

New Business Edge Manufacturing System Now Available

Rapid Industry Changes Create Need

The rapidly changing environments in the fastener industry and in the computer industry have made the choice of fastener software more complicated and more expensive. Fastener manufacturers have been forced to choose between unsophisticated "Job Shop" software or expensive, complicated and overly sophisticated MRP2 software.

Now, Computer Insights, Inc. has developed a new module that cuts through the confusion. The Business Edge Manufacturing System has been designed with fastener manufacturers in mind.

Fastener Suppliers are Computer Insights, Inc. Only Business

Since fastener companies are Computer Insights' only business, the system is an excellent fit for fastener manufacturers. It is fully integrated into the popular Business Edge accounting, purchasing, inventory and sales order processing system. The system manages all inventory, from raw materials to finished goods inventory in one continuous flow.

In a recent announcement, Dennis Cowhey, President of Computer Insights, Inc. pointed out some of the important capabilities of the new system. They include:

Analyze Your Customer Orders and Stock Status to Create Manufacturing Demand

The system has the ability to analyze your customer orders and stock status to create a list of jobs to be manufactured. Combined onto one report, The Business Edge analyzes the shipment requirement dates of customer orders and re-order point of products. Shipment dates are listed for products with customer orders, while estimated requirement dates are shown for products below re-ordering points.

The Business Edge Determines Manufacturing Requirements

You can see the customer sales of each product that requires the manufactured product as a component product. This is accessible as a single product report or by drilling down in the Products That Need Manufacturing report.

This report lets you see the total equivalent units of the manufactured product that are being sold each year. An example of this would be a company that manufactures a plain product and then processes it into many

different finishes — this report shows you the customer usage of all the parts, summed up in a convenient report.

Need more information about a product? Just drill down into one of the product screens brings and you will see a Product Inquiry showing all the pertinent information regarding the individual product.

The System Handles Complex or Simple Production Schedules

Processes are the basis of the Manufacturing Scheduling System. Information on each process is stored, including whether you want to record labor and setup hours during production entry or you want to spread the labor hours over an entire process' output for a time period and have the setup hours entered for the individual job by the operator.

The option of recording machine hours, labor hours, setup hours and costs associated with all three is available for each process. For an external process, these costs would not be recorded.

Easily Create and Update Production Schedules

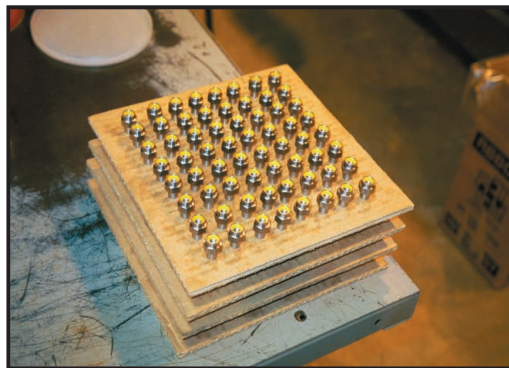
Creating a production schedule is simple. You are able to store a "default" sequence of processes to be performed. When the production schedule is created, the default sequence is automatically loaded into the Scheduling System. Each schedule can hold an infinite number of different processes that the raw materials must go through to become a finished product. Raw materials are assigned to the process in which they are consumed.

The default sequence is easy to edit if needed. Labor costs, machine time and setup hours can be applied to individual jobs or spread over an entire process.

Lacking Raw Material? Purchasing Can Know Immediately

The scheduler and purchasing agent will both need the same information — do you have enough of the raw material needed to produce a product? Is the raw material that is on hand available? Or, has it been committed to other job?

The Business Edge will look at your raw material inventory and any purchase orders for the raw material to determine if you will have enough to fulfill the manufacturing schedule. By simulating the production process, The Business Edge will report to you which raw materials are going to be fully consumed in the manufac-



Inventory is tracked from raw material to finished goods.

turing process. If any jobs are going to be delayed, you will know how many days behind they will be.

Purchasing will be able to call up their own report to see these shortages so that they can expedite the raw material delivery.

Prioritize Jobs in a Process and Inform Operators in Real Time

Operators in the shop traditionally have no way of knowing what jobs are "hot" without a manager walking out and telling them. This requires the manager to inform all operators of the "hot" job. By assigning a numerical priority to each job within a process, operators can now view the jobs that are running or that are to be run in the order that they should be working on them. When the manager has a "hot" job, the priority is increased, and the shop floor personnel know immediately that the job needs to be run.

Know Up-to-the-Minute Status of Your Manufacturing Jobs

Are your sales personnel constantly calling your manufacturing department trying to get the status of production runs? With the status of the schedule available throughout the system (including order entry), the salesperson can get an up-to-the-minute picture of the production status.

Instant Access to Your Product Specifications

Do you need to be able to bring up your manufacturing specifications instantly? With integration to our imageCenter Module, you can bring up specifications to your PC's screen instantly. No more having to search through a large catalog of specifications.

Do you need a way of inputting the specifications into fields for comparison to inspections? No problem. We have integrated an inventory specification system right into The Business Edge. You can store controlled attributes and uncontrolled attributes (for instance: machine tooling, setup information, etc.). All attribute fields are completely defined by you — the client.

Satisfy Customer Demands With Integrated Inspection Data

Do customers require that you maintain dimensional results or furnish certifications with dimensional results?

Inspection data can be input into The Business Edge and linked with the purchase order, processing purchase order and/or production process where the inspection was done.

Automatic Alerts for Out of Tolerance Parts

Using our Product Specification system, you enter the allowable values into The Business Edge. Then the system will automatically alert you when the inspection value

is not within the tolerances of the specification.

If you do not use the above described system, you can setup which attributes of the product you want to be inspected and have the operator input the specification tolerance from the specification image and record the measurements of the product.

Integrated Features Make the System ISO 9001:2000 Friendly

- The Business Edge stores information on your calibrated devices, and alerts you when devices are reaching calibration dates.

- The proof is in the data. When auditors ask you how you know that a process was done, simply pull up the process on your screen and show them the user that entered that the process was complete.

- Corrective Action Information is maintained with the ability to assign a problem category to the Corrective Action for easy Pareto Analysis.

- With integration to their imageCenter Module, drawings, specifications and certifications can be reviewed on the screen, so the auditor is able to sit down at a desk and audit the records of your business processes.

Analyze the Actual Setup, Labor and Machine Hours and Costs

Are you concerned that your labor costs are getting out of hand? The Business Edge can track the setup and labor hours for a job.

Do your employees run multiple machines so that it is not easy to track their labor on each machine? The Business Edge can spread their labor hours and costs over the entire process' production.


If you define what the standard hours are for each step, The Business Edge will prepare variance reports to help you determine where your processes need improvement and where you have made improvements.



Lot control, traceability and inventory quantity information is available from beginning to end.

Complete Fastener System

These are only a few of the many capabilities of this new system. It has all of the well known capabilities of The Business Edge for fastener distributors as well as the new manufacturing capabilities. It maintains lot control and traceability from raw materials to finished goods and it maintains complete raw material, work in process and finished goods inventories. Since it was designed specifically for fastener manufacturers, it includes everything you need and doesn't waste your time with things that you don't need.

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The BUSINESS EDGE

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