

CASE STUDY

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Shape Corp. provides innovative engineering solutions with the discipline of flawless execution. The company is a full service, tier-one supplier that designs, engineers, tests and manufactures metal and plastic products. Process and material advancements position Shape as a pioneer in custom roll forming and injection molding, and the firm serves multiple industries in more than 15 countries including automotive, o ce furniture, medical, and agriculture. Founded in 1974, Shape remains a family and privately-owned company, employing more than 2,800 associates in the United States, China, Mexico, Europe, Japan, Korea and India.

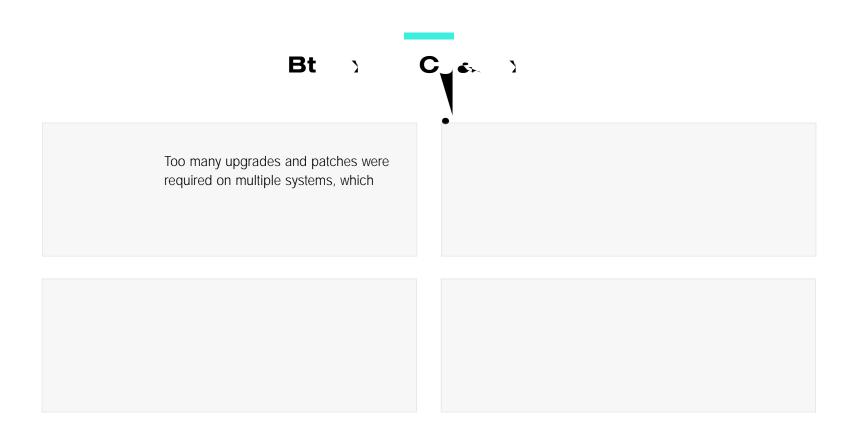
Industry: Automotive Location: Grand Haven, MI





Now the timeline for go live is never an IT constraint, it's down to other operational factors.

> Molly Hunting Director of IT, Shape Corp.





One solution from shop floor to top floor

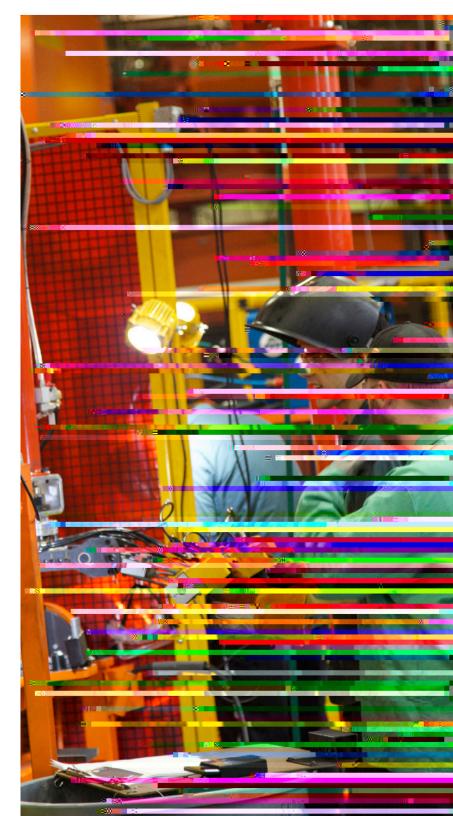
"The Plex Manufacturing Cloud o ers a really comprehensive range of modules," states Hunting, "and we use most of them including HR job processes, time clocks, planning, manufacturing, quality management, preventive maintenance and financials. Anyone in the business with need to, can access data relating to these activities on a variety of devices."

Transformational impacts and benefits

Rapid growth.

The beauty of Plex as a true cloud ERP is that it allows Shape to get new sites up and running with standard processes in just two weeks!

With such speedy deployment timescales, Shape will never need to worry about being outpaced by its competitors. Key processes can be templated, with local exceptions implemented easily. This is a must-have feature for an organization with premises as far afield as China, the Czech Republic and Mexico.





Working with Plex is a pleasure. As a team we appreciate their deep knowledge of both ERP and of manufacturing. But what we really love is the Plex User Community because never before have we experienced such a sense of solidarity and satisfaction.
It is here that Plex-enabled innovations are shared and essential learnings are derived, and where it is possible to see the future of manufacturing enabled!

Molly Hunting Director of IT, Shape Corp.

Real-time visibility and automated reporting

Shape works with a number of alliance partners who complete final manufacturing tasks and distribute finished items locally. Some of these partners have Plex terminals, which allow Shape to view raw material levels in real time, as jobs are completed. In turn, shipping and finance reports can be automatically generated and because shipping data no longer needs to be manually entered, errors are reduced and processing time is increased. Shape can also make cost savings by not having to employ sta dedicated to these tasks.

Sales forecasting/production e ciency

With cross-operational data so readily available, Shape uses Plex as its sales forecasting tool, which enables the firm to model and plan its capacity requirements for several years ahead.

Labor e ciency

Shape has built a Daily Shift Report capability that provides accurate information about the e ciency of its shop floor employees. This data gets sent to production leaders and to plant floor leaders, which they can use to make stang decisions, plan line availability and plot this against skills requirements.

Plex is very easy to integrate with other applications. For Shape Corp, this can be demonstrated through its focus on PLC. It has been able to integrate this custom application with Microsoft Active Directory, so that Plex automatically gives each new starter access to the network and all the resources they need.