Automating Last Inch Handoff into Self-Serve Success

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Tractor Supply Co.





Opportunity

- 24/7 and 24/5 facilities → back to back shifts make it difficult to staff RF rooms
- Centralized location creates inefficiencies
- Need reduction in manual effort, better asset control managing check in/out of hardware





Solution Approach

- DC GM built a compelling business case for implementation. Cabinets: key to optimizing device management
- Piloted Apex cabinets in new DC in NY - just under 1MM square feet
- Positive feedback from pilot within the first 3 months; helped drive decision to expand to other facilities
- Given success of first installation, we plan to deploy across our remaining distribution facilities

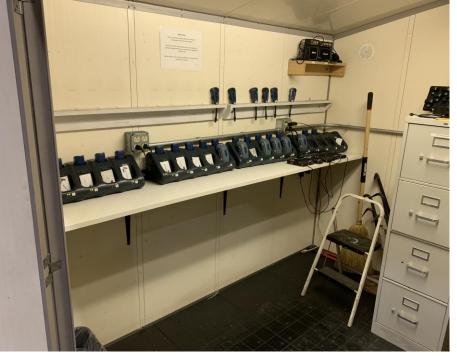


Impact

- Efficiency due to decentralization of cabinets within the DCs
- Supervisors able to do shift prep instead of issuing hardware
- Plan ahead for peak Flexibility of hardware type & quantity









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Other Results

- Increased accountability (reduction in shrink and damage)
- Future expansion at the cabinet level or at facility level





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Taking automation beyond last inch

- Tight Labor Markets
- Need for more Capacity
- Fulfillment as a Competitive Weapon



Trends in Asset Management

- Tie People to Assets
- More efficient checkin and check-out
- Accountability



Key Takeaways

- The cost of doing nothing is not nothing
- Communication across the organization is key to success
- ROI can come in many shapes and sizes



For more information:

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