



Case Study

Client

An International Tissue Paper Manufacturer and Distributor

Objective

- Provide an Execution System that manages inventory, production scheduling, shipping and receiving, and automated equipment control at multiple paper mill and finished goods distribution facilities.
- Receive and manage orders for receiving, shipping, and production from both SAP and legacy BPCS (AS400 based) MRP systems.
- Maintain inventory integrity between the MRP Systems and the Execution System.
- Gather historical and execution process data to provide extensive reporting.
- Allow secure access to the Execution System from any PC on the network.
- Avoid production downtime during system installations and modifications.

Solution

Execution System Development

BoxWorks implemented a design-build approach where proven baseline software was modified and enhanced to meet customer specific requirements for every aspect of shop floor and distribution management. Phased functional installations resulted in reduced risk and training impact. A continuous improvement philosophy allowed for user and management feedback and requests to be implemented after installation. A single source management strategy provides the ability for enhancements to a new facility to be rolled back to previous installations.

Robust Report Data and Visibility

Extensive reporting capabilities were designed and implemented using an internet browser based format. This allows easy access from any internet ready networked PC including local printing and Excel format download capabilities.

Examples of valuable report data functionality are:

- Forward and backward tracking of raw materials and finished goods for audits and recalls
- Production reports that measure efficiency of equipment and personnel both daily and longer term.
- Online maintenance, production issue, and safety logging to replace logbooks.

Equipment and External system Interfaces

BoxWorks developed and implemented interfaces to equipment controllers and devices including RF terminals, AGVs, conveyors, storage and retrieval systems, palletizers and microcontroller base devices that were designed and manufactured by BoxWorks.

MRP system interfaces to BPCS AS400 systems were created and are in the process of being migrated to SAP system interfaces through an XI system interface.

BoxWorks Technologies, Inc.

2065 W. Parkway Blvd. ♦ Salt Lake City, UT ♦ 84119
(801) 214-6100 ♦ www.boxworks.com ♦ (801) 214-6140 fax

Results

BoxWorks development and implementation strategy provided the ability to incrementally umbrella various existing control systems and manual processes into a plant wide control system. This provided total inventory visibility from raw materials to finished goods. Integrated reporting and tools to assist inter-process transactions created an improved flow of material from paper production through converting and shipping.

Reduced user training and effective tools for user metrics were achieved.

Online recording of many previously manually tracked data resulted in reduction of duplicate data entry and errors and provided almost instantaneous visibility of critical data. At any time from multiple windows in his office a manager can review current status of machines or shipments, view a snapshot summary of the previous day or shift for any functional area, explore trending over longer periods of time.

Phased approach reduced capital outlay required to achieve major operational benefits in an incremental fashion.

Integrated system of equipment and controls was installed and tested without requiring unplanned facility downtime.

BoxWorks ensures system health and productivity with ongoing software and operational support services.

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