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YAS GLOBAL LOGISTICS

Integrated Software Solutions for Logistics and Freight

Yusen Air & Sea- Inventory across the Internet

DCS Transport and Logistics have recently announced a new web-based product aimed at all providers of managed warehouse services.

Yusen Air and Sea is one the leading global forwarders, providing air, sea and land-based services from 140 branches throughout Asia, Europe and the Americas.
Since its establishment in 1955, the company has steadily expanded its stock of warehouses and is making vigorous efforts to extend the scope of its electronic trading with its clients.

YAS see that the biggest change in the forwarding industry in recent years has been the growing sophistication of supply chains. They have kept abreast of developments in supply chain management and took their first steps into contract logistics services over 10 years ago.

Yusen US
Established in North America in 1968, Yusen USA offers multi-modal international air and seafreight forwarding from a network of 28 offices across the United States.
Within the US, they have also set up an extensive domestic network to complement the international operation, feeding cargo from trucking services in and out of the airfreight hubs.

Yusen offer a full range of logistics services to their US customers, ranging from basic ware-housing to contract logistics and supply chain management, so this is a natural area for the deployment of Webstock.

Webstock at work
Yusen have a distributed network of computers across the US, so collating inventory information from a number of nodes for their larger clients is a key requirement.
Webstock is the answer. Yusen have now completed field trials in the US and are starting a national roll-out.

Internet Enquiries
After log-in, a Main Menu is displayed with a full range of options.

Stock balances for a whole page of products are available from the Depot Stock Enquiry, with the ability to drill down through individual pallets of product to see further details such as lot numbers and production dates.

The Article Stock Enquiry gives a complete picture of balances across all depots for a single product. No matter if each figure comes from a different WMS, Webstock integrates the data to give a single view. This simplifies management of the supply chain and helps with decisions on locating stock where it is most needed.

Supporting these is a History Enquiry, showing the effect of stock movements over time. A key feature here is the ability to select any time period, not just the start and end of the accounting month.

Access Control
Although Webstock may be handling stock for hundreds of end-users, each client can only view his own stock during an enquiry. Access during the log-in is strictly controlled by user-id and password. Security administration is controlled by the 3PL, who may allot a number of different user-ids to a single client if many users need the facilities.
The same applies to shipping orders, with details only available to the owning client.

Case Study

1 of 3

From a server based in New York, it will integrate stock details from Yusen's New Jersey, Cleveland, Detroit, Houston and Los Angeles depots and present this across the Internet to their customers, giving them access to item balances wherever they are, 24 hours a day.
Further implementations in the UK and Benelux are also under way.

The Benefits

Using Webstock has given Yusen the power to receive and deliver information cheaply.

Their warehouse staff are still around to handle queries on orders and inventory, but with the basic questions answered by Webstock, the staff can concentrate more on the details that characterise an ISO-quality operation.

And with on-line ordering increasing the accuracy and speed of the distribution operation, quality gains are not slow to follow.

The concept

Webstock is a new Internet information tool designed specifically to meet the needs of the Third Party Logistics community. For the first time it provides end-users with the capability to make inventory enquiries and place shipping orders for stock that may be located anywhere in the world.

Versatile

Anyone with access to the Internet can use Webstock, as long as they are authorised clients. And they can log in from anywhere, even from a laptop on the move.

Webstock can access stock held in multiple warehouses, even if these are on separate computer systems. It integrates the results to present a single view of all the available resources. It can also work across different WMS and hardware platforms.

Goodbye EDI

For the smaller end-client who may be nervous about investing in a dedicated EDI link, Webstock offers a real alternative to sending shipping orders to the 3PL by e-mail or fax.

An easy-to-use order entry process is included. This allows the client to enter all details of his shipping order, including notes and handling instructions, and also check stock availability at the holding warehouse. The progress of each order is updated and can be tracked on-line.

Better Service

This means that the end-user is now much more in control of his managed inventory. With the ability to view stock on-line, to track orders and print reports, many of the routine requests for information can be handled by Webstock, freeing the 3PL staff to concentrate on managing the quality and timeliness of the operation.

Data is Central

Key to the Webstock approach is a central database that holds all the information needed for the stock enquiries and order entry. This resides on its own server, and is completely separated from the operational systems.

Webstock receives its stock information in the form of messages from each operational WMS.

When a relevant transaction (a stock receipt, say) is logged in an associated WMS, the details are passed as a file transfer and used to update the central database.

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2 of 3

A level of resilience is therefore built in. If communication is lost with one of the feeder systems for any reason, Webstock will continue to operate.

Shipping Orders

Along with instant access to inventory levels goes the facility for each enrolled client to enter shipping orders on-line from his own stock and to any of his customers.

Even if there is not enough product currently in stock, the order can still be entered. Depending on the agreement with the 3PL the order may be held back until all the goods are available, or part-shipped at once.

Orders entered on-line are sent by Webstock to the remote WMS where they join orders entered manually or via EDI. The 3PL then manages order picking in the usual way.

Details of order status - entered, allocated, picked and so on, are then relayed back to Webstock after the events take place, so that the status is viewable by the internet user.

Stock Reporting

Sometimes a simple enquiry is not enough. You may need to take details into a meeting for discussion. This is where Webstock's range of reports comes into play.

Menu selections are provided for reporting warehouse in- and out-lists and a history of stock movements for a single product or a range of items.

A view option allows the user to see the report as it would look on the page, and decide whether to send a formatted version to a designated e-mail address. From there it can be downloaded into a spreadsheet for further analysis.

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