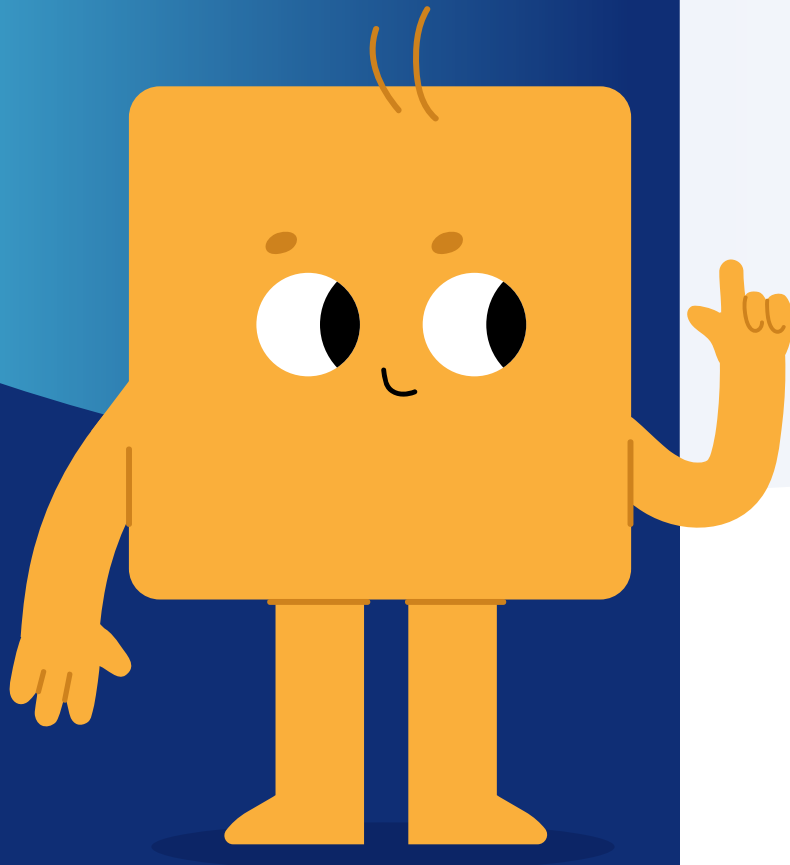
- **Optimize workflows** by organizing tasks and automating notifications in one system
- **Automate data entry** to remove tedious and error-prone manual input
- **Automate transaction matching** to reconcile accounts quickly and efficiently
- **Generate amortization** and other schedules automatically, saving hours of manual calculations
- **Use AI-powered variance (or flux) analysis** to explain anomalies, helping you spot issues faster

With the right accounting software, these tools are intuitive, easy to adopt, and require minimal training to start seeing results.

**"I believe the manual entry of transactions will be a thing of the past with auto-matching. Instead of entering 1000 transactions a month, accountants will just have to investigate three exceptions. This means we'll be less focused on number-crunching and more focused on how to add value to the business."**



**Adam Riches**  
CEO and Founder of Netgain



## STEP 5

# Reclaim your time for high-value work

Once you transform your close process and start working with your new besties, you'll find yourself with a wealth of reclaimed time. But automation and AI aren't just about saving time—they create new opportunities for your business because your team can shift their focus from survival to strategic thinking.

Here's what you'll gain when you let go of the old way of working:

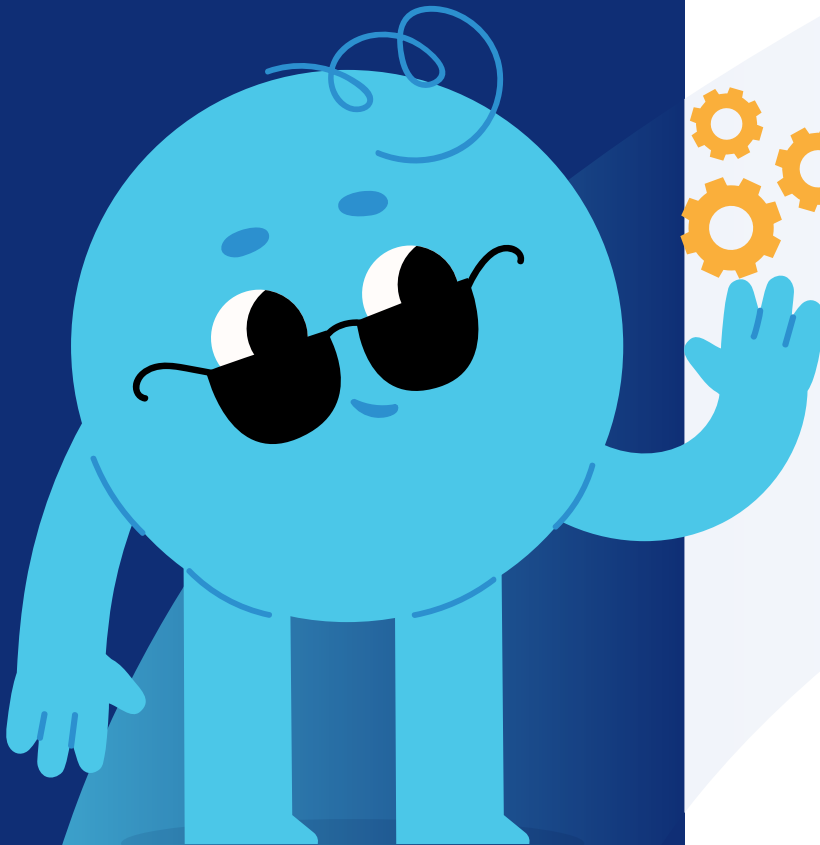
- **Less stress.** Automation lightens the load, and **improving work-life balance** means a happier, more productive team.
- **Audit readiness.** A centralized system provides clear audit trails, simplifying compliance and audits.
- **Time for growth.** With fewer manual tasks, your team can focus on high-value work, like strategic analysis, process improvements, and innovation.

When you free your team from the burden of manual tasks, you unlock their potential to drive business growth and deliver insights that shape your organization's future.

**"A lot of companies struggle with slow closes and understanding their real cash balance. This causes a lot of inefficiencies. If we can make accountants a little more efficient and get data in front of the executives a little more quickly, that has a major impact on how businesses are run."**



**Adam Riches**  
CEO and Founder of Netgain



# Say goodbye to old friends and hello to a smarter close

**Transforming your month-end close** isn't just about adopting new technology. It's about building a new partnership with solutions that help your team thrive. Letting go of outdated processes and embracing automation and AI creates a smoother, more innovative, and more impactful way to work.

## Meet your new best friend: Netgain

Netgain is more than just software; it's your trusted partner in reimagining the close process. By replacing cumbersome manual tasks with intelligent automation, clear workflows, and actionable insights, Netgain helps accounting teams close faster, reduce risk, and improve data accuracy — all while freeing up time for high-value, strategic initiatives.

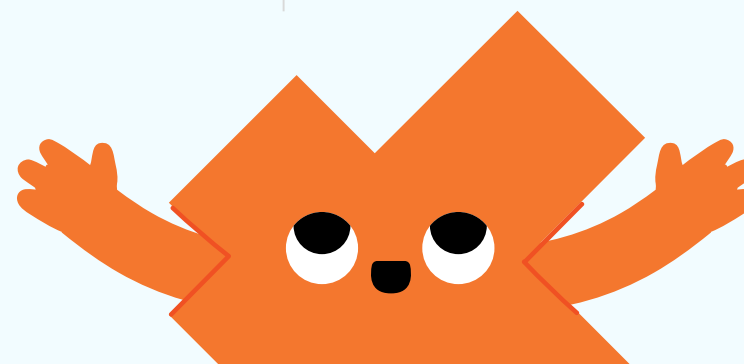
Netgain's founders — and many of our team members — started their careers as auditors and accountants running month-end close and managing the general ledger. That experience helps us design the tools we wish we'd had during our month-end close and develop solutions for the most challenging accounting problems.

We believe your close should be efficient, accurate, and give you complete process oversight, but most importantly, we believe your close should be much easier.

**“When I first started, we were closing in about 15 business days. Now we're closing in seven.”**

**Kelsey Laker, CPA**  
Controller at Pura

**pura**®



[Read the Case Study →](#)

## Here's how we do it:

### NetClose

NetClose takes care of repetitive manual tasks like amortizations, reconciliations, and flux analysis so you can close your books faster and more accurately — all inside of NetSuite without needing to manage integrations.

[Learn About NetClose →](#)

### NetAsset

NetAsset effortlessly tracks and manages your fixed asset portfolio, automating depreciation schedules and helping teams save time while ensuring accuracy in asset reporting.

[Learn About NetAsset →](#)

### NetCash

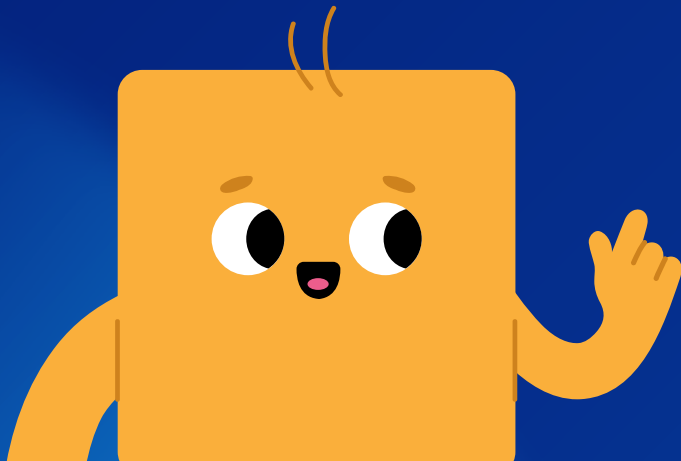
NetCash connects your bank account to NetSuite to manage bank reconciliations seamlessly and give you real-time, precise, and comprehensive visibility into your company's cash position.

[Learn About NetCash →](#)

### NetLease

NetLease streamlines lease management and helps you stay compliant with ASC 842 and IFRS 16 by automating lease schedules and ensuring full audit readiness.

[Learn About NetLease →](#)



## Ready to meet your new best friend in the month-end close journey?

Request a personalized demo or explore the interactive demos to see how Netgain helps your team work smarter, not harder. It's time to reimagine what's possible with a modern close.

[Request a Demo →](#)

[Explore Interactive Demos →](#)



[www.netgain.tech](http://www.netgain.tech)

