

Warehouse Management System for the world's largest research based pharmaceutical company

The Client

The client is the world's largest research based pharmaceutical company. They discover, develop, manufacture, and market leading prescription medicines for humans and animals and many of the world's best-known consumer brands. This solution was developed for their consumer healthcare division who manages its warehouses.

The Challenge

The client is actively involved in mergers and acquisitions as per business needs. The warehousing and logistics processes needed to cater to the changing demands of the client's customers and also the changing environments caused by the mergers.

The Objectives

- To support the warehousing and logistics needs of client's warehouses.
- To introduce new technologies (like RFID) to keep in pace with industry trends.
- To absorb new processes that were used by corporations merged with the client organization.
- To maintain leadership in offering these services to other business group within the organization.

The Solution

Our teams assisted the client in developing an Advanced Warehouse Management System to meet the above objectives. This application supports physical inventory processes of receiving, inventory storage, picking, packing, shipment and order fulfillment to the customers. The implementation of the solution involved designing new interfaces to the client's core inventory and revenue processing system. The client was migrating from a leading enterprise resource planning solution, which was used before the merger, to an in-house solution. This required creating new functional enhancements that helped the

client's warehouses to continue using the same processes that existed in the earlier enterprise resource planning solution.

The next phase of the project involved integration of third party logistics' providers to the client's warehouses. Our team developed a scalable process wherein the client could add any number of such providers just by minor configuration changes in the application. The performance tracking mechanism was upgraded to accurately record the productivity information at warehouse floors, thereby allowing them to design better processes for increased productivity.

The final objective of the project was to make the warehouse management system of the client "RFID conscious" in all its operations. The solution has helped the client achieve substantial productivity improvements and cost savings and have a best-in-class warehouse management system.

Tools and Technologies used

- C/Pro *C (Languages)
- Oracle 9i (Database)
- Perl/ ksh/ sh/ AWK (scripting tools)
- SQR reports (Reporting tool)
- SYMBOL scanner screens and drivers (Operator scanner front-end)
- AIX 4.2 (Operating system)
- Unix System V IPC (Operating System)