Overview

Third-Party Logistics operations are known for their flexibility in handling a wide range of products. The inventory is retrieved quickly, orders are processed efficiently and distribution occurs along with the necessary documents. But how does a 3PL respond to a client request where the transaction involves continually retrieving and returning the product to inventory? What if the products to be stored are documents?

The Challenge

Brokers Logistics is known for their flexibility and exceptional service, so a prospective client contacted them about this unusual type of storage scenario. There were a large number of documents to be archived after digital imaging operations in the nearby Mexican city of Juarez.

At the time, Brokers Logistics was in the process of implementing the Warehouse and Distribution Logistics System (WDLS) from Codeworks. When they learned of this request, Brokers initially considered the usual solution for such a scenario: purchase an additional document management system and the associated hardware appliances. But in order to respond within the timeframe needed by the client, Brokers would have to install both systems at the same time, a logistics nightmare.

Codeworks, a 3PL specialist who is also known for their flexibility and exceptional service, was approached by Brokers about how the standard capabilities of WDLS might address this unusual scenario. While identifying an item for storage was as easy as creating an item record, there were additional points for consideration in providing an appropriate long-term solution.

The scope of items to be added, logged and returned quickly during searches needed to be determined and forecasted for capacity planning. When the initial archive of 200,000 documents ballooned to 4.5 million in a short period of time, it became clear that this solution would require a warehouse management system that had both flexibility and exceptional scalability. Business-class hardware would be required to provide the response times today’s 3PLs require. An optimal solution would also keep costs flat even though the number of items were skyrocketing.

“"The capabilities of our WDLS warehouse management system allow us to now meet the needs of clients who have document processing needs, giving us a more comprehensive range of service offerings.”

Michelle Wright,
President
The Solution

The WMS from Codeworks includes a flexible engine for the comprehensive management of many types of inventory. How a 3PL receives, puts freight away, fulfills orders, ships product and returns an item to inventory reflects the business-specific needs of the client. Codeworks has extensive experience in implementing custom features and operational requirements with great success clients nationwide. The solutions provide rich functionality, adaptability and extreme scalability for long-term growth.

After analysis and definition of the solution requirements, Codeworks helped develop specific operating practices, selecting from the rich array of WDLS functionality. Key capabilities included RF and stationary scanners, bar code production and serialized storage of documents in filing boxes. RF scanning identified documents during receiving, helped build the filing boxes, directed put-away, assisted with picking and return-to-stock activities.

Workflow tracking allowed for the establishment of order fulfillment steps, tracked step completion and timestamped each activity. WDLS’ extensive event posting and logging capabilities captured the necessary management metrics. Any business-specific requirements were also addressed. And since WDLS is not sold as a series of modules, all of these capabilities are included with every installation of WDLS. This optimal solution was provided by WDLS with no additional increase in cost.

The Results

The flexible and scalable capabilities of WDLS provided a creative way to fulfill orders and the workflow capabilities tracked processing steps to ensure accountability. Orders are now automatically matched to the appropriate workflow and assigned to Customer Service Representatives for processing. Automated, efficient billing completes the transaction. All steps are recorded, providing measurable management metrics and ensuring quality work throughout the process.

The teamwork enjoyed between Codeworks and Brokers Logistics personnel led to a solution that continues to provide flexibility, value and extremely scalable expansion of operational capabilities while keeping costs flat.

Contact us today and let’s discuss your operational challenges.

“WDLS allows us to maintain our exceptional inventory accuracy levels and efficiency while expanding our capabilities. Well done, Codeworks!”

Carlos Ramirez,
General Manager

About Us

Since 1995, Codeworks has helped Third-Party Logistics providers grow their logistics business and exceed diverse customer expectations. More than just a software provider, we are a 3PL business solutions specialist, offering business consultation, comprehensive software solutions, seamless integration, training and ongoing support to clients nationwide. Every day, our solutions process tens of thousands of orders, ship many tons of freight and manage millions of square feet of warehouse space.

We also make it easy for our current and future customers to keep up-to-date on industry news, trends and tips with our quarterly e-newsletters, delivered right to your inbox. Timely and concise, it’s just what you’d expect from a true business partner.

Codeworks offers web-based demonstrations of our products from the comfort of your office. We welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can help optimize your operation, substantially improve your competitive advantage and deliver the capability to win new business.

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