LEAN MOBILITY: DRIVE YOUR WAREHOUSE PRODUCTIVITY WITH LEAN MOBILITY

SUPPLY
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INTRODUCTION

Warehouse is a critical hub in a manufacturing business, through which everything must pass –from raw materials to finished goods to products waiting for shipment to a distribution center, retailer or end customers. The movement of these materials is tracked as they move in and out of the warehouse; the movements and other individual functions inside the warehouse also need to be tracked. Internal warehouse operations like – Picking, Put-Away, Replenishment, and Internal movements need to be tracked using a solution that will help improve the productivity on the floor with minimal user interaction with the system.

While migrating to RF, EWM provides a number of functionalities which improve productivity and the key benefit of using this is that it is flexible enough to provide a customized approach to suit business needs. Some of the areas in which we have worked to further improve RF functionalities are – enabling EWM to handle multiple tasks on a single screen. EWM by default can handle only one handling unit/ warehouse task on the screen at a time. It also allows users to confirm only one task at a time. This might lead to a low business adoption to the current system as there is multiple user entries required by the operator of which some of the information might not be directly available to the operator. Entering of data on the RF screens is a time consuming and cumbersome process which is not widely accepted by users on the shop floor. A majority of the steps that the operator has to go through to confirm tasks through mobility solutions are considered as non-value add.

The enhanced EWM RF functionality proposed helps eliminate any non-value added step that might exist in mobility solution by default. The solution can handle multiple handling units at a time and also confirm multiple tasks at the same time. This results in time savings on the floor and increases productivity. Users can view multiple tasks on the same screen and decide to process the tasks that they want. The solution is customizable depending on the customer needs. It can display multiple tasks and process them depending on the size of the device used by the customer. It has been web-enabled to run as a platform independent solution. From a single transaction, the user can do various tasks – like picking, put-away and other internal warehouse movements.

The solution has been successfully implemented at a client location and is being used in a large warehouse. The RF devices now show 2 handling units (1 handling unit = 1 pallet) for processing to the operator without any kind of scrolling, as the forklift is capable of handling only 2 pallets. The user interaction is minimal – to scan only handling unit and the bin to which the HU has to be moved to. This transaction lets the operator to do bulk picking of pallets, put-away, replenishment tasks, moving pallets from pre-stage area to door, etc. The user training on this has been minimal and the adoption rate is very high. Stellium has created an entire suit of RF processes that are enabled on a standard SAP EWM system and helps improve productivity as well as RF adoption to a greater extent.

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