

## “Maximizing Warehouse Operations”

Over the past 3-5 years the focus of cost control in business has shifted from the cost of sales and administration to the streamlining of the warehousing and distribution operation. Historically it has been very costly for organizations to integrate sophisticated planning systems into their environments which lack the technical expertise to utilize such software. Vision Logistics Inc. has developed an integrated suite of software tools which now bridges the gap from high cost ERP solutions to the pen/paper method of optimizing the warehouse. Warehouse Professional is an affordable suite of software modules designed to maximize the overall performance of your warehouse.

The modules, Rack Selection, Dock Planner, Warehouse Layout, Slot Master and Benchmark run, as an integrated standalone desktop application, help to answer the questions of how much, how fast, where, when and why we require facilities and staff in the warehouse. It allows the user to answer the “what if” questions quickly and easily, allowing for a complete look at all the options possible.

### How To Improve Your Operations

**Rack Selection** compares variable costs of the various storage medium based on their relative productivity rates for SKU by SKU data. Combined with a fixed area cost and amortized capital cost, Rack Selection makes recommendations on what is the most optimal storage medium.

**Dock Planner** is focused on understanding how the relationship between volumes, shipments, doors, pallet staging and sundry pallets are affected based on productivity and shift patterns.

**Warehouse Layout** is a calculator in design with a graphical drawing engine. By simply drawing a box and selecting a storage medium from a library or rack types, the user can quickly generate racking, calculate pick faces and reserve locations. One of the difficulties in warehouse design is managing racking around columns. Warehouse Layout has an advanced algorithm that will design racking around columns using various rules and adjusting aisles accordingly. This sophisticated tool will also export to MS Excel, allowing the user to quickly create several options, make quantitative comparisons and send the final layout to a CAD application. [See screen snapshots.](#)

**Slot Master** utilizes advanced sequencing algorithms to define pick paths and sorting logic. With the layout now defined in warehouse layout, the user can redefine the chamber / zone and aisle groupings in minutes through a powerful graphical interface. The module will also analyze item pick costs and compare scenarios or what if analysis for least cost opportunities. [See screen snapshots.](#)

Slide 1 - [See screen snapshot](#)

Demonstrates the graphical representation of the warehouse in Warehouse Layout, with the pallet calculations on the right.

Slide 2 - [See screen snapshot](#)

Benchmark calculations show minute values and calculated costs of warehouse activities.

Slide 3 - [See screen snapshots](#)

Slot Master runs based on rules defined by the user. Slotting can be run through 1 of 4 standardize slotting patterns.

**Benchmark** is a resource and labor requirements planning tool. With 18 variables, the user can define expected activity rates and standards for a given warehouse. Further refinement of the model allows the user the option of modifying 54 additional values. These entries allow the user to access and model a facility utilizing sophisticated and in-depth standardized labor tables. Everything from mental processing fatigue rates to acceleration and deceleration speeds for fork trucks is factored into the model. The final outcome is a detailed model of activities, standard minute values and total throughput rates.. This tool allows the user to quickly determine personnel and equipment requirements, budgetary costs and rates. The tool can be utilized to create baseline models and also to rapidly ascertain the feasibility or viability of numerous what if scenarios without ever leaving your desk! The predictive capability of the product can now help maximize current staffing requirements and reduce the added cost of overtime or temporary employees.

Through a combination of imported data from the customers current ERP/WMS system and exports in standardized formats the Warehouse Professional can help answer most questions facing today's warehouse or operations managers. The product has been designed to optimize the warehouse for any business which can be proven in the wide variety of current vertical markets where the software is being used. These include Apparel, Automotive, 3PL, Grocery, and Retail Distribution.

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