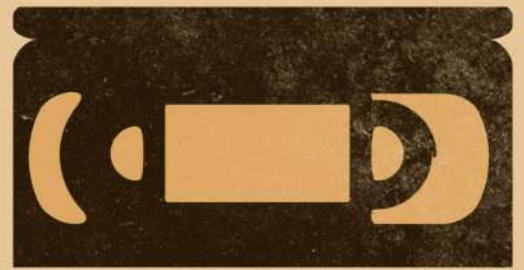
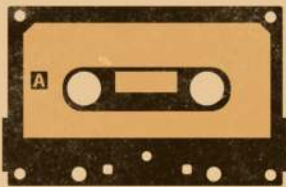
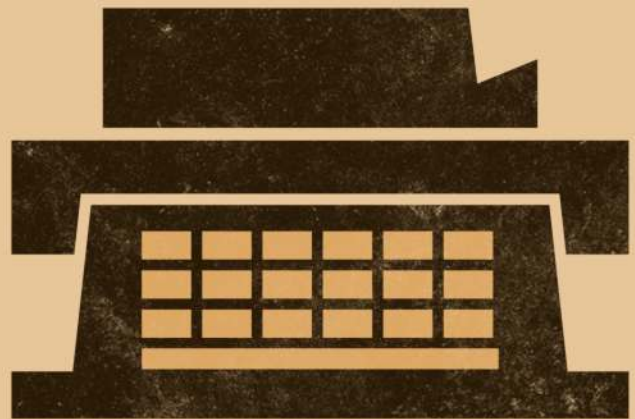
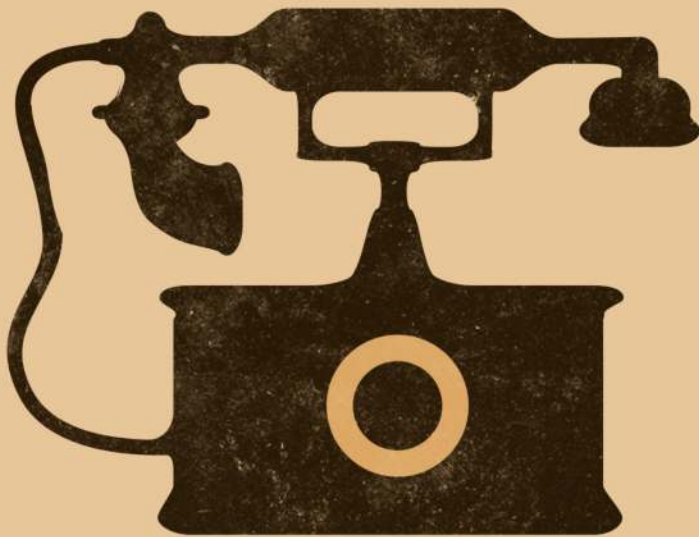


Is *Your* Company Stuck in the Past, Limited by Yesterday's Technology?



A Guide By  **datex**
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Is Your Company Stuck in the Past, Limited by Yesterday's Technology?

Legacy Warehouse Management Software Is Often Outdated and Unable to Meet Today's Business Challenges

If your supply chain or third party logistics operation is still using WMS technology from years past, you may want to rethink that decision. Warehouse management systems that were developed years ago were designed to handle the supply chain and logistics needs of that time. Today's "click to ship" dynamic changes everything.



Today, consumers are in the driver's seat. They decide how, when and where orders are fulfilled. They choose whether to pick up orders at brick and mortar stores or have them delivered to their homes or places of employment. If they need to return the goods, a flexible system must be in place to handle the returns process quickly, accurately and efficiently. This requires developing a different strategy for distribution centers, warehouses and fulfillment centers.

Why do third party logistics providers and other supply chain businesses need to use new WMS technologies?

To remain competitive and relevant in their daily operations, you need to be able to monitor all warehousing and transportation activities. Relying on manual processes to track daily shipments can result in errors and delays that lead to bottlenecks, reduced order fulfillment rates and unhappy consumers.



Many supply chain operations have legacy warehouse management systems that do not support the ability to process the high volume of smaller orders via Internet sales channels. These systems often cannot handle multi-step picking processes and were developed to deal with goods by the pallet, not on an “each” basis. In order to accommodate these needs, companies may need to use manual workarounds that are more prone to error and waste valuable labor and time.

Because consumers want faster delivery and the volume of small shipments has increased so dramatically, managing truck routes and orders has increased in complexity exponentially. In today’s world the number of vendors, suppliers and other partners has also increased. With all the varied scheduling, compliance and regulatory requirements involved with handling, storing and shipping goods it has become essential to rely on state-of-the-art technology. This enables businesses to streamline operations, keep costs under control and have information at the ready-all necessary to being competitive in today’s dynamic marketplace.

Is Your Legacy Warehouse Management Software Dragging Down Your Business?

1. Has the reliability of your system diminished over time?
2. Have you lost business or been unable to sign the type of clients you desired because of a lack of technological capabilities?
3. When included with your company's ability to compete more effectively to win and retain clients, having a higher level of technology is likely to be a sound investment in your company's future.
4. Has your company suffered from "data disconnects", a lack of real time information visibility?
5. Has your operation or that of your clients experienced product shortages and notify supply chain partners and others accordingly? If your business does not have the ability to anticipate this, you may be in trouble. For example, 429 drug shortages in 2010 and 2011 prompted the 2012 enactment of federal legislation. Now pharma industry businesses must notify the FDA of potential shortages of certain kinds of drugs including cancer drugs and anesthetics.
6. Can your supply chain company process product recalls swiftly and accurately? Can your business meet regulatory requirements for track and trace and product traceability?
7. Is your company able to process and communicate invoices electronically?
8. Does your company have computerized shipping and tracking capabilities?
9. Can your current WMS system provide real time status updates and automated notifications?
10. Are you currently using a system with yard management capabilities?

Here are some other ways WMS can potentially help your organization be more competitive in the marketplace:

- Faster more accurate order processing and fulfillment at higher capacity
- Can help you react to rapidly changing demands of retailers and manufacturers
- Can help enable you to comply with regulatory and vendor compliance requirements and reduce associated fines and fees
- Reduced inventory carrying and distribution costs
- Enhanced replenishment with time and labor savings
- Real time, convenient access to accurate information for better decision making and faster response
- Ability to capture and bill based on client requirements
- Can help enable your 3PL operation to increase the range of value added service offerings
- Enhanced control over operational costs
- Helps to increase the amount of downtime and its associated costs

Keeping Pace with Current Needs of Supply Chain Partners: Retailers and Manufacturers

If your 3PL or distribution company does business with retailers, manufacturers and other supply chain partners that use state-of-the-art warehouse management systems, it is important that you have warehousing software and other systems that can keep pace. Not doing so can result in loss of inventory, reduced order fulfillment rates, delayed shipments, damaged goods and other problems.



If your current warehouse management software has problems integrating with other key systems, you should consider investing in newer WMS technology. Having all necessary systems work together seamlessly provides the range of accurate real time business intelligence you need to operate your company in the most effective manner. Not having this capability puts your company at a competitive disadvantage.

Does your current warehouse management system have the flexibility to organize and execute inventory requirements, operational processes and billing for a variety of different clients? If not, not only could your company be in a disadvantageous competitive position but also more likely to have difficulty servicing and retaining existing clients.

Does your company currently have the reporting and analytics tools needed to enable you to reduce labor cost, track and trace products, quantify 3PL client and labor operations costs? If not, you may not have all the information needed to make the best decisions for your operation. If your field of vision is reduced by not having real time accurate information available whenever and however you need it, you are probably operating at a disadvantage.

Leading Edge WMS Technology Helps Increase Drop Shipping

With the huge increase in online and mobile orders, supply chain operations have seen a major emphasis on order fulfillment speed, order accuracy and real time data visibility. To handle these challenges, has increased dramatically. By relying on leading edge WMS systems to power operations, cash is not tied up in inventory, logistics costs are reduced and there are less problems with inventory visibility.





State-of-the-Art Communications Using Automated Notifications for Supply Chain Operations

Extremely popular and in widespread use, automated notifications can be critical to keeping your operation on track and to communicating status changes in real time. The popularity and effectiveness of automated notifications has helped to fuel

more just-in-time (JIT) operations including those for inventory management and delivery. Using a JIT inventory management strategy can help to free up cash and increase working capital. In addition just-in-time inventory management can reduce the risk that inventory becomes obsolete, key for trendy goods and products.

Using automated notifications helps with the JIT inventory management strategy because can provide faster, real time warning to suppliers if goods and raw materials will be in short supply. This enables more responsive turnaround and better decision making by businesses up and down the supply chain.

Automated notifications for JIT manufacturing and other processes is critical when dealing with the impact on orders due to natural disasters, war, political or other instabilities. Automated notifications can also be made to consumers to communicate order status or delays. This can help to minimize consumer reaction (important in today's fast breaking social media news). In a global supply chain, communication is key-to consumers as well as to supply chain partners.

Your business can also reap benefits when using automated notifications to help gain operational efficiencies. Updating partners and clients automatically on status changes and other issues can enable more seamless execution, regulatory compliance, processing of product recalls and reverse logistics of goods.

Leading Edge WMS Systems with Yard Management Functionality Help Reduce Manual Warehouse Processes

There are many businesses that still complete yard management transactions using manual processes or via email. Doing so may result in higher incidence of lost or misplaced products, wasted time and labor and damaged goods.

Using a WMS with yard management (YMS) capabilities can help your company to standardize yard processes, reduce time needed to allocate vehicles to load, prioritize shipment arrivals, identify trailer contents and help make operations more effective and space efficient. YMS usage can also help improve the overall flow of goods, improve information visibility and provide better reporting needed for day to day operations.

Are You Relying on Manual Operations in Your Warehousing or 3PL Business?

You may have noticed, the world has fallen in love with technology. Every year the hottest items on holiday gift lists tend to be the latest gadgets, electronic gizmos as well as entertainment and communication devices. The power of innovation has drawn people across the world together through new methods of communication, enabled greater collaboration of workforces and partners and made life easier for most of us.

Using technology in the warehouse workplace today is expected. If your company is using outdated technologies, it can make your business appear less contemporary, sophisticated and professional. Do you think your competitors are using leading edge technologies? You bet! One factor that has helped to transform the 3PL industry is technology. Smaller 3PL operations have been able to compete with and win new business against larger competitors by relying on technology. Using state-of-the-art technologies enables businesses to do more with less resources- less labor, less paper, less supplies etc.



Why should you use state-of-the-art technology in the warehouse? Manual operations are more labor intensive and tend to be prone to human error. Once errors have occurred, your company then invests more labor resources to find and resolve the errors. Using outdated warehouse and other technologies may mean that your current systems cannot handle the complex requirements and operational processes needed today. That may lead to manual workarounds that are much more prone to error and wasted time.

Conclusion

Using legacy warehouse management systems that were designed years ago for a different supply chain model can put your supply chain operation at a competitive disadvantage. Older WMS systems were not designed to handle the highly complex nature of today's "click to ship" consumer needs and may result in lower order fulfillment and delivery rates and other problems.

How Much is Outdated WMS Technology Really Costing Your Business?

Have you only looked at an investment in technology strictly from a cost perspective? Using a leading edge WMS can enable your business to increase labor productivity and operational efficiency and reduce costs. Those savings can produce the needed return on investment (ROI) for you to justify the cost of a new leading edge warehouse management system.

About Datex

Datex provides flexible, reliable supply chain technology solutions to help make businesses more profitable, including supply chain software, mobility solutions, professional services and mobile device management. In business for over 35 years, Datex has a wealth of experience in helping companies across the world meet these critical business challenges.

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