



NEWSLETTER

INTEGRATED SHIPPING SOLUTIONS WITH DATASCOPE'S TMS MODULE

We've developed our Transport Management System (TMS) module to be able to automatically integrate into your shipping solutions to ensure that the processes on your distribution center floor are fully integrated and automated. The TMS module contains core entities – called plug-ins – that provide an extra layer for you or your developer to manipulate any of the data going in or out of the WMS, thereby enabling all of the interfacing between your normal WMS and an external, third-party shipping software. Normally, there are standard cloud-based solutions (ProShip, Logistyx, FreightPOP, etc.) that integrate with FedEx, UPS, USPS and other carriers doing the actual integration work.

The TMS module creates the interface layer between the DATASCOPE WMS and any one of those third-party software solutions on the floor. The net effect of this interfacing is on the floor itself. There, you can process orders easily and let the automation take care of shipping, labelling and everything else in the

background for you. In this article, we'll be focusing on the steps in between the DATASCOPE WMS and the third-party software.

TMS Initial Validation Process

There are 3 checks that make up the initial part of the TMS process:

1. Address validation to check that the address is correct. This helps you avoid penalty fees for incorrect addresses, particularly on small parcel orders.
2. Type validation applies specific rules to the order and decides if it's best to ship as LTL, FTL, or a small parcel order. The rules can be modified easily within the system.
3. Rate shopping analyzes every freight company to find the cheapest option. This choice then automates back into the software and sets the carrier for shipping.

When using the third-party software and validating the address, the third-party carrier will validate the



Visit our website
www.datascopewms.com





address itself and send you the final answer. There are times when some of those third-party shipping solutions do not have a validation process in their software. In those cases, there is a standard interface into US Postal Service (USPS) that has a standard cloud-based address validation service so you don't get hung up on the validation process.

It doesn't matter who you're integrating with because the plug-ins allow you to integrate into pretty much anything, as long as it's a cloud-based solution. All the integrations into the WMS are updated – dates, addresses, types of shipment, carriers, etc. – and the tracking numbers are all integrated into the software as well. You can eventually go back into an order to see what tracking numbers are processing and query them with the carrier.

Small Parcel vs LTL Orders

Once the TMS module is turned on, this initial 3-step validation service needs to process those orders and they need to be in the correct state before they can be released to the warehouse for picking. Once that happens, the normal picking process and picking release takes place. That's followed by the normal checkout area processes. From the checkout area, however, shipping will be slightly different depending on whether the order is a small parcel or LTL.

On a small parcel order, you integrate with the TMS every time a carton is generated. On the other hand, LTL order typically goes a slightly different way through the warehouse and all of the information will be sent all together at the end.

Rather than using conveyor lines, it involves pallet loads of product that are picked and brought to a checkout area of the floor. The checkout area

processes the cartons with any labelling requirements, loads them into a pallet and moves the pallet to the shipping area. In the shipping area, the pallet wrapper weighs the pallet and adds dimensions and mass so the TMS module can properly re-rate shop the order. Finally, there is the loading stage where the pallets are physically put into the trucks.

Why Use the TMS Module?

The purpose of the TMS module is to create an environment where order processing on the floor – small parcel orders, LTL orders, etc. – are running through the same processes that you run currently. However, the integration will happen on the back end so there is no need to go into a different shipping software. The solution will automate all of it behind the scenes.

We've accomplished the entire integration through plug-ins; we have already written plug-ins for ProShip, Logistics (formerly ADSI) and we're currently working on integrating with FreightPop. It doesn't really matter which solution you choose as, ultimately, you can take those plug-ins and use them or adjust them any way you want. If you use a different third-party shipping solution, the mappings can be easily developed by mapping the files across, which your DSP will normally do.

The TMS module also has a few other features and perks:

- Tracking information can be sent to the customer's email address using triggers, either when the carton is generated or the shipment is shipped.
- Caters to manual deliveries and manual capture of tracking information.
- Easy to validate US and Canadian addresses in the same shipment by combining standard, cloud-based validation with a custom plugin.
- All interfaces and plugins are set up for cross-border shipping and billing throughout the delivery process.

The TMS module is for situations where you've outsourced your shipping and you want to let the software determine how best to ship it, including cheapest options and necessary documentation. Hopefully, those with large distribution centers will find this helpful for automating processes on the floor. For more detailed information and software demonstrations, please watch our TMS Module Webinar or contact DATASCOPE today.

LEADING SYSPRO COMPANIES RUN DATASCOPE® WMS. DO YOU?

PFLUG GOES LIVE WITH DATASCOPE WMS

Pflug Packaging & Fulfillment is a one million square foot facility located in Lathrop, California providing packaging, warehousing, and fulfillment services to variety of large and medium sized companies in the grocery, beverage, and other consumer and B2B markets.

Pflug prides itself on being fast and flexible with the ability to ramp up quickly and provide their customer with superior inventory control and tracking.

The project included implementing SYSPRO and DATASCOPE simultaneously, with Systems Advisory Services (SAS), a new DATASCOPE solution provider, taking on the challenge. Amidst a few Covid-19 related delays and restrictions, the site went live mid-August, with a project team on site and remote, and all



**PFLUG PACKAGING
& FULFILLMENT**

scanning devices running the DATASCOPE WMS HTML5 module only.

A big driver, and main benefit for the PFLUG team was the ability to place trackIDs on hold to prevent specific lots or trackIDs from being shipped or used in production.

The customer's tracking numbers are also kept in DATASCOPE as custom form fields and allow PFLUG Packaging and Fulfillment to satisfy any of the customer's tracing requests.

Plans are now being put in place to roll out the solution to the next warehouse in Atlanta toward the beginning of 2021.

We are confident that with the work ethic and drive that this team has, they will be up and running very soon!



STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that Mevida Crasta joined our USA Charlotte office in October as Technical Software Engineer. For the past seven years Mevida has worked in various IT roles internationally from Systems Engineer, Business Strategy Intern, Oracle Consultant to her current position at DATASCOPE North America.

Her qualifications include B.E. Computer Science Engineering and more recently a MBA, IT Analytics



and Marketing. During her studies she achieved numerous honors and accolades.

As a highly qualified and skilled software developer, her role is to provide DATASCOPE WMS technical support to the Channel Manager and DSP Channel.

Over the past three months, Mevida has settled down well and we wish her a great career at DATASCOPE.



WINDOWS MOBILE TO ANDROID

One of the key aspects of DATASCOPE WMS is the mobile "on the floor" software component. This allows the operators on the warehouse floor to interact with the system to both obtain live up to date information, as well as process transactions which update both DATASCOPE WMS and SYSPRO immediately.

Up until a few years back, this market was dominated by the devices running the Windows Mobile (WM) operating system (OS). Almost all devices on the market had some form of this OS running on their devices and it was proven and reliable in its time. Eventually Microsoft discontinued the latest version of WM around 2013 along with the latest WM Development environment Visual Studio 2008.

With the onset of the more advanced Mobile Phones and Tablets there was a strong drive to find a new



OS to dominate this market. As time went on the Android platform crept its way into the ruggedized warehouse devices for Honeywell, Cypherlab, etc taking up the new OS. The uptake on these devices was probably the most noticeable delay in Android reaching the warehouse floor.

In January 2019, DATASCOPE WMS took on the challenge to move over to Android Devices with the new HTML 5 based mobile solution. One year later 60% of the Windows Mobile application base had been converted and today the full suite of applications is available. Together with this, an advanced and highly flexible framework has been built to support custom applications with the HTML 5 interface, allowing customers to build and copy applications as per their custom needs.

AGILE TO DEVOPS JOURNEY

In this article we will take a look at the journey from Agile to DevOps, but before we can truly understand this transformation, we need to take a look at the Agile Manifesto. Almost two decades ago, in 2001, the Agile Manifesto changed the development industry and became the leading way in which both small and large companies ran their development processes.

In its most basic form, the Agile approach breaks down the large development tasks into smaller chunks of work, called Stories, which can be delivered in shorter intervals, called Sprints. This iterative process allowed for more control and correction within the process, as opposed to the old waterfall "big bang" approach. Defects and process problems can be identified and corrected early on in the lifecycle.

The Agile approach has been refined over the past 20 years and is a highly efficient development methodology today. While this methodology is great for development and coding aspects, it lacks some of the critical downstream process management of integration and

deployment. Also with the advent of automation within today's processes there is more to the software lifecycle than that defined by the Agile banner.

Based on this evolution, a new notion has been introduced, namely DevOps. DevOps is essentially an encapsulation of the entire software lifecycle, including the Agile development, Automation, Continuous integration (CI) and Continuous deployment (CD). Essentially DevOps is not a replacement of Agile, but rather an extension, taking on more of the critical downstream processes and people into account.

Some key benefits of extending an agile environment into DevOps already experienced in the DATASCOPE community are:

- Product Stability and Reliability
- Speed implementing new Features
- Reduction in Defects
- Faster time to Market
- Collaboration between Dev and Ops teams