NEXT VIEW NEWS

March 2023

KEY POINTS

- Automation effectiveness

- Real time visibility

- Productivity improvement

- Performance goals

- Training curves

LMS IN THE RISE OF AUTOMATION

According to research firm Interact Analysis, about 20% of warehouses in 2022 used some form of automation to help address labor shortages, particularly as they worked to handle surging e-commerce orders during the pandemic. This trend will likely continue as warehouse operators look to cut cost and improve their operations. The rise of automation in distribution centers has brought a new set of challenges for managing the workforce. Managing a workforce that effectively integrates automation and human labor is crucial for achieving optimal efficiency. It requires a new approach to labor management, and that is where the Next View Labor Management System (LMS) comes in. The Next View LMS is designed to help warehouse managers effectively manage their workforce and streamline operations, even as automation becomes increasingly prevalent in the industry.
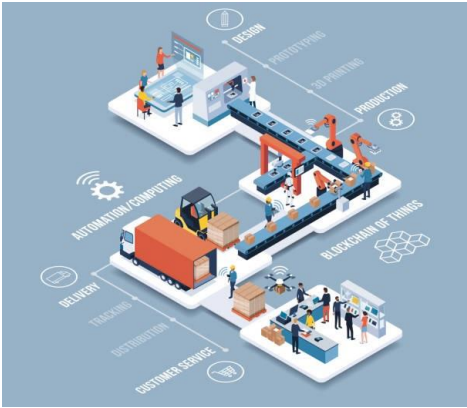
One of the key challenges in managing a warehouse workforce is coordinating the activities of human employees with automated systems. As automation technology becomes more advanced, it is becoming increasingly common for warehouse employees to work alongside robots and other automated systems. However, this can also lead to delays and inefficiencies if the workers are not able to effectively interact with the automation. One such automation system is the goods-to-man station, which can improve the flow of goods through the center by bringing the inventory to the worker. However, simply installing these stations does not always guarantee performance improvement. One of the issues with goods-to-man stations is that workers may have to wait for the station to present the inventory they need. This wait time results in unutilized work time, ultimately reducing the effectiveness of the automation system. In extreme cases, one worker may resort to service multiple goods-to-man stations in order to increase his throughput. To address these challenges, a labor management system is essential. The Next View LMS provides visibility into the performance and utilization of the automation system, allowing managers to gauge the effectiveness of robot/human interaction and optimize it accordingly.

> *Next View LMS provides real time visibility to performance of your workforce and automation.*

The Next View LMS provides tools that allow managers to track and coordinate the activities of both employees and automated systems. The system can provide real-time visibility into the performance of automation, allowing managers to quickly identify and address any issues that may be causing delays. For example, at goods to man stations, the Next View LMS can report idle time workers have to wait for goods

to arrive. The introduction of these robots in a distribution center can be a game changer, as it has the potential to increase productivity, efficiency, and accuracy. However, it is essential that managers have the right toolset to monitor and optimize the interaction between humans and robots ensuring that both are utilized to their fullest potential.

Another important aspect of managing a warehouse workforce is monitoring and improving the performance of individual employees. The Next View LMS includes a range of features that can help managers track the performance of their employees and identify areas where improvements are needed. For example, the system can track employee attendance and productivity, and it can also provide managers with detailed reports on employee performance.

In addition to tracking and monitoring performance, the Next View LMS also includes features that can help managers improve the performance of their employees. For example, the system includes tools for monitoring and tracking training progress.

Overall, the Next View LMS is designed to help warehouse managers effectively manage their workforce in an era of increasing automation. By providing tools that can help managers coordinate the activities of human workers with automated systems, track employee performance, and improve performance through training and development, the system can help warehouse managers achieve optimal efficiency and productivity.

In conclusion, the rise of automation in distribution centers has brought new challenges for managing the workforce. The Next View LMS provides the tools that warehouse managers need to optimize the productivity of their workforce, and to ensure that employees are well-equipped to handle the new demands of the warehouse. With its powerful features, the Next View LMS can help managers achieve the best possible results from their human and automated workforce, making the most of the rise of automation in distribution centers.

ABOUT NEXT VIEW SOFTWARE

Next View Software is an innovative provider of cloud powered supply chain software solutions. Next View's team has been delivering leading edge software solutions and benefits to customers in the global supply chain marketplace for over 30 years. Next View offers the industry leading cloud-based labor management system. Our solution helps you reduce operating expenses and improve productivity of your workforce by providing visibility to all aspects of your operations. Contact our team for a demo of our LMS.