

Container TRACKER[®] Product Overview

Container TRACKER[®] was originally introduced to the market in 1998 to address the needs of the automotive industry and other distributed manufacturing applications. In the very early days we thought there was a common and relatively simple solution to this incredibly complex industry. As we worked with our clients we discovered that each had an application or an aspect of their application that was unique. What seemed to be a rich set of features usually didn't meet some important requirement of our customers. Additionally we discovered that many other industries needed solutions to their cyclic asset management problems.

As we developed **Container TRACKER**[®] we found that each cyclic asset management system (returnable containers, chemical distribution with IBCs, propane tanks, IBC leasing, produce containers, waste collection dumpsters, high-pressure gas canisters, railcars, etc.) had unique needs that were central to their business and the way they managed their assets. Cyclic asset tracking in the automated industry was completely different than the tracking required in chemical distribution. We went back to the drawing board and developed a product through three design iterations that would meet these criteria; our product had to...

- Provide a Universal Solution to Cyclic Asset Management
- Provide a Completely Integrated Solution Across Many Industries
- Provide Robust, Powerful & Flexible Management Tools
- Provide a Scalable Solution from small to Large Systems
- Provide a Graphic User Interface (GUI) that is Extremely Easy for Operators
- Provide Sophistication Through Configuration while Maintaining Operator Ease of Use
- Maximize Data Integrity
- Provide Integrated Rules that Prevent Administrative Errors
- Provide Excellent Communication to all System Partners
- Reduce Management & Operator Time Through Sophisticated Automation
- Provide Detailed Management Information that was Precise, Easy to Define and Repeat
- Easily Integrate with Hardware & Software Systems
- Minimize the Hardware and Software Complexity to Support Small Partners
- Be Cost Effective for Small Isolated Systems to Large Integrated Systems
- Provide a Growth Path from the Simplest System to the Most Complex
- Upgrade Easily from Basic Standard Features through the Complete Feature Set

How Do We Do It?

Container TRACKER[®] is a collection of integrated software solutions that address the challenges of controlling and managing *cyclic assets*.

Cyclic assets are items of value that regularly move between areas controlled by the owner of the asset to areas controlled by non-owners. Or, items that regularly move from areas of maximum control to areas of lesser control.

Returnable/reusable containers are the most common example of cyclic assets. Other examples of cyclic assets are IBCs, computers, tanks, dumpsters, cell phones, vehicles, intermodal containers and railroad cars.

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Since its inception **Container TRACKER**[®] incorporated the suggestions of users to address a wide variety of tracking and related issues. In a very real sense the experience of our customers helped us design a set of solutions that can be configured to solve virtually everyone's cyclic asset management problems. Currently there are dozens of installations in the automotive, food, chemical, petroleum and service industries.

Ease of Use

Although **Container TRACKER**[®] provides several hundred features presented by 140 plus screens and menus the operator can perform all their normal activities from a single screen. Their two basic tasks 1) recording movements of assets, and, 2) checking inventories of assets throughout the system are completed on the 'Main Screen'. The operator does not have to navigate through mazes of menus or screens to perform their everyday tasks. The security system allows a manager or administrator to assign various permissions to restricted users from advanced or unnecessary features. Managers or Administrators configure the system and design the rules, automation, reporting, and communication for the system. They use **Container TRACKER**[®] as a manager assistant to provide precise instruction to operators and partners without their continual attention. Configuration allows the system to be incredibly sophisticated while maintaining a simple operator interface.

Management Information & Control Theory

Container TRACKER[®] provides amazingly detailed information through simple selection. This information can be automated to provide 'needs attention' exception information instantly so you can control your local operation. It can also be configured so remote partners communicate with your managers as soon as problems arise throughout the entire network. Whether your partners are in the next town or on the most distant continent they are as close as the web. **Container TRACKER**[®] provides complete local control for your operation and timely information and communication for the remote locations that must be controlled by your partners. **Container TRACKER**[®] provides a combination of tools that allows you to control the activities you can control, and manage the activities of your partners that you can't control.

It makes a solution available for you and your partners that is affordable and manageable for a one person vendor or for a multi-location, multinational organization. **Container TRACKER**[®] truly provides a solution you can't outgrow.