

Why Datex FootPrint 3PL WMS is the Best Choice for Your Third Party Logistics Operation



Without Question, Datex FootPrint® WMS is the Best Software for Your 3PL Operation. Here's why:

Datex FootPrint® WMS Was Developed Specifically for 3PL Operations

Many WMS software developers sell solutions that were not originally developed for 3PL operations. When developing software, especially for complex operations such as those for third party logistics providers, it is crucial for future use and adaptation that the "foundation" fit the business model. If this is not the case, system gaps will need to be addressed using patches and fixes.

Not incorporating 3PL requirements into the original design of the foundation of 3PL WMS software can create unnecessary problems in dealing with issues such as:

- Handling value added service and activity based billing
- Segregating inventory by ownership
- Handling the transfer of inventory ownership with complete traceability.

Datex 3PL Warehouse Management Software was Developed Using an Innovative Database Architecture and Design



The most widely used database in the world, Datex utilizes native Microsoft tools to help ensure that database records never lock up when a user reads or writes data into a record. Using Microsoft SQL is especially important when dealing with enterprise level systems, especially those with high volume of data and large numbers of users. All data read and write commands never impact the parent record and are instead appended to the record as a child record (journal record). While this is a more costly approach, this innovative approach to database design:

- Minimizes data loss
- Simplifies report writing
- Helps to increase speed in searches and system performance.

Although many Datex competitors claim to have reduced data lock issues by using various workarounds, the only way to eliminate data issues is by implementing “**database multi-threading**” as Datex has done with our software. WMS providers that claim to have database multi-threading can only make this claim if their software has been rewritten in the last 5 years.

Datex FootPrint 3PL WMS Was Developed Using Microsoft.NET Development Tools



Datex FootPrint WMS was developed using common native tools that will help to make it easier for your company to find IT resources globally. This can also help by reducing the need for you to train IT resources since our software relies on tools are in common practice. Relying on Microsoft .NET technology helps to ensure that Datex can stay in step with technology as it changes, year after year. Because Datex utilizes the industry standard, Microsoft, our company is better able to plan advances in our technology and keep our software continually up to date.

WMS Developed for Third Party Logistics Providers Using Microsoft Windows Workflow Foundation

Although many warehouse management systems claim to use “workflow” in their software, not all “workflow” is alike. Although Microsoft Windows Workflow Foundation is the “gold standard” today, very few ERP, CRM and other systems have incorporated this tool.



This specifically branded toolset developed by Microsoft requires highly experienced, knowledgeable developers to embed this successfully. The Microsoft Windows Workflow Foundation tool set is a graphical method of representing business logic, decision making and processes without having to change the source of the code. Because Datex WMS software is able to be customized quickly without the need for source code changes, your business will be better able to:

- Quickly, accurately and cost effectively meet the needs of all of your customers
- Tailor your customer requirements exactly to specifications. Datex can build unique custom product and data flow without the time delay and costly source code modifications
- Compete and win new business

- Streamline onboarding of new customers so that you can start billing for services quickly
- Increase customer satisfaction and generate more referrals for your company
- Improve the accuracy of your operations and workforce productivity
- Expedite implementation of the Datex warehouse management system, especially for multiple facilities

3PL operations require highly sophisticated, configurable technology that can be implemented quickly to serve the dynamic needs of their diverse customer base. Because business needs, customer demands and evolving processes continually change, third party logistics operators need flexible, cost effective technology solutions that can help them meet these conditions.

Datex Warehouse Management System for 3PL Operations Includes an Integrated Comprehensive, Flexible Billing Engine

Datex leverages Microsoft Windows Workflow Foundation in the billing decisions in order to be able to customize and automate most if not all of the billing activities, from the most simple to the most highly complex and unusual. By using workflow, Datex software is able to accommodate even the most unusual requirements and requests for any time frame or scenario.

In the highly dynamic world of third party logistics operations, being able to customize and automate billing for any eventuality can be the difference between winning and retaining business and failing to be competitive.

Datex Software Includes a Full Suite of 3PL WMS Embedded Reporting Tools and Models for Easy, Customizable Report Building

Microsoft SQL Reporting Services, comparable to Crystal Reports is the tool Datex software utilizes to enable users to modify, create and schedule any report, form or document. Datex software has one key advantage over the reporting services offered by our competitors.

Datex has invested heavily in development to enable software users with the ability to create reports “on the fly”. In order to make customization of reporting easy, Datex developers worked for more than 18 months to create “Data Cubes” and “Data Models”. The most complicated aspect of creating a report from a database is involved with determining which tables need to be joined together as well as to normalize the joins so that information is not duplicated.

Because Datex already created the Data Cubes and Data Models, software users can click on the type of report they want to create then “drag and drop” the fields needed into the desired placement. In doing this, the system users do not need the technical expertise often required and do not need to use complex formulas or data connection strings or to handle the joins. This feature makes report modification and creation simple and easy. Not only does this make customized report creation fast and easy, but also less frustrating and more cost effective. This functionality reduces dependence upon the software vendor and helps your users get the reports they want, when and how they are needed.

Although most WMS software vendors claim users can create reports using tools such as Crystal Reports or Microsoft SQL Reporting Services, they do not claim that they provide predetermined Data Cubes and Models. Creating the Data Cubes and Models requires a normalized database and is extremely time intensive and costly. Software vendors with database structures that are more than 10 years old would find this very difficult to achieve. Software users would not realize that workarounds would be required but would be likely to experience data being lost, corrupted or not committed.

3PL Software for Warehousing Operations Designed in Tiers and Blocks for Quick Deployment

Critical to the longevity of Datex software is the way our software is designed in tiers and blocks. During the design phase of the current iteration of Datex FootPrint WMS, we recognized that software development tools are becoming more sophisticated, enabling our rate of release to the market to be accelerated faster than had been previously experienced. In order to take full advantage of the new tools that have become available, Datex developers designed and developed our software in multiple tiers or blocks.

Datex developers create functional blocks of software code based either on a function or business entity then connect them together over the database tier (block). This enables Datex to implement new tools, widgets, controls, etc. by “surgically” removing a block (tier) and replace it with a newly enhanced block without impacting the fundamentals of the system. This tiered layered approach must be established in the initial design of the software and cannot be done as an afterthought. Although fixes and patches can hide this issue, they can never solve it. Datex WMS competitors typically add layers of code on top of older software.

Agile Software Developed “From the Ground Up” to Handle Complex Changing Technology Needs

Datex software has been developed from the ground up with architecture that can accommodate continual changes to technology. Concerned about the longevity of our solution, Datex software is highly adaptable, ready and able to meet the needs of changing without having to “patch” and “fix” software. Because of this more costly strategy, Datex software does not experience problems encountered when using WMS software developed by some of our competitors such as:

- Lack of data integrity
- Challenges with integrations, report design and deployment
- Unresponsive screens
- Errors committing data to the database

Datex Provides 3PL WMS Upgrades Without “Fine Print” or Disclaimers

Yes, many warehouse management software vendors claim to provide free software upgrades and updates in exchange for annual payment of support and maintenance. Before you invest, we advise you to read the fine print. Typically system customizations are not embedded in the software and may limit your ability to upgrade to the newer release of their solution. In addition, many software vendors charge for the customization every time an upgrade is available. This one detail can have an impact on your cost of ownership dramatically over time.

Datex eliminates the need for customizations by using workflow to allow you to take advantage of all upgrades. No fine print or disclaimers necessary. If Datex even releases newly developed WMS software that replaces our product, our active client are eligible to receive these new licenses at no additional cost. This strategy guarantees that Datex clients will never have an old, obsolete WMS system.

Summary

Why Choose Datex 3PL WMS Software?

Created for 3PL businesses: Designed and developed specifically to handle the complexities of 3PL operations. Datex 3PL WMS was developed using a database structure and system architecture optimized for third party logistics providers. Because of this, Datex software users enjoy a fluid, feature-rich experience that reduces frustration and helps system users do their jobs easier and more productively.

“Database multi-threading” ensures that database records never lock up when users read or write data into records. This is especially key for organizations with large numbers of users and high volumes of data.

Designed to be reliable, flexible and remain innovative for years to come: Our software relies on Microsoft .NET to create a more user friendly system that can continue to be improved and supported without issue for years to come

The most advanced true workflow functionality on the market today: Datex software utilizes Windows Workflow Foundation for true workflow functionality. This leading edge functionality is unmatched in the WMS industry today and enables more accurate, automated, efficient processes for your operation now and for the future. Using workflows can help streamline the implementation process and can help expedite onboarding of new customers so that you can start generating revenue faster. Workflows carry through to each upgrade.

“Drag and drop” customizable reporting reduces cost, time and frustration for your users and puts information at your fingertips in your desired format: Datex uses innovative database architecture and design to enable your users to create customized reports in the format of your choice. No development necessary as Datex has done the “heavy lifting” by creating the joins

Most powerful, comprehensive flexible 3PL billing engine on the market today: Workflow based, Datex software is so flexible that it can accommodate any billing need, no matter the time interval or unusual nature of the requirement.

Designed in tiers and blocks for quick deployment: Datex software is designed to accommodate the highly sophisticated, ever-changing nature of today's

technology. This enables our developers with greater flexibility to implement new tools, controls, widgets, etc. with newly enhanced functionality without impacting the fundamentals of the system. This enables Datex to continue to enhance our software more quickly to keep pace with market demands and client expectations.

No fine print or disclaimers involved with Datex upgrades. If you pay for annual support and maintenance, Datex will upgrade your software at no cost, even if we develop new software that replaces our existing product. We are happy to reassure our clients that they will always be able to have state-of-the-art software with top notch functionality without having to pay for it over and over again. To make it even easier, workflows and customizations carry through upgrades to the latest version.

About Datex

Founded in 1978, Datex has grown from a systems integrator of Automatic Identification and Data Capture (AIDC) technologies into a leader in the development of Supply Chain Management (SCM) solutions.

Our customers include companies in several vertical markets such as Cold Storage, Third Party Logistics (3PL), Food & Beverage, Pharmaceutical, Home Goods, Fashion & Apparel, Electronics & High Tech, and Wholesale Distribution.

As a Microsoft Gold Partner, our core solution, Datex FootPrint, was developed using the highly flexible Microsoft .NET platform to create a Suite of Supply Chain Software Solutions to meet the ever changing needs of warehousing and logistics operations in nowadays' customers-driven market.

Datex Corporation
10320 49th Street North
Clearwater, FL 33762, USA
partners@datexcorp.com
www.datexcorp.com

For more information on
Datex products and services,
please contact us.

US Office – 1 800 933 2839
Canada Office – 1 800 998
8980

