

Gillette Pepsi

Streamlining Accounting Activities Companywide With DocStar



Company Facts

Overview

- ▶ Location—La Crosse, Wisconsin
- ▶ Industry—Beverage distributor
- ▶ Website—www.gillettepepsicola.com

Success Highlights

Challenges

- ▶ Combine the accounting activities of four separate companies into one accounting solution

Solution

- ▶ DocStar® Enterprise Content Management (ECM)

Benefits

- ▶ Added control and visibility of accounting practices companywide
- ▶ Reduced AP processing times by 25 percent
- ▶ Enabled instant retrieval of invoices by multiple users based at four different locations
- ▶ Lowered invoice turnaround time by four to six days



Gillette Pepsi was founded in 1937 as a struggling Pepsi-Cola franchise. However, surging sales coincided with the birth of the “Pepsi Generation” in the early ‘60s and rising popularity of soft drinks nationwide.

Today, the Gillette Group of Pepsi-Cola Companies supplies 670 brands and package sizes to thousands of restaurants, grocery and convenience stores, shops, and stores based throughout southern Minnesota, northeast Iowa, and southwest Wisconsin. This is performed from four separate distribution areas continually supplying customers with brand favorites like Pepsi-Cola products, Mountain Dew, Dr. Pepper, and Mug Root Beer, among others.

“This is an incredibly intense marketplace with the battle for shelf space growing more competitive every year,” said Chad Mueller, director of finance, Gillette Pepsi. “But, we continue to thrive due to the ongoing investment in the communities we serve and constant introduction of new, innovative brands and products backed by the latest technological advancements.”

Centralized accounting control

In 2016, Gillette Pepsi began the search for an advanced content management system that would coordinate the accounting activities of all four companies into one system, while replacing the existing Laserfiche system, which hadn’t been updated for years. After a detailed search consisting of numerous product demonstrations, the company chose the DocStar Enterprise Content Management (ECM) system with advanced workflow, reporting, and intelligent data capture features. After a brief setup period lasting only a few weeks, DocStar went live in August 2017.

“Right out of the box, DocStar integrated with our existing Dynamics GP system from Microsoft,” explained Mueller. “This was extremely important to us. We looked at several other products that just didn’t work for us. Others could be customized, but included exorbitant licensing fees. They

wanted a license for every single user. We have 54 separate users at four locations. Some only use the solution sparingly, so the cost wasn't worth it.

"DocStar came with a perpetual licensing fee that affordably covered multiple users. It was not only the most flexible solution we demoed, it was easily the most cost effective."

Paperless AP automation

According to Mueller, the solution added control and visibility to the company's accounting practices from the first day of use. Prior to DocStar, nearly all of Gillette Pepsi's accounting paperwork was forwarded and received manually through either fax or mail for review and approval.

Today, vendor invoices are received electronically by accounts payable (AP). They are then sent to the proper representative at each company. If correct, all they have to do is hit the approve button and then submit icons. This alone has reduced AP processing times by 25 percent companywide,

allowing accounting staff to take on value-added projects without extending their work hours.

"The solution definitely increased efficiencies in multiple areas," continued Mueller. "All of our invoices were filed in cabinets, making them difficult to readily retrieve when someone had a question. It's also increased the accuracy of our purchasing activities, allowing us to have a far better idea of inventory. Cashflow has even improved since we can now pay invoices at any given time, while taking advantage of the early payment deals and plans of vendors. You don't even have to be in the office to use it. With the proper authorization, DocStar can be accessed from virtually any computer."

DocStar allows users to quickly and easily convert paper files into electronic documents for safe storage on the ECM site. These documents can then be securely accessed from any web browser with an Internet connection or limited to specific inboxes to ensure confidentiality.

Another key feature to Gillette Pepsi was DocStar Forms, which allows users to easily create custom digital documents that can be

accessed from any device. Through DocStar Forms, notifications can then be automatically distributed to selected staff to enhance workflow visibility and ensure the faster, more efficient processing of AP documents.

Electronic processing of 500 monthly invoices

On the job at Gillette Pepsi for the past 25 years, Linda Kastel handles AP activities for the entire company. On a monthly basis, this includes processing an average of 500 invoices.

"DocStar has literally reduced the turnaround time of invoices by four to six days," added Kastel. "It's so nice to handle all these invoices electronically without the need to file paper or continually look through cabinets to track transactions. Everything is now done electronically. Plus, since all the records are centralized in one system, our designated users can go directly into DocStar to immediately pull up information and check the status of any invoice without following a paper trail. This has certainly freed our people to perform higher-value tasks that fit into our ongoing efforts to continually grow the company with new product offerings and enhanced efficiencies."

About DocStar

Helping businesses translate vision into action for more than 20 years, DocStar delivers a flexible and innovative enterprise content management and process automation platform. Easy to implement and use—both in the cloud and on premises—DocStar proven technology and global process expertise empowers organizations to operate at peak performance, navigate change, and grow.



Contact us for more information on DocStar products and services

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