

Integrating an Acquired Company off their Legacy System and onto PeopleSoft Manufacturing

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Intro

Company's can face difficult decisions after acquisitions when it comes to ERP. We will discuss how Larson Manufacturing integrated an acquired company's legacy system into PeopleSoft Manufacturing. This includes the planning stage and considerations involved in making the move, the timing of the move to minimize business interruption, and all the steps from hardware, network and the application side to make it a success.

Hardware and Networking Issues

The first issue was to address the multiple sites currently used by the acquired company. One site was disbanded and the other was converted to similar hardware and network setup. After the initial setup and implementation, we also converted to an Active Directory network as well as a Voice over IP phone system.

Data Conversion Issues

Extracting and data loads were done in a timely manner to support the development of the applications to support the manufacturing operations in the acquired site. We began with a contract programmer to do the data migration. We quickly learned we could utilize the business analyst from the acquired company and a current staff programmer to facilitate this migration in a timely manner. The data loads included the item setup and inventory levels as well as the BOM tables. This combination of business integration knowledge from the acquired company and Larson PeopleSoft technical knowledge helped fast-track data conversion.

Early Moves to PeopleSoft

Accounts Receivable (AR) was the only module we moved over early. We did this by loading all open invoices one time and then a daily load of new invoices from the legacy system into the pending item table in PeopleSoft (PS). In order for this to be done we created a customer cross reference table as well as a payment terms cross reference table between PS and the legacy system. After data was loaded we ran the receivable update process to complete the AR cycle.

The General Ledger (GL) was exported from the legacy system into Excel and then uploaded into the PS GL. This was a functional utility that was appreciated by the controller.

Application Conversion Methods

Orders were keyed in directly to PS after a given date. No interface between PS and the legacy system was needed. Configurator rules were written to mirror the legacy system configurator rules.

We created applications in PS to emulate the legacy system manufacturing environment. This proved in the long run to be a mistake. Within the distribution system the acquired company and Larson shared the same customer base with a few additional customer. The transition to deliver the acquired company products using the Larson distribution system was a seamless transition.

All remaining modules of SCM went live on the same day.

Conclusion

Our goal was to have a seamless integration from the legacy system to PeopleSoft. We did succeed with minimal disruption to our customers deliveries. We also learned that mirroring the legacy system of the acquired company is not the best plan and should be scrutinized very closely before treading down that road.