

Warehouse Management System Cheat Sheet – When to Consider...



Installing a WMS

- Growth expected to exceed legacy software capabilities like inventory management systems or basic spreadsheets
- Paper processes keep costs high and hinder efficiency and flow optimization
- Desire for task accountability, labor tracking, standardized processes and complex exception handling
- Vendor or clients moving to more sophisticated systems: EDI, 3rd party shipper integration and real-time updates
- Requirement for more useful operational and performance data, demand planning, reporting tools and business analytics
- Complete warehouse organization and management – people and processes vs. simply knowing where material is located



Upgrading a WMS

- New version offers required features, capabilities, or integration ability or addresses past code non-conformances
- Customizations and modifications have become part of base product
- IT and hardware no longer support current version or required throughput and volume
- Maintaining application becomes too cost-prohibitive or no longer possible
- Greater process support: pick optimization, task interleaving, automation integration and robust flow rules
- System can no longer handle transactional volume, performance targets, item/SKU proliferation or DB expansion



Replacing a WMS

- Vendor is sunsetting platform, has become obsolete or is no longer in business
- Additional business support for Operations, Finance, HR and Stores - LMS, YMS and TMS capabilities and integration
- Upgrade no longer possible or not as cost effective as replacing legacy system
- IT changes and simplifications plan to move to Cloud or SaaS solutions
- Poor user experience: UI non-intuitive and difficult to use, limited configuration or development tools, creation of work-arounds
- Omnichannel support: retail, ecommerce, 3PL, manufacturing support and global marketplace