

Case Studies

- Replacing a PLM costing function
- Salesman Sample Inventory Management
- Fabric and Garment Manufacturing Costing
- Catalog Pricing & Content Management
- Vendor Compliance Audits



Replacing a PLM Costing Function

Client Description

Large specialty apparel retailer

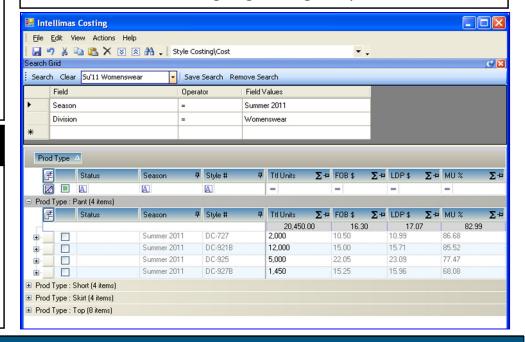
Business Problem

This company recently implemented a leading supply chain management (SCM) system. The system has comprehensive costing and RFQ functionality which can handle the product costing for this company but required the users to input data in a variety of screens in order to set up the quote and then fully cost the garment. This functionality was rolled out and immediately the end users complained that it required too many clicks and screens to get the job done. So the users stayed with the spreadsheets.

Solution

We created a costing entity in Intellimas that retrieved styles from the SCM system. Freight and duty were driven off the SCM system tables so the users did not need to think about this. Requests were set up to hold various costing scenarios that are presented to the factory. Once a cost scenario is selected, LDP and retail price is sent back to the SCM system in order to close the loop.

- 1. Costing spreadsheets and an arduous SCM process were eliminated
- 2. End users can compare many quote scenarios at one time and select different ones for margin rollup purposes
- 3. Costing scenario selection and retail price changes are made in real time in seasonal costing meetings
- 4. One-click pivoting allows managers to slice and dice the costing and margins by product type, country, and other criteria.
- 5. Management reports were generated in their BI tool which allowed for ongoing costing analysis





Salesman Sample Inventory Management

Client Description

Mid-sized handbag wholesaler

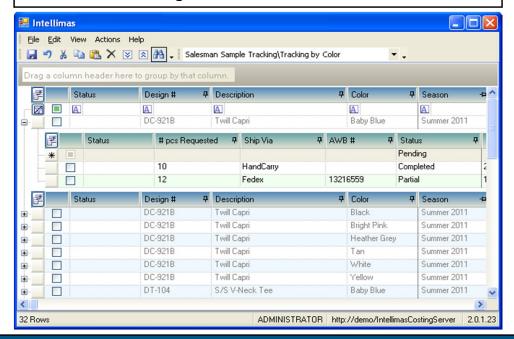
Business Problem

This company was importing many salesman samples each season. Once they came into their corporate office, the samples would be distributed to salespersons. They would then lose track of the samples because they had no system to manage them. These lost samples could have been reused or sold off in sample sales so this company was losing a ton of money because of this lack of tracking. They considered using their ERP system to handle samples with purchase orders and "customer" orders but this would have been too labor intensive.

Solution

Intellimas was configured to handle the tracking of samples from the factory to the corporate office. Then we enhanced the entity so that internal users could receive the samples, transfer the samples to the salesman, and the update the inventory balance accordingly. Pricing was also associated with each sample order so that the value of these samples at each location could be reported.

- 1. Samples were a significant hit to the bottom line for this company and now they were able to immediately have a handle on where each sample was at any given time; in transit, at the corporate office, or with a specific salesman.
- 2. The business teams were able to keep up with the tracking because it was very easy to find and update style sample movement.
- 3. We created reports on top of this sample entity so they were able to use these in meetings or to help finance record accounting transactions.





Fabric and Garment Manufacturing Costing

Client Description

Mid-sized vertical knit manufacturer and wholesaler

Business Problem

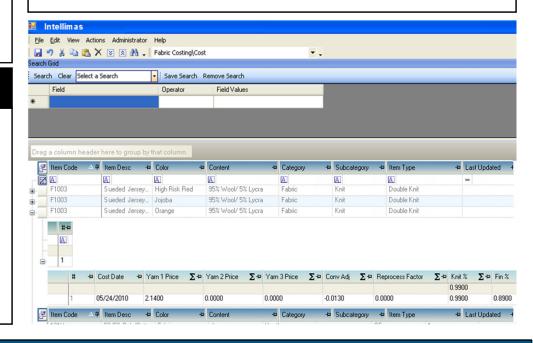
This company was dealing with a very rigorous internal process to reply to retailer RFQ's. The process was handled on a spreadsheet that was passed to every department in order to come up with a quote. They were completely vertical so every cost of the garment, from yarn to outbound freight, needed to be accounted for in order to respond with a competitive price. The smallest error could cause a major loss on an order.

Solution

We created several entities in order for our client to get the most accurate quote, as quickly as possible.

- 1. Fabric entity that accumulated cost for all aspects of fabric cost; yarn, dye, labor, etc.
- 2. Engineering entity which calculated garment labor costs based on plant labor rates and the estimated SAM's.
- 3. Style costing entity which retrieved the above costs and then added table driven landing costs in order to come with an estimated landed cost.

- 1. Quotes can be developed in 1/3 the time vs. the old method
- 2. A history is now available in the database which helps with future quotes.
- 3. Variations of the quotes (e.g. with different fabric qualities) are much easier to generate now
- 4. The accuracy of the quotes have improved because a manual process has been eliminated and much of the cost work-up is database driven.





Catalog Pricing & Content Management

Client Description

Retailer of high quality performance apparel for dance and gymnastics

Business Problem

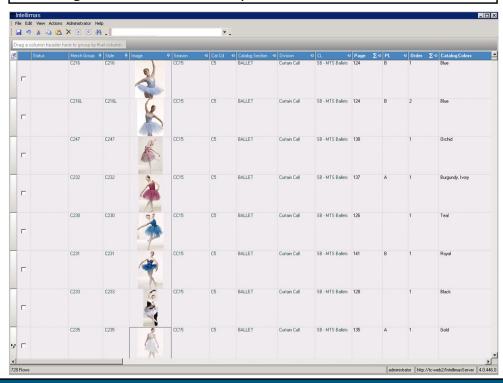
Each and every business activity for this retailer is a lead up to building the catalog. The designers, pattern makers, product developers, costing staff, merchants, and marketing team all contribute to the product content for these very important books that get used almost exclusively in the selling process. All of this information was pieced together from many groups in a very large spreadsheet for each catalog. Keeping up with changes and ensuring accuracy was a massive headache.

Solution

This company implemented a PLM system which helped them better manage the pre-production process, but they still needed to bring it all to one place for full content visibility, and allow the data to extended with attributes that are only related to the catalog.

- First an entity was created to help cost the garment with full manufacturing costs (direct labor, indirect labor, BOM, overhead, etc.)
- 2. Another entity was built to help price the garments in the various sizing to be offered. Both the costing and pricing entities allow for what if's in order to help maximize margins.
- 3. A catalog entity was built to retrieve design, product development, pattern, marketing, costing and pricing information from the PLM system and the other entities. Additional editable fields were added that were specific to the catalog.
- When the season is finalized, the catalog data is then exported to Excel and used for the catalog copy.

- 1. A variety of information was pulled into one place, real time, and was extended with additional data specific to the catalog. They now have one version of the truth.
- 2. They now have a repeatable, standardized process. Accuracy of the data and the time to develop the content were greatly improved.
- 3. Management has visibility of the progress of the catalog and are alerted when costs change.
- 4. Margins can be better analyzed and maximized.





Vendor Compliance Audits

Client Description

Young men's and women's apparel company

Business Problem

The Audit Compliance business process was being managed in a large, specialized, environmental health and safety software application. However, due to a number of reasons (cumbersome multiscreen navigation, lack of security and reporting, to name a few), the client was unhappy with the solution. They turned to Singletree Technologies, knowing the success they've had with other uses of the flexible grid application, Intellimas, already supporting other business processes at this client.

Solution

A new entity was configured to read in all vendor and factory level master data (no integration required) from another system which holds this information. In this case, each vendor/factory may have any number of audits performed, so a second level of data was set up to store who was performing the audit, along with many other attributes regarding the audit dates, notes and results. They also configured a 3rd level of data to capture the Finding Details, including status, severity, categories and groupings, corrective action plans, and any associated attachments.

Business Benefits

As with many enterprise applications, the benefits to managing this business process in Intellimas include:

- 1. Security for the various auditor roles and factory responses
- 2. Access from anywhere with internet access
- 3. Reporting
- 4. Change tracking
- 5. Data validation

However, what sets Intellimas apart is:

- 1. A spreadsheet-like grid that users love
- 2. A unique ability to create a specialized application to support specific business processes for a fraction of the cost of purchasing large scale specialized applications for each business process
- 3. Ability to quickly modify configuration as the business process evolves





Other Applications for Intellimas

- Sample tracking
- Lab dip tracking
- Quality auditing
- Fabric testing
- Product testing
- PO tracking
- \blacksquare MRP

- Assortment planning
- Vendor compliance
- Shipment tracking
- Fabric liability management
- Material commitment tracking



Singletree Technologies

8 Valemont Way Summit, NJ 07901

On the web: www.singletreetech.com

Vincent Candela
President
Singletree Technologies

vcandela@singletreetech.com

908-277-0498

