STAR BASE
IT that transforms business.™

Case Study: Cintas

Local manufacturer increases productivity by improving inventory management

Situation: Cintas is the leading provider of corporate identity uniform programs. Their unique corporate culture has been the driving force behind this success. This major uniform manufacturer and supplier is committed to remaining on the cutting edge in their cleaning and manufacturing facilities. Laundering uniforms is a complex manufacturing operation with multiple processes and types of equipment. In addition, it requires human intervention to inspect each garment and direct it to the appropriate laundry service. The challenge was to provide operators with the right information, at the right time, to speed the task of sorting garments. They didn't need more IT equipment or data.

Cintas needed a new system to direct the garments they clean to the appropriate service based on whether the garment was a fire-retardant one that needed to be retreated or just retired, was reported lost or stolen, or several other factors. They had the equipment to do the job, but hadn't found anyone who could make it all work together seamlessly and ergonomically.

Technology: Visual Basic, Data Link X, Com Controls, AS/400, Windows NT, HLLAPI (High Level Language Application Program Interface)

Solution: A system that could monitor all of the stations scans, make the requests for each scan to the AS/400, and return the result to the stations'"lightstacks" that told the operators what to do with the garments. It also had a monitor overview that could track statistics like scans per hour and whether or not the stations were live or offline.

Initial prototype system provided both proof of concept and results. The solution was rolled out to all of the plants where it is experiencing top notch performance. This system saves manpower hours, reduce errors, provide correct audit procedures and help them stay within government compliance. It has also increased employee satisfaction since there are fewer errors and corrections needed.

"STAR BASE has been a close and trusted partner who has been an integral part of our overall IT staffing strategy. They consistently deliver high quality and cost effective services and have been very flexible in all our dealings which has allowed the two companies to maintain a consistent partnership.... I have valued our long relationship and plan for them to remain a long term partner in our plans going forward." G. Thomas Thornley, Vice President and CIO - Cintas