OVERVIEW

Leading vitamin and natural supplement distributor gains healthier control over warehouse operations with RFgen to facilitate continuing growth.

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SNAPSHOT

INDUSTRY:

Vitamins
Dietary Supplements

ENVIRONMENT:

Oracle JD Edwards
EnterpriseOne 9.0

APPLICATIONS:

- Inventory Management
- PO Receiving
- Order Picking
- Loftware Integration

GOALS ACHIEVED

1. Improve inventory management through lot control.

2. Achieve lot traceability down to order level.

3. Accelerated order accuracy, efficiency and speed.

4. Reduce receiving errors from inbound orders.

5. Gain ability to modify solution in-house, on-demand.

> " We needed rapid access to information that could answer questions about who received product, where a specific lot was distributed, and when those items had shipped. "
>
> - Jorge Gonzalez, Senior Business Analyst, Life Extension

THE CHALLENGE

Life Extension was using a manual process with manual pallet tags and notes to record where inventory was located in the warehouse. The warehouse team was unable to locate specific lot numbers, and having warehouse employees investigate where inventory was located took significant time away from receiving inventory and fulfilling orders.

The Life Extension executive team realized they had reached a point where they needed to automate key warehouse processes to continue growing as a business. They began researching a solution that would build efficiencies and improve order accuracy by automating manual, labor-intensive processes, and could seamlessly integrate with their JD Edwards EnterpriseOne ERP system.

Their primary requirement was a lot control system. Through lot control, the company would be able to manage inventory more effectively, employ a more granular approach to first-in, first-out (FIFO) picking rules, and establish greater product traceability.

THE SOLUTION

Gonzalez began the search for a warehouse solution with lot control by reviewing three possibilities, including a solution he had used at a previous employer. However, only RFgen used open source code, enabling the company's internal development team to easily make modifications in-house—ultimately saving time and money. Because of this, the Life Extension team selected RFgen Mobile Foundations for Oracle's JD Edwards to implement in their main warehouse in Edison, New Jersey, as well as (in more limited form) in several Florida-based retail stores.

"In my experience, one of the shortcomings of the solution I used previously was that we never had the source code," Gonzalez explained. "Any modifications or customizations we had to do to meet our business needs required consulting. At Life Extension, we have in-house developers who understand VB Script applications. With RFgen's Mobile Development Studio,

we have the source code after Go-Live to make minor modifications to the applications ourselves. That's the biggest reason we chose RFgen."

> "
> RFgen has a really good team that makes sure their customer has what they need, both in solutions and training. I appreciated that RFgen was able to meet our unique business needs.
> "
>
> - Jorge Gonzalez,
>   Senior Business Analyst,
>   Life Extension

RFgen is a suite of pre-built, Oracle-validated mobile data collection solutions that enables companies to benefit from real-time barcode data collection and roaming mobile applications while creating zero footprint on the JD Edwards application server. In this case, Life Extension would be using RFgen for inventory management and transfers, purchase order receiving, and picking order fulfillment, plus additional integration with Loftware for on-demand barcode generation and label printing. Since Life Extension is both a wholesaler and retailer, RFgen offered the flexibility to use directed picking for bulk inventory as well.

According to Gonzalez, RFgen met the company's "very aggressive" timeline for deployment. When Life

Extension later decided one of the key processes needed modification, RFgen reacted quickly, creating, testing and deploying the modifications in just weeks. Not only that, but RFgen provided training to Gonzalez and other IT personnel to ensure Life Extension could train their warehouse team internally and get the most out of their new software investment.

THE RESULT

The Life Extension team was excited to implement RFgen in their operations. Not only did RFgen solve their challenges in inventory management, accuracy and efficiency, it also improved product visibility with lot control and could be continuously modified to adapt to future needs as well.

Life Extension deployed effective automated data collection solutions and was able to modify them to match the company's business processes within a short turnaround time. These new processes enabled the company to gain greater control over their operations, improving accuracy, efficiency, and visibility. Beyond that, Life Extension acquired valuable insights into future potential as well, ultimately broadening their horizons going forward as the company prepared for continued growth.

ABOUT LIFE EXTENTION

Life Extension is one of the world's largest distributors of high-end nutrients, vitamins and supplements. They focus on helping customers improve the quality of their health and extend their longevity. Just 300 employees support over two million customers in the quest to live healthier lives.