



Build or Skip: n8n Workflow Triage Sheet

Run the idea past the math before you open n8n. Let AI handle the busywork.

GATHER THESE FIVE NUMBERS

- 1** Hours per week you spend on the task now
Time yourself first, it is usually less than it feels.
- 2** Your hourly rate, or what your time is worth
- 3** Percent the automation will actually handle
Be honest. Most land at 70 to 90 percent, not 100.
- 4** Setup hours, then add 50 percent
For the stuff you do not see coming.
- 5** Monthly cost of tools
Hosting, API credits, anything paid.

THE DECISION RULE

Under 3 months

Build it. Fast payback, easy yes.

3 to 12 months

Acceptable if the task still exists in a year.

Over 12 months

Skip it. The task, tools, or APIs will likely change first.

TRIAGE YOUR BACK-BURNER IDEAS

WORKFLOW IDEA	HOURS SAVED/WK	SETUP HRS (+50%)	PERCENT AUTOMATED	PAYBACK PERIOD	BUILD OR SKIP
.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	B / S
.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	B / S
.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	B / S
.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	B / S
.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	B / S
.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	B / S

THE THREE THINGS PEOPLE FUDGE

Time saved

You think 30 minutes, you time it, it is 12. Use the real number.

Setup time

You estimate 2 hours, it takes 6. That is what the 50 percent padding is for.

Percent automated

Almost nothing hits 100. Drop it to 80 and watch payback jump.

Which single idea earned a Build, and what is the very next step to start it?