

Strategic Solutions NW

Boise Leverages IBI Reporting Tools to Automate Saw Production Reporting for Distributors



Background



Boise Cascade

Boise manufactures engineered wood products, plywood, lumber, and particleboard and distributes a broad line of building materials, including wood products manufactured by the company's wood products division.

Boise Wood Products Manufacturing provides quality products and services to wholesalers, retail dealers and builders to meet the construction needs of end users. They manufacture engineered wood products, plywood, lumber and particleboard. Boise Cascade is a leader in the industry and their focus is on growth and innovation to give their customers the highest quality products and service with a competitive edge.

Boise EWP division sells their own Saw System called SawTek to distributors to cut Boise's I-Joist products. These saws operate from a cut solution that is created in Boise's BCConnect software system and loaded into the Saw. Each cut solution run through the saw produces detailed data about what was cut, how much was cut, what type of cut and how fast it was cut. Each month the Boise CSR's would manually consolidate text files for each cut solution from each saw into a spreadsheet to produce a report for the distributor. The CSR would generate charts and graphs highlighting the performance and efficiency of each of the distributor saw locations. These indicators included, monthly lineal foot production, processing speed (lineal feet per hour) and Cut summary. The data capture and report generation would take days to weeks depending on the customer for multiple CSR's to produce each month.

Project Description

Leveraging the Microsoft Azure Cloud, SSNW designed and developed a system that would automatically capture the data from all saw's (40 saws across 24 distributors) and consolidate the data into a SQL Database. Using Information Builders WebFOCUS reporting platform SSNW developed a dynamic dashboard with over 10 charts, graphs and KPI's with the ability to slice by month and location. This dashboard provides the distributors enhanced metrics and precision to compare each of their saw locations month to month against key performance indicators. It even gives them visibility to compare their locations



against best SawTek location across all Boise's distributors. SSNW was able to automate the report generation and distribution via Information Builders ReportCaster. At the first of each month Boise's distributors received their monthly SawTek Production Dashboard in their inbox instead of waiting weeks to get it.

Business Benefits from Dynamics AX

The solution provided great value to Boise's distributors by enabling them to make better decisions for planning and purchasing raw materials and reducing their inventory.

For Boise, this has eliminated the need for CSR's to consolidate and create reports each month. Instead of capturing and generating reports for their customers, the CSR's now can focus on improving their customers' efficiency. It also provides Boise Cascade visibility to the demands of their customers and enables them to better forecast their manufacturing seasonally and by product.

About Strategic Solutions NW

Strategic Solutions NW is a technology and management consultancy with many years of experience exploring and applying technology solutions to improve business functionality. We encourage you to browse our site, and invite you to contact us to discuss how we may help your business realize its full potential.

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