

SCHEDULESOFT NEWS

April 2010

SHIFT SCHEDULING TRANSFORMED

ScheduleSoft is the leading provider of optimized workforce scheduling software for complex labor and production environments. Our systems are unique in their ability to allow for rules configuration through setting parameters rather than costly customization. We hope you find our monthly insights useful in your day-to-day operations management, and encourage you to forward to your colleagues.



ScheduleSoft News and Comment

People are the Ingredient: Labor Resources as a Supply Chain Asset

In last month's newsletter, we discussed the capability for a workforce to flex with changes in consumer demand by automating workforce scheduling rules and policies. In this edition of the ScheduleSoft monthly newsletter, we will talk about how:

- Labor resource allocation at the plant level is not always the first place facilities look for cost savings,
- Automating scheduling rules and policies can

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New Features

-Enable/Disable Kiosk OT volunteering from Client Application

-Multi-Demand Reassignment Tool Update (new filtering & sorting parameters)

-Day/Job Statistics Report

For more information, call 1.866.807.8090.



Technical News

The current version of our products as of this newsletter are listed below:

Client: 4.6.255
Server Tool: 4.6.039
Kiosk: 1.5.043
EIS: 1.20.012

- optimize human capital utilization in manufacturing,
- Tracking and tracing business decisions becomes possible with workforce scheduling automation,
 - And, finally, how people can become the ingredient in supply chain optimization.

In late March, Greg Flessas, President and CEO of ScheduleSoft, had the opportunity to meet with Dan Gilmore, who is the editor of Supply Chain Digest, to discuss the impact of labor scheduling on supply chain optimization in manufacturing environments. [Click here to view the full video of Greg and Dan's discussion.](#)

Drawing from his 20 years of experience in supply chain management, Dan identifies labor as an often forgotten component of the supply chain. "We talk about transportation and logistics, inventory, flow, and procurement, yet we almost never talk about labor," he says. Dan goes on to say that the traditional performance metrics, like equipment utilization and gross yield, reveal "a bias within the plant to emphasize a utilization imperative that winds up pushing labor optimization to the back end."

The root cause of labor's role being an overlooked metric in supply chain performance is a lack visibility, which is compounded by the minimizing the role of labor as an integral component of the supply chain at the plant level. "Facility managers," Greg points out, "never fully understand the depth or breadth of labor issues. We've seen the [cost savings] numbers be anywhere from 20 to 40 percent when people think they might range from five to ten percent." Greg goes on to say that aggregate averages of labor often mask the true costs of labor at the plant level.

With labor resources and management comprising as much as 70% of controllable costs on the production floor, capturing data on human capital utilization represents an immense, and traditionally untapped, resource for cost savings in manufacturing. The conventional method of controlling the cost of the workforce, however, is one that ultimately characterizes it not as a capital investment, but as an expendable resource. This perception entirely

If you have any questions about your current version(s), please contact Technical Support at 1.866.807.8090.

[Software Update](#)



Suggestions

How do you like the newsletter?

We'd love to hear from you by participating in the below survey. Your feedback can help shape the content for future newsletters.

Contact Us:

news@schedulesoft.com



removes the human element from the production process, prompting enterprise resource planners and facility managers to view labor as an inflexible impediment to the successful movement of goods through the supply chain. Manufacturing leaders are therefore faced with two options: cut the number of employees in the workforce or face a slow death in the face of consistently high labor costs.

To circumvent these possibilities, the manufacturing enterprise deploys time management systems to measure labor costs. While these systems are able to measure the amount of time a given employee has clocked into and out from a particular position on the production floor, the data produced does not reflect the complex rules and situations that placed the employee into that position in the first place. Facility managers thereby only have visibility into the direct cost of their labor—when an employee was working and when their work period ended—instead of being able to track and trace the business decisions that led to the labor costs incurred. Without visibility into how and why labor allocation choices are made on a daily basis, it becomes exceedingly difficult for manufacturing leaders to fit the workforce into a tactical approach for enhancing the efficacy of the supply chain on the plant level.

Automating the workforce scheduling process, however, offers the opportunity for manufacturing leaders to turn their workforce into an actuator of tactical production strategies on the factory floor. In a world where the market adjudicates production levels at any given facility on a daily basis, being able to unite the workforce with the supply chain becomes a business imperative. Workforce scheduling automation provides that ability while also taking into account the complex rules and regulations that make the workforce such an expensive component of the manufacturing process. When people at the plant level are the necessary ingredient to successfully actuating the supply chain, the entire enterprise can sustain itself amid the ebb and flow of consumer demand.

To speak with a labor scheduling expert, contact ScheduleSoft Sales at 800-416-9006.

About Supply Chain Digest

Supply Chain Digest is a leading source for supply chain and logistics news, insight, opinion, and solutions. With 40,000 readers and a highly visited website, SCDigest has become the most respected source for supply chain practitioners. To learn more about Supply Chain Digest visit

www.supplychaindigest.com.



Feature Highlight

Accounting Features and Enterprise-Level Integration

ScheduleSoft's labor scheduling solutions offer an unprecedented level of workforce optimization, allowing facility managers to mobilize their human capital as an effective component of the supply chain. As an enterprise-level application, ScheduleSoft can be successfully implemented in organizations of any size or complexity. Complex organizations, however, often use many other systems to facilitate their day-to-day operations.

As an SAP® Certified Partner, ScheduleSoft has created a robust suite of tools designed to integrate labor scheduling data with:

- Time and attendance,
- Payroll and human resources,
- And production demand planning systems.

With these tools, ScheduleSoft is able to export and import mission-critical data at a frequency pre-determined by each facility's unique needs. This type of data integration supports everyday scheduling tasks—like maintaining daily accrual totals for straight time and overtime hours, maintaining accurate employee qualifications, and ensuring that employee demographic information is up-to-date.

The Enterprise-Level Integration suite provides facility managers with the data necessary to compare scheduled labor costs and actual labor costs. For example, individual Posts in ScheduleSoft can be

associated with accounting codes that interface directly with payroll systems. Using that data, users can then associate specific labor costs to a particular Post, allowing facility management forecast labor costs during periods of fluctuating demand.

The visibility that results from the data exchange between ScheduleSoft and other mission-critical systems gives facility managers the tactical advantage required to execute workforce management policies that provide significant cost savings at the plant level. With its robust data integration functionality, ScheduleSoft not only places the right person in the right job, at the right time, but also provides the data necessary to optimize the human capital element of the supply chain.

To view these features and many more, set-up a demonstration of ScheduleSoft 4.6 at www.schedulesoft.com or call our scheduling experts at 800-416-9006.



ScheduleSoft At SapphireNow

May 16 - 20

In early 2009, ScheduleSoft became a certified SAP® Partner, extending and leveraging the benefits of the supply chain solutions provided by SAP®. Since then, ScheduleSoft has played an active role in the SAP software ecosystem, creating solutions that integrate enterprise resource planning data with workforce scheduling rules and policies.

[Click here for more information on our partnership with SAP®.](#)

In addition to providing this functionality, ScheduleSoft is also committed to driving workforce scheduling automation innovation while understanding the labor scheduling business objectives facing the enterprise-level manufacturing industry. This year alone, ScheduleSoft has attended SAP® Manufacturing 2010 and SAP® HR 2010 user

group conferences, demonstrating our passion for understanding the wider implications of the workforce scheduling challenges and opportunities facing our customers.

As a part of our ongoing commitment to understanding the labor scheduling needs of our process manufacturing customers, ScheduleSoft will be attending the 2010 SAP® SAPHIRE Now conference in Orlando, FL, from May 16th to May 20th. At the event, ScheduleSoft resources will:

- Participate in educational sessions, panel discussions, and presentations given by industry leaders on topics ranging from production scheduling to best practices in manufacturing
- And educate SAPHIRE Now attendees on how ScheduleSoft can transform labor scheduling challenges into cost savings opportunities.

[Click here to access the ScheduleSoft SAP® EcoHub web site.](#)

To find out more about how ScheduleSoft will transform workforce scheduling at your facility, **join us at booth number 614 during SAPHIRE Now** or visit www.schedulesoft.com to schedule a demonstration today.

ScheduleSoft, the leading provider in demand-driven scheduling products, business solutions, and services

Gregory Flessas

