

WMS Optimization Case Study: Accuristix



“In Longbow we are very pleased to have found ourselves a reliable partner rather than a simple services provider... Their creativity in devising solutions to complex problems really impressed me and was so important for meeting our requirements... one of the biggest keys to their effectiveness is in understanding our business.”

- Chris Redpath
Director, Supply Chain Solutions, Accuristix

The Client

Founded in 2004, Accuristix is a leading North American third-party logistics provider. The company focuses exclusively on the healthcare industry.

Accuristix's clients include manufacturers of pharmaceuticals, medical devices, surgical products and equipment, natural health, consumer health, and cosmetic products. With nine distribution centers, Accuristix has 800,000 square feet of secure, temperature-controlled, regulation compliant warehouse space.

The company offers a full range of 3PL services. It also provides additional services for the distribution of specialty products such as cold chain, clinical trials, and literature management.

Accuristix is known for its state-of-the-art facilities, as well as its attention to detail in the handling of pharmaceuticals and other critical healthcare products.

The Challenge

Accuristix had JDA (formerly RedPrairie) WMS installed to improve service and help expand its customer base. However, a number of issues were preventing the system from being used to its full potential.

Problems with performance and response times were causing slowdowns in shipments and occurrences of missed orders. Archiving was a slow process, and many warehouse operations were taking much longer than necessary. System enhancements were not functioning properly, and it was proving difficult to bring new clients into the system.

There were also problems integrating the WMS with the company's transportation management system (TMS).

Accuristix realized it needed an experienced RedPrairie consultant to resolve problems and optimize system performance. They called in Longbow Advantage.

The Solution

Drawing on its expertise in RedPrairie systems, Longbow instituted a multi-phase approach:

1. Problem analysis

Working closely with Accuristix's IT staff, Longbow conducted a comprehensive analysis of the system. Problems were found in three main areas: the application server, database, and system configuration.

Resolving these problems required extensive specialization, system debugging, and close co-operation with third-party service providers that had responsibility for certain functional areas of the system.

2. Special projects

To enhance system performance and functionality, Longbow performed a number of customizations.

Custom DDAs were created, with one designed to resolve an integration problem with the company's TMS. Custom reports and labels were developed to meet Accuristix's special requirements.

Application server commands were modified or re-written to reduce slowdowns. Where indicated, system configuration changes were made to speed up processes.

3. System debugging

Longbow's team was able to isolate and fix a series of bugs that were compromising the speed and performance of the system. In one example, Accuristix was able to significantly reduce trailer close time due to improvements in pack out functionality.

4. Consultation

Longbow advised Accuristix's IT staff on necessary configuration changes, and provided training on how to perform them.

Working with the company's database administrator, Longbow reviewed system log files to flag queries that were causing slowdowns. Longbow provided recommendations on the most efficient way to modify the queries.

Longbow also worked with third-party service providers to:

- optimize Parcel performance
- streamline the archiving process
- improve integration with Accuristix's TMS

5. System configuration

Longbow performed a number of configuration changes to accelerate system response times. In conjunction with improvements in the application server and database, picking operations were greatly accelerated.

The Results

- System performance was dramatically improved
- Trailer closing time was reduced from over 40 minutes to less than 2 minutes
- The time required to dispatch list picks to warehouse floor staff was cut by a factor of 15—from over 30 minutes to under 2 minutes
- Inventory move times went down from as much as 1 hour to under 10 seconds
- Since Longbow was brought in, Accuristix has been able to bring 5 times the number of clients on to its WMS
- Because of a multithreading approach Longbow developed, the archiving process was significantly speeded up
- Accuristix can now ship products faster, and with greater accuracy. As well, the company has greater flexibility to deal with client requirements and exceptions
- Because of their close and productive working relationship, Accuristix views Longbow as a partner in its success

Looking to Optimize your WMS?

Reach out to Longbow Advantage to learn more about how they can assist you at 1-888-904-4005 or email info@longbowadvantage.com.

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