

Augmento

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Augmento is an established multi-brand distributor of office supplies and equipment. They offer a vast range of 4000+ SKU's ranging from Art Supplies, Books and Pads, Filing Systems, Printing, Stationary, Technology and everything in between. Their omnichannel business model meant that they needed a WMS system that could easily handle different types of transactions and deliveries.

Flexibility and locally available expertise were their focus areas when deciding on a new WMS partner.

Augmento has been steadily growing over the past 15 years from originally offering just 300 sku's to now supplying a range of 4000+ products to over 450 customers including giants like OfficeMax, The Warehouse, Warehouse Stationary, Office Products Depot, PB Tech and many more.

Their mantra is to make things super easy for their customers and, with a paper-based picking system, that goal was becoming unfeasible.

Augmento found their way to us via a supply chain consultant who had been impressed with the highly flexible nature of MultiPick™ and our reputation for delivering when it matters most.

The flexibility of MultiPick™ was key as Augmento runs 3 quite different types of transactions through one 1500m² warehouse.

- Pallet Deliveries to large Multiple Retailers
- Courier Packs to smaller retail operations like Art Stores
- Drop Shipping Fulfilment for e-commerce transactions

Cam Tingey, founder and MD at Augmento was keen that any Warehouse Management Software partner had an owner-to-owner, New Zealand based relationship and was keen to avoid any local re-seller/ agent operations. He had heard that Interlogic's people truly understand the nuances of logistics and how to smoothly integrate into existing software. He needed a bullet-proof system that could be configured to his exact requirements and he wanted to deal with good people.

THE CHALLENGE

Like so many logistics operations, Augmento had stringent DIFOT customer delivery promises that they had to keep.

They needed to have enough products on hand to manage next day deliveries and, with the rapid expansion of SKU's being offered, better stock integrity and visibility were vital for business efficiencies and reporting.

The Omicron epidemic and its damaging impact on finding and retaining staff meant that they also needed to dramatically speed up the process of onboarding new pickers and checkers.

Just to add a little extra spice to the go-live, the implementation was to be carried out over a weekend heavily impacted by a Covid lock-down. Many staff were out of action with the virus and one of the biggest months of the year was looming large.

THE SOLUTION

After initial consultancy and several 'deep-dive' workshops to iron out the specifics of the specification, Augmento went for a Cloud based version of MultiPick™. This was configured to support the 3 different types of transactions they needed.

MultiPick™ was placed at the centre of a business-critical Process Flow.

This Circular Flow of bulk inward goods to storage and orders into the distribution channels is the beating heart of Augmento's operation.

The MultiPick™ solution allows staff to jump into any stage of the process with very little training and exceptional levels of accuracy.

“The system now drives staff around the warehouse, removing the need for people to remember where things are. Handheld scanners tell my guys exactly where to go, what to pick and the location barcoding and verifying system drives up my levels of stock integrity and visibility” – Cam Tingey CEO, Augmento

The circular flow starts with receiving goods accurately using the Put Away function, so things are always stored at the correct Pick Face or placed into bulk overflow locations. Orders flow with a Purchase Order from Augmento's ERP system called MoneyWorks into a Picking Queue where they are allocated to an operator who takes a printed token to their picking station. On returning to the Augmento Pack Desk, picked orders flow to a Staging Area for a scan check where an order is closed off in MultiPick and processed for invoicing and delivery using Starshipit.

The simplicity of the system means that a new staff member can be onboarded and productive as a picker in under 15 minutes. An inventory checker now gets up to speed in under an hour. The warehouse staff can now be much more nimble, covering off each other's role in the system with a common user interface and an intuitive process. Meanwhile up in the management office, Cam and his team can run their eyes over all the staff performance metrics in hit those DIFOT agreements.

The big weekend

As always with the changeover of a business-critical operation the stakes were high. An agile team including an IT consultant and 2 MultiPick integration experts had the full backing of the Augmento management and operations team. Everyone had a vested interest in making it work. The system was installed on a Friday, a full inventory was taken and by Monday we were tested and operating live.

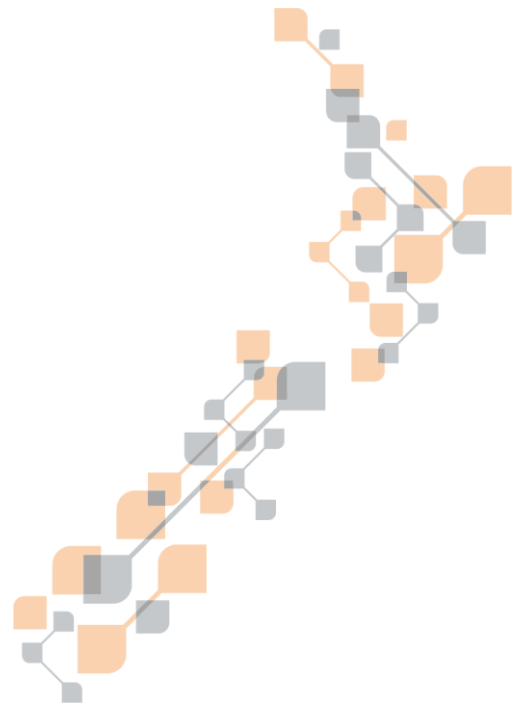
Interlogic's credentials of pulling-off such a nimble changeover for dozens of other businesses instilled the confidence that it could be managed.

"Interlogic proved themselves to be an agile and hardworking bunch. I've been involved with other integrations but these service levels were on another level" – Sid O'Halloran, Warehouse Manager

What's next for Augmento?

With demand growing for work-from-home offices and large retailer orders multiplying, Augmento is now well positioned for future growth. The system can expand with them as they add new distributors and grow volumes with minimal tweaks.

Overall there has been great collaboration between the two teams and the processes are always being optimised to fine-tune the flows.



Interlogic designs logistics execution systems that combine its MultiPick® warehouse management software with technology, automation and advanced materials handling equipment. The company blends warehousing know-how with practical innovation to deliver measurable operational savings, and supports customers directly from design, build and ongoing. Interlogic works with businesses large and small across New Zealand & Australia.

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