



TallShips keeping information flowing at Philip Morris



When Philip Morris, Esq. opened his retail tobacco shop on London's Bond Street in the mid-nineteenth century, he could never have predicted that a century and a half later the Philip Morris family of companies would be the largest and most profitable producer and marketer of consumer packaged goods in the world. TallShips play a small, but not insignificant, part in this success having helped Philip Morris' manufacturing facility in Moorrabbin to maintain and improve costs thus ensuring that the Australian operation is internationally competitive.

Philip Morris decided to use SAP's PP-PI module for production planning, management and reporting. This module complements other SAP modules implemented by Philip Morris as well as integrating the shop floor execution system with SAP. They wanted to be able to download blends and orders to the shop floor from the production management system (PP-PI). Investigations led them to Compaq's PDAS and BaseStar Open System which provided the integration layer. PDAS is a SAP-certified module that integrates the PP-PI work orders

and blends with plant systems using a standard interface. TallShips provided the expertise on PDAS to help Philip Morris design their integration approach and assisted with implementation.

"We wanted to automate the flow of information from the machine based control system to SAP-R3," said Neil Caughey, the Project Manager at Philip Morris. "Also, to simplify manual data entry into SAP, especially in the area of material delivery to the production floor."

What they wanted to achieve was an integrated information system that didn't rely on unnecessary duplication of data entry or handling. Further, they wanted to capture production statistics, inventory requirements and costs in real time with a direct link to the constraint based scheduling system. Ultimately their aim was to reduce costs, improve ontime delivery to customers, reduce work in progress and reduce raw material inventories.

"That's exactly what we've done and at the same time we've also reduced training and downtime through TallShips support and expertise," Neil said.

The information flow consists of blend downloads that contain production process parameters

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Freedom Furniture's *do-it-yourself* stage 2 implementation



The second stage of the PowerHouse/WMS installation of the Freedom Furniture DC at Kings Park became operational, as planned, 12 months after the first stage. With a year's worth of experience under their belts, Freedom Furniture's own warehouse personnel carried out the installation in grand "do-it-yourself" style in time for the lead up to the peak season. This is testimony to both the competence of Freedom Furniture's personnel and the ease of configuring PowerHouse/WMS to service a different set of business needs, all under the one warehouse roof.

Peter O'Regan, Logistics Director of Freedom Furniture, set the staged implementation methodology into place with a realistic schedule and achievable expectations of productivity and efficiency. This was in recognition of the factors necessary to create a smooth transition to the new system and the opportunity to start realising a payback sooner. Whilst there is still a lot yet to be done, the initial learning curve and drain on manpower resources has been managed to allow the job to be done in non-peak periods. The lessons learnt during the first stage and the experience gained from using PowerHouse/WMS for 12 months enabled the second stage to be easier. The mistakes and pitfalls identified in the first stage were avoided and exceptional situations were identified and processes were developed for dealing with these.

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and allows for capture of real-time data. Production statistics on volume and waste for each process across the entire manufacturing facility are returned to the PP-PI module and the finance scheduling module.

"One thing that has come out of the whole process is increased knowledge and understanding between the manufacturing process and cost drivers," said Neil. "As a result, we

can maintain and improve costs to ensure we are internationally competitive."

Since the system was initially installed Philip Morris has been able to easily enhance the system due, Caughey says, to the systems flexibility. "New or deleted product lines can be easily changed by anyone regardless of their IT skills."

None of these things could have been achieved Caughey said

without the excellent relationship Philip Morris have with TallShips. "Their knowledge has been invaluable."

Philip Morris has been manufacturing in Australia since 1954 and today has offices in every state as well as a sales office in New Zealand. The Moorabbin manufacturing facility serves the needs of Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands as well as some product exports to other countries.

Fill 'er up...

...But what with?

If the visibility for tracking reusable or one-way containers and pallets is buried in paper records, automate the process with "Tracker" developed by MAX (Manufacturing Applications experts).

Tracker's purpose is to aid in the elimination of paper in the manufacturing and warehouse operations and meet regulatory requirements. Minimal manual data entry is achieved by barcode scanning to capture and record the following

activities - add, fill, clean, receive, move, ship, inspect, scrap, repair and return (full, partial and empty).

Want to know more, call TallShips today!

Web@aGlance wins Best Product Award at CIM 2000 Conference



Web@aGlance[™], enterprise information portal, was awarded Best New Product at CIM 2000, the United Kingdom's premier manufacturing conference and exposition. The Best New Product award recognises the most effective demonstration of real business advantages that a product can offer end users in manufacturing.

The *Web@aGlance* enterprise information portal provides the tools needed to make process information available anywhere in the corporation and allows for quality business decisions in real-time.

The Stocktake Trawl

Warehouse personnel at Mobil's Yarraville high rise storage facility have both rhythm and dexterity. Armed with handheld RF guns they secure control from the cage atop of the automatic cranes, set a trawl movement pattern to cruise up

and down the high rise aisles and with syncopated rhythm stocktake by scanning each storage location and items stored as they pass by.



From Full Warehouse to Empty Shed

Catering for irregular product demand is just a fact of life for manufacturers and distributors. Seasonal variations bring their own set of peculiarities; so spare a thought for organisations with one cycle per annum.

TallShips' have gained an appreciation of such peculiarities in getting the WMS to satisfy the requirements of the Cadbury Easter warehouse.

This warehouse was purpose built to store Easter eggs and other Easter products. The dynamics of this warehouse means that stock gradually builds up to the warehouse capacity and effectively the day after the Easter shipment, it's an empty shed.

e+PowerHouse/WMS = ePowerHouse/WMS

ePowerHouse provides easy Web access to warehouse inventory, sales, purchase order information and much more. It is fully browser/HTML based with the HTML presentation separated from the rest of the code.



Highlights

- Design you own look and feel of the Web pages or use the set of pre-defined standard URL's for accessing PowerHouse/WMS information over the Web. Behind the scenes resides the WMS framework consisting of reusable programming libraries allowing fast access to well validated business logic.
- No security worries, ePowerHouse can share the same security with other Web applications deployed on Web Servers meaning that users accessing PowerHouse/WMS do not need to log into each sub-system separately. ePowerHouse security is declarative rather than coded, therefore, no sensitive data is compromised with programmatic use of cookies or hidden form fields.

No Fork Trucks used to load these Trucks

The Lever Rexona site in Sydney has implemented an Automatic Truck Loading facility, where WMS and two PLC's interface with each other to send pallets onto trucks without operator intervention. The PLC, which controls the movement of the pallets after they have been loaded, contains a list of finished goods product codes that have been downloaded from WMS. Barcodes are generated and then scanned by WMS as the pallets move down the line towards the waiting trucks. The PLC detects when the truck has reached maximum capacity, and sends an "END" message to WMS, which then performs a load confirm and generates the necessary paperwork for the load. A reject lane is present so that if there are any errors manual intervention is always possible.

SIGNIFICANT TALLSHIPS IN HISTORY

H M S P A N D O R A



*HMS Pandora by
Bronwyn Searle.
Copyright courtesy of
Museum of Tropical
Queensland, Townsville*

The 35m 24-gun frigate HMS Pandora departed from England on 7 November 1790 with Admiralty instructions to bring the 25 mutinous crewmen of the Bounty to justice. Loaded to the gunnels with extra officers, midshipmen, able seamen and additional stores and fittings to refit The Bounty when they found it, HMS Pandora arrived at Matavai Bay in Tahiti on 23 March, 1791.

Within 24 hours of The Pandora's arrival 8 mutineers had surrendered and another 6 were captured soon after.

The captured men were manacled and locked away in a makeshift prison, referred to as Pandora's Box, on the ship's quarterdeck. The prison was only 3.3m x 5.4m and 1.5m high creating a cramped, miserable existence for the prisoners.

Employing the mutineers schooner as a tender, the Pandora left Matavai Bay a few weeks later after no further information about the remaining mutineers or The Bounty itself was forthcoming. In fact, they had come within a days sail of Pitcairn Island where Fletcher Christian and 7 of his fellow mutineers had set fire to and scuttled The Bounty. All remained undetected on this island until 1808.

On 8 May 1791 the Pandora set sail for Juahine, one of the Northern Society Islands, on the first leg of what was to be a futile three-month search for The Bounty and remaining mutineers.

By August, supplies were running low and 12 men and two boats had been lost. Giving up on the Bounty, and with Admiralty instructions to survey the Endeavour Strait, the Pandora set a westerly course for Timor via Torres Strait skirting the Great Barrier Reef on 26 August, 1791.

Eventually an opening in the reef was located and a long boat launched to reconnoiter and they signalled the opening was safe to navigate. Unfortunately, it was nearing low tide and while maneuvering to pick up the long boat, the Pandora struck an isolated outcrop of submerged reefs.

Frantic efforts of the crew, aided by pumps and the next high tide, resulted in the Pandora floating free of the reef. All their efforts were in vain however as one of the pumps broke down and water quickly rose in the hold. The Captain and crew had no alternative but to abandon ship. Within minutes the Pandora heeled over and sank with all but three of the prisoners still heavily ironed in the Pandora Box. The bosun's mate unlocked the hatch as he scrambled over the prison to jump overboard. But four of these men were unable to break their manacles and drowned. In all, besides these prisoners, Captain Edwards lost 31 of his crew.

The survivors, 89 crew and 10 prisoners, reached Coupang, Timor on 13 September 1792 in open boats. They finally arrived in England later in the year where the prisoners were sentenced to be hanged although, in the end, only three actually were.

Captain Edwards and his officers, meanwhile, were not indicted for the Pandora's loss getting away with "unavoidable loss after an accidental grounding."



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