The Plex Manufacturing Cloud's Multi-Plant Features

At a Glance:

- Today's manufacturer demands a sophisticated network to track inventory, production, and scheduling across multiple locations in different time zones and on different continents.

- The Plex Manufacturing Cloud extends beyond what status quo ERP solutions provide by defining which solution structure best meets the unique needs of the manufacturer.

- This paper showcases features that provide the ability to manage multiple facilities, divisions, and operations with a standard solution to track invoicing, inventory, accounts receivable, production, and other mission-critical functions.

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Plex Cloud ERP Multi-Plant Features

Manufacturers require a sophisticated network to track inventory, production, and scheduling across an enterprise that includes multiple locations in different time zones and, at times, continents.

Companies unable to share data across their network find themselves working less efficiently, creating more waste, and lacking the ability to see manufacturing processes in real time.

Plex Systems has extended beyond what status quo ERP solutions can provide by defining which solution structure best meets the unique needs of the customer.

Variations for Plex customers typically either reflect multiple buildings within a single tenant (i.e., a single organization within the Plex database structure) or multiple tenants within an enterprise. Each manufacturing environment requires the solution architecture that best addresses those unique needs.

Multiple buildings within a tenant

A single tenant may contain several buildings within a facility or several facilities in different locations. Typically, buildings within a facility are in close physical proximity to each other and part of the same financial entity. The separate buildings can house different functions within the manufacturing process, including warehouse capacity, back-office functions, or redundant manufacturing stations.

"The system tracks ERP processes across multiple facilities in different countries, states, provinces, as well as joint ventures."

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Multi-plant manufacturers within a tenant can effectively leverage Plex to easily manage many details of resource planning:

- Individuals can be assigned by building, limiting operator access to only required and appropriate information.

- Inventory transactions such as viewing, adjustments, and shipping can be restricted by building for better control.

- Inventory locations can be specified by building and locations within buildings, if desirable.

- Inter-plant shipments and receipts can be supported and tracked with barcoding and mobile readers.

- Operators can track in-transit shipments between buildings in real time.

- Inventory minimums and maximums for purchased parts and supply items can be established on a building-by-building basis.

"Sharing data across the enterprise increases efficiency, reduces waste, and helps companies see complete manufacturing processes in real time."

These features of multiple facilities within a single tenant provide significant advantages for the enterprise:

- All transactions for each individual part take place within one tenant, simplifying record collection and storage.

- All customer orders and releases are accessible from one tenant.

- All supplier purchase orders, inventory data, production, and shipments are consolidated into one easily accessible tenant.

- For financial tracking, one chart of accounts and all transaction are in one general ledger, which simplifies reporting and consolidation.

- One currency is identified and established as the base currency although transactions can occur in multiple currencies.

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- The single tenant enables manufacturers to minimize deposits and check runs for supplier transactions.

Inter-plant transfer from multiple buildings within single tenant: Machining Building to Warehouse
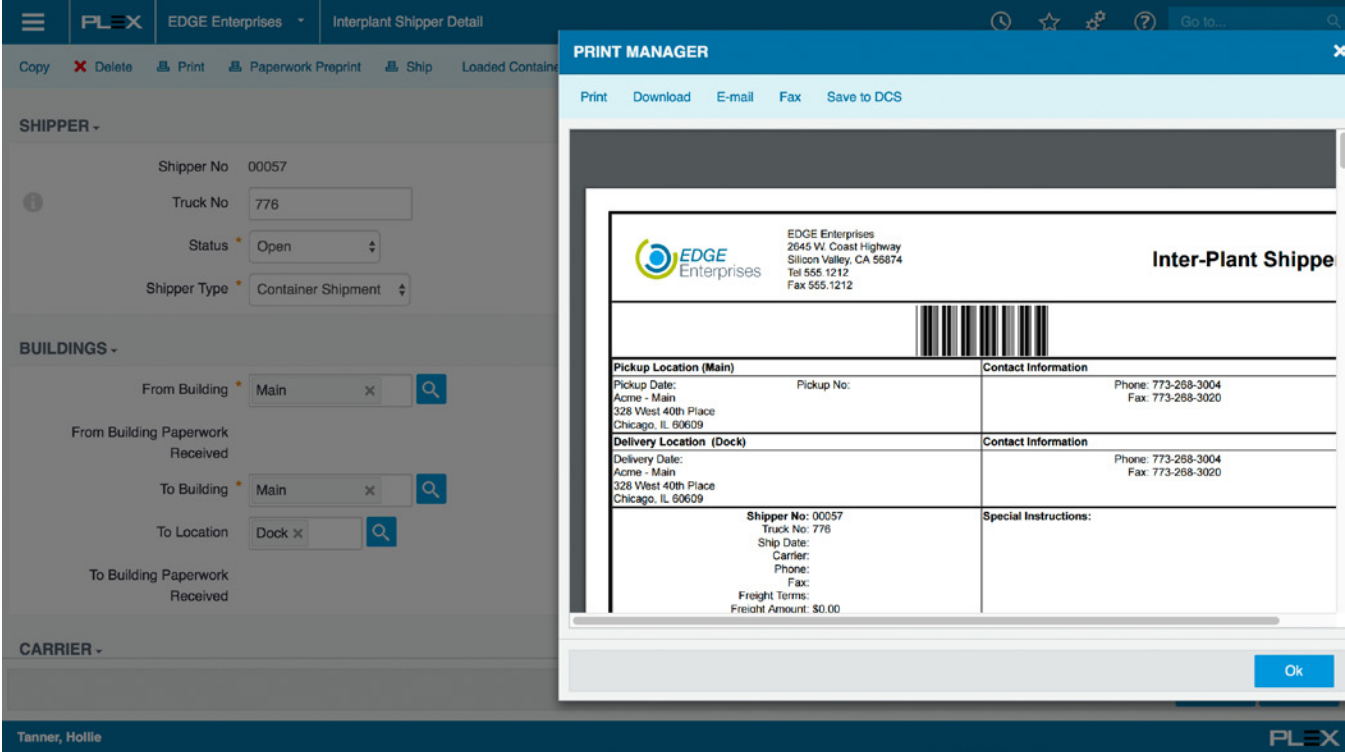
Multiple tenants

For a number of reasons, it may be convenient for an enterprise to embrace the multiple-tenants model to best meet its needs. Enterprises that have multiple facilities in different countries, states, provinces, or that are involved with joint ventures and different legal entities will find it more efficient to track ERP processes with multiple tenants.

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These tenants may not be in close proximity to each other or even within the same financial entity.

Benefits of multiple tenants to the enterprise are varied based on the individual companies, but frequently are desirable based on the complexity of the organization:

Each separate tenant uses a separate chart of accounts, which allows for easy monitoring of each individual entity.

Consolidated financial statements are aggregated to create a consolidated report.

- Each tenant can establish a currency which can be translated and consolidated in an enterprise-wide report.

- Production costs for each tenant are maintained separately.

- Transactions between tenants are managed the same as external customers and suppliers.

- Deposits stay in the tenant to settle customer invoices.

- Check runs can be restricted to each tenant for supplier transactions.

- Cross-tenant journal entries can also be accommodated, if desirable.

The multiple-tenant model also allows for a variety of cross-tenant reports which help manage the various manufacturing processing throughout the enterprise. Examples include:

- Cross-enterprise supplier invoices report.

- Consolidated AP aging report.

- Cross-enterprise customer invoices report.

- Consolidated AR aging report.

- Cross-tenant project accounting.

- Cross-tenant account activity report.

- Cross-tenant payment register review, drill down.

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Sample of cross-tenant reporting options

Whether a manufacturing enterprise would best function with a single tenant or multiple tenants, Plex product managers are capable of providing the technology solution that will best serve your organization's needs.

Business solutions can be challenging, but Plex believes that by providing the right infrastructure it can simplify the process and leave manufacturers to tackle what they are best at— manufacturing, not maintaining technology platforms.

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Multi-Plant Features in Action

Formerly a division of Delphi Corp., Inteva Products, LLC, is a global tier-one automotive supplier with 17 facilities on three continents including two joint ventures, six countries, and four U.S. states.

The company manufactures interior systems including cockpits, closure systems, and window lift systems used by automotive manufacturers, and it is also expanding into non-automotive markets.

When Inteva was launched as an independent company, the company standardized its information systems and data management with the Plex Manufacturing Cloud.

The solution helps manage multiple facilities, as well as a supplier network of approximately 2,500 companies across the globe.

Notes Dennis Hodges, CIO, Inteva Products, "Using Plex's multi-plant features, I can access balance sheets and income statements from each individual facility. With 14 facilities on two continents, I can easily compare each facility for output, efficiency, and relative value to the organization."

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About Plex

The Plex Manufacturing Cloud is the first and only cloud ERP built to meet the tough requirements of today's manufacturers. Hundreds of innovative companies, across industries including aerospace and defense, food and beverage, and motor vehicles, rely on Plex to operate their manufacturing businesses and generate profit from every inch of the plant floor. With insight that starts on the production line, Plex helps manufacturing companies see and understand every aspect of their business, enabling them to lead in an ever-changing market.

White Paper

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