

Why upgrading your current WMS/WCS software is the smart investment

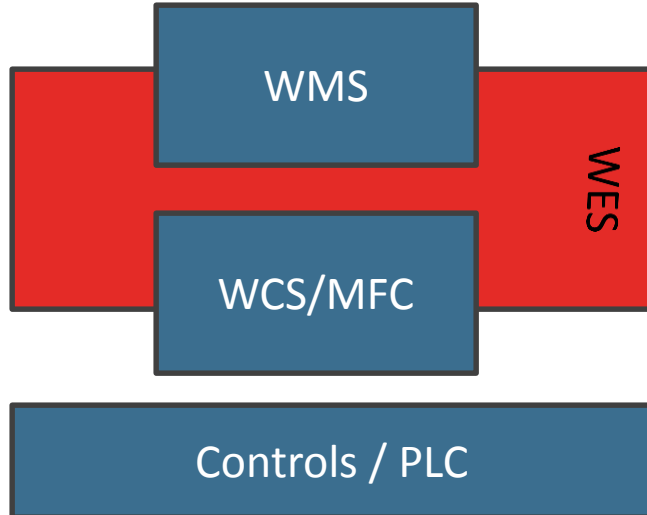
Presented by:

Nancy Malone, Solutions Sales Director

MAKE YOUR BUSINESS
 **FUTUREPROOF.**

viastore 
SYSTEMS

What is WMS / WCS / WES?



WMS – Receipt, Replenish, Order Pool, Wave Mgmt., Pick, Pack, Ship, Slotting, ERP & TMS integration, Reporting

WCS/MFC – Mgmt. of real-time material flow through operations, reporting, making decisions based upon the state, messages, etc.

WES – Depending on provider, can share functionality across both WMS/WCS – focusing mainly on optimization of material flow & real-time decision making based on various inputs

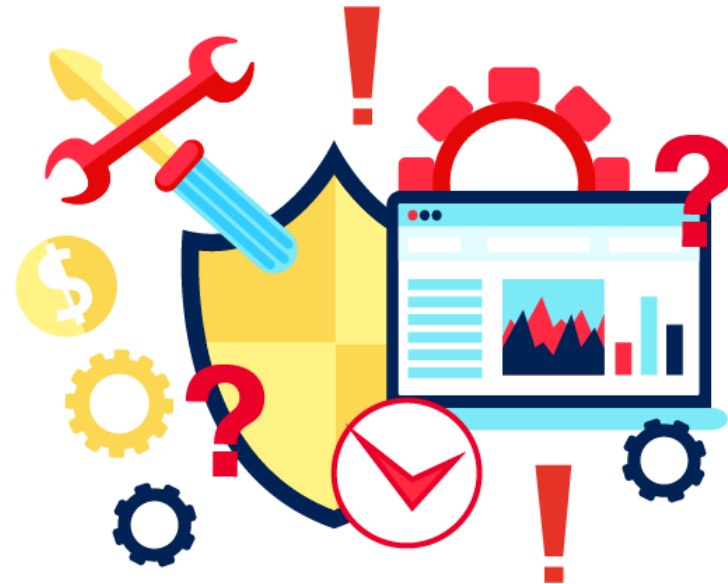
Controls /PLC - an industrial computer **control system** continuously monitoring the state of MH input devices, providing data to WCS/WES

Presentation Goals

- Technical case
- Business case
- Real life examples
- What you need from your software partner

Technical issues with older legacy systems

- End of Life
 - Server hardware
 - MH equipment components
 - Operating system & database(s)
 - PLC hardware
 - Communication Protocols
- Maintaining old interfaces to new AMH sub systems
- Lack of support knowledge & documentation
- Performance degradation
- Increase in support costs
- Aging IT support staff



Business issues with older legacy systems

- Lack of internal business team support & knowledge
- Lack & slowness of vendor support
- Undocumented systems
- Vendor proprietary hardware and or software toolset(s)
- Outdated operator / user interfaces (GUI, Web, HMI, voice)
- Missing out on advancements in technology, new software and automated systems features and functions



Real Life Customer Example



Canadian Food Mfg.

- Multi-site ASRS deployed
- Oldest system circa 1993
- Consider automated MH systems critical to profitable success over decades
- Goal to be Fork-lift free
- Fast growing, plans for expansion, update of existing systems, and to support their expected growth and changing customer demands

Issues Faced

- Old, difficult and expensive to support system – hardware and software
- Critical end-of-life issues
- System needs to reliably support strategic growth plans
- Desired standard SAP integration
- Looking for standardization of an enterprise solution
- System documentation out of date

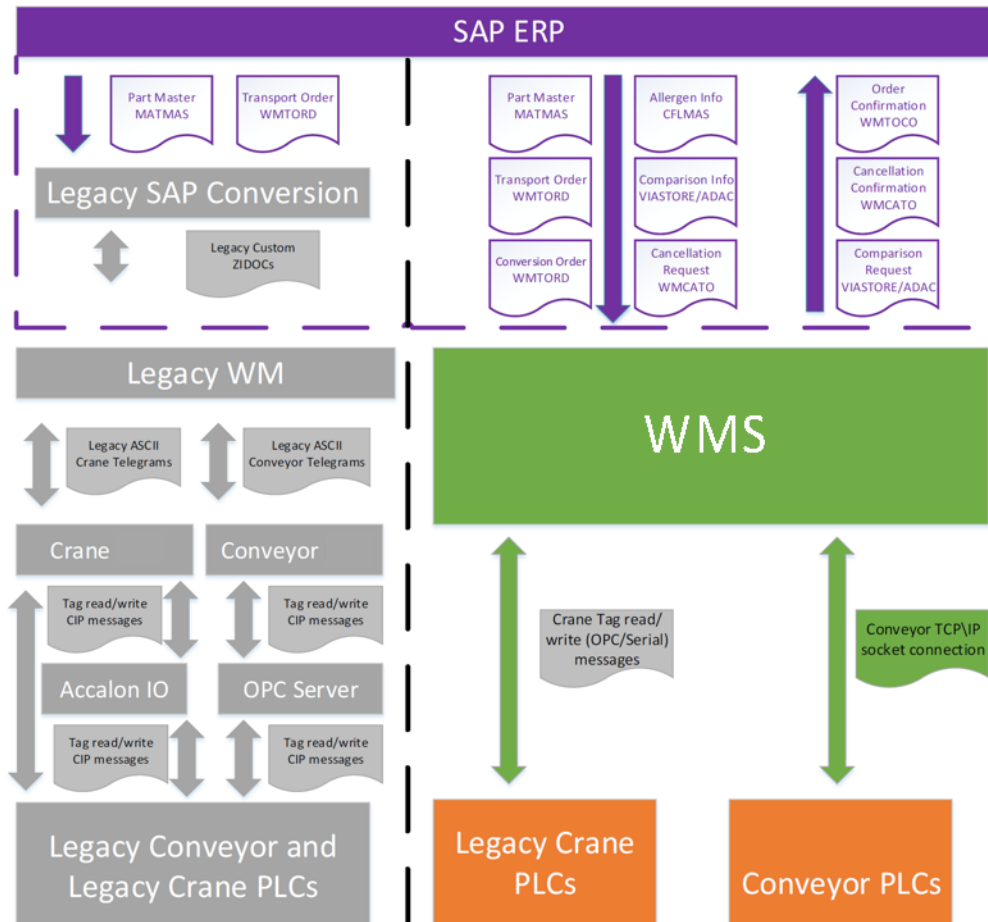


Figure 5: Software Interfaces



Scope/Benefits of Upgrade

- Replace WMS and MFC with multi-lingual standardized software tightly integrated with SAP
- Upgrade server infrastructure and outdated hardware
- Standards applied across all sites
- Increased end-user support, improved morale, user friendly interaction
- Improve KPI tracking & overall operational visualization
- Define and capture as-is metrics and measure achieved metrics / benefits
- Reduce risk - maintain or improve the current system uptime and throughput

Real Life Customer Example

Multi-channel Apparel
Distribution and Mfg.

Multi-channel fulfillment DC's

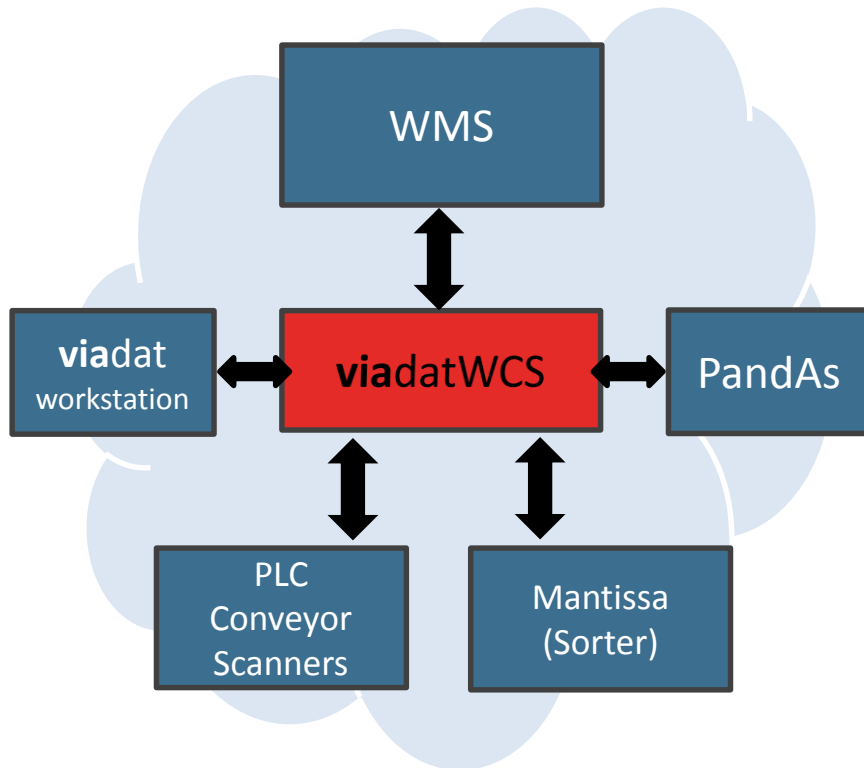
- Initial MFC Software installed circa 1993, 2005
- Approximately 10 miles of conveyor in one bldg. and 2 miles in another
- 1.2 mil sq. feet and 560,000 sq. feet
- Investing for the future
- Leveraging industry leading WMS
- Maintain current system uptime at facilities upwards of 99.9%
- Identify a solution that can be configured and changed incrementally as business grows or requirements change

Issues Faced

- Outdated customer specific MFC system hardware
- Customer site specific software
- Delayed response time for changes and general support
- Different MFC software running at each site
- Increasing support costs
- System documentation out of date
- Real time decision software running in a PC environment vs. standard PLC controls platform

Real Life Customer Example

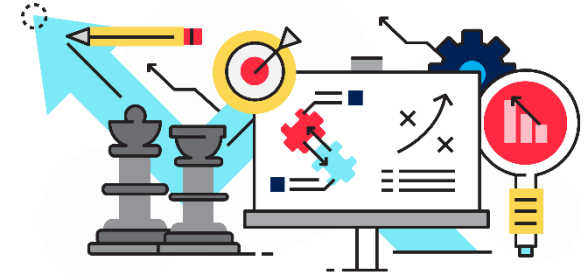
Multi-channel Apparel
Distribution and Mfg.



Scope/Benefits of Upgrade

- Replace MFC with standardized software integrated with WMS, existing automation equipment controls, print & apply, scales, etc.
- Upgrade server infrastructure and outdated hardware
- Standards applied across all sites
- Increased system configuration, flexibility and supportability
- No forced upgrades
- Deployment in a VM High availability environment
- Customer friendly configurable changes made in the MFC
- Self supporting by customer
- Strong partnership vs. vendor relationship

Software upgrade benefits... what to look for in a strong solution



Increased Productivity

- Less downtime & risk
 - Modern updated software & controls
 - Easier to support
 - Easier to diagnose issues as they occur
- Upgraded algorithms allowing increased utilization of:
 - Systems, people, processes, equipment
- Fully documented system software & controls
- Standardized controls & software architecture

Software upgrade benefits... what to look for in a strong solution



Increased Throughput

- Higher ASRS throughput - utilizing smarter algorithms for storage, retrieval, lot management and various picking processes
- Upgrade communication protocols – speeding up and streamlining processes
- Increased conveyor throughput, by leveraging intelligence to more effectively manage equipment and information
- Intelligent sensors information to improve facility flow

Software upgrade benefits... what to look for in a strong solution



IT Governance

- Modern, standardized deployment leveraging IT infrastructure support
- Enable IOT deployment
- Performance Measurement - provide for, or integrate to your data warehouse
- Security and risk compliance
- Improvement in resource management

Software upgrade benefits... not for the faint of heart



Plan the Plan

- ✓ Proactively build a software/hardware strategy well ahead of “End-of-Life” issues
- ✓ Don’t just replace – Investigate, ask questions, look for the right solution for your next 7-10 years
- ✓ Choose wisely
- ✓ Baseline software utilized or custom code
- ✓ Ask if high availability, VM are deployment options
- ✓ Realize and educate business and IT - replacing your WMS/WCS should be considered strategic – not tactical
- ✓ The choice is hard, but, if done right, protects your investment for the long-term
- ✓ Check vendor references - both recent and 5-10 year old customers

Software upgrade benefits... not for the faint of heart



Execute the Plan

- ✓ Monitor server, operating system useful life
 - ✓ De-supported software and hardware guidelines vary, as well as a systems useful life
- ✓ Ensure a IT platform match with enterprise standards
 - ✓ Better supportability, buy-in, experience
- ✓ Software partner should have:
 - ✓ Experience with successful upgrades
 - ✓ Experience with automated material handling interfaces are critical
- ✓ Good cultural fit across all team members & similar company work culture
- ✓ Ample resources in case of issues
- ✓ Prepare business case including business and IT benefits

For More Information:

Speaker email: n.malone@viastore.com

website: www.viastore.com

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