

Mobile Warehouse Management: Creating the Cost-Effective Warehouse System

Warehousing is a competitive, low-margin business, and in today's turbulent economy it is especially important for warehouse managers to deliver a high level of performance while keeping costs low. Your customers are increasingly in a position to demand accuracy, timeliness, and zero damage for every order, and to offer significant rewards for consistent delivery of "perfect orders." Today's warehouse managers are therefore investing in cost-effective processes and technologies that improve accuracy as well as attract and retain customers. One of the most critical of these is in the area of mobility.

The Cisco® and Intermec Mobile Warehouse Management solution meets this need by offering a fully compatible, mobile technology that provides secure, real-time information to inventory and ERP systems and improves performance while cutting costs.

The Mobile Warehouse

Mobility in the warehouse can dramatically improve your productivity, resource utilization, and inventory management. Providing "anytime, anywhere" flexibility, workers replace paper-based reporting and inventory systems with real-time order fulfillment on handheld devices. With the warehouse unified by a single wireless network, worker and manager productivity gains from the assurance of accurate, timely updates received for every order picked from the shelves.

This level of visibility also improves resource utilization through just-in-time inventory levels that allow you to stock products based on demand. Reduced inventory lowers capital expenditures and staffing costs, while allowing you to provide better service to customers with fewer out-of-stocks. Production lines can also be more rapidly replenished to avoid costly manufacturing delays.

The Cisco and Intermec Mobile Warehouse Management Solution

Cisco and partner Intermec are leaders in bringing the benefits of mobility to industrial environments. The Cisco and Intermec Mobile Warehouse Management Solution is built on the foundation of the Cisco Unified Wireless Network architecture, a powerful infrastructure that delivers scalable, manageable, and highly secure wireless LANs. It also connects 802.11n wireless networks to headquarters and corporate ERP systems as well as existing warehouse management systems, enabling a simplified business expansion while making the most of current investments.

The Unified Wireless Network provides the same level of security, scalability, reliability, ease of deployment, and management that you expect from the wired network. However, the cost of wireless installation is usually far less. Utilizing the Cisco Aironet® series of access points and operated using the Cisco Wireless Control System, the Unified Wireless Network offers a single centralized platform for warehouse management.

Workers connect to this platform using the Intermec CN3 Mobile Computer. Designed for mission-critical tasks in logistics, distribution, and field service, the CN3 is a compact, flexible handheld system that provides complete information sharing and updates in real time. The Intermec CN3 meets rugged, standards-based environmental specifications and includes a 2.0-megapixel color camera for data validation, enabling workers to document proof-of-service or inventory orders. The CN3 also has a touchscreen display, 128 MB RAM, and is available with an ultra-slim extended battery that delivers easy-to-carry, all-day power.

The CN3 is supported by Intermec's series of wearable, mobile printers, built to withstand the dirt, moisture, temperature extremes, and physical shock of field conditions. Intermec's energy-efficient printers deliver high-speed performance and are designed with productivity in mind, saving up to 30 minutes a day per user.

The Cisco and Intermec Mobile Warehouse Management solution enables you to stay connected with the mobile workforce, improving efficiencies and increasing asset visibility across the operation. It offers access to information at the point of work, supporting dynamic deployment of the right resources to the right location and enabling mobile employees to get the information they need to work effectively. With intelligence at their fingertips, mobile workers can increase responsiveness while reducing inventory and transportation costs in the warehouse.

For More Information

Cisco and Intermec are leaders in warehouse and industrial solutions, with technologies that are in widespread use all over the globe. For more information please visit: www.cisco.com/go/manufacturing



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