

A man with a beard, wearing a blue quilted jacket and a bright yellow high-visibility safety vest, is looking down at a tablet computer he is holding with both hands. The background is a solid orange color with a subtle geometric pattern of overlapping circles.

FIVE TIPS TO HELP DCs GET MORE DONE, EVERY DAY

Make enterprise device management
your productivity secret



OPTIMIZE, THEN OPTIMIZE SOME MORE

Your distribution center is under intense pressure to reduce costs and squeeze more productivity into each day. That's why you've got to hunt down those overlooked, inefficient processes that quietly rob you of productivity and profitability.

At the top of the list for many DCs is their process for managing scanners, terminals and other mobile devices. They're replacing slow, manual processes and reducing high repair and replacement costs with **enterprise device management solutions**, a move that gives them more control, accountability and added data visibility. These smart locker solutions not only **optimize device management**, they also **increase productivity** and give them more productive hours on **every shift**.

Sound good? Here are five ways your DC can get big results, with a few simple changes.

74%

of DC operators are improving processes to reduce operating costs



SOURCE: "2019 Warehouse/DC Operations Survey" | Modern Materials Handling | November 12, 2019

PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENTS

Scanners, terminals, voice picking equipment and other devices are expensive – and indispensable. They deserve more visibility across your organization, and more accountability from employees who use them.

Self-serve enterprise device management solutions reduce costs while keeping devices secure. You get cloud-based visibility of who checked out each device and when it's due back. Accountability goes up, so devices get returned on time after every shift. There's less damage, loss and hoarding, so you don't need as many spares, reducing inventory needs by as much as 20 to 30 percent.

Reduce device inventory by up to 30% using enterprise device management.

TIP NUMBER ONE

“There's a comfort level in knowing that the equipment is getting put in a location where **we have accountability.**”

Bill Brauer | Former Distribution Center Manager | Casey's General Store | Ankeny, IA



MAKE DATA YOUR FRIEND

You've seen the dramatic improvements possible using data from WMS systems. But until recently, other areas of the operation were in the dark. Enterprise device management solutions shine a light on new metrics like **asset utilization rates, damage, on-time device returns, employee performance**, and other key indicators. Real-time actionable data makes it possible to follow up on a hunch, so managers can quickly sort out a problem and make the needed corrections.

With business intelligence tools you can then see data trends over weeks, months or years. That makes it easier to manage multiple sites and share reports across your enterprise.

Questions your DC should be able to answer

- » Which assets have gone missing?
- » Are our devices being used as much as possible?
- » Which assets get "damaged" more often?
- » Which employees need training on asset care/use?
- » Are assets being checked out/checked in each shift?
- » Which employees damage the most assets?
- » Are employees returning the same assets they checked out?

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45%

are improving
warehouse
information
technology
to reduce
operating
costs

TIP NUMBER TWO

MAKE EVERY MINUTE COUNT

Never assume that five minutes here or there doesn't matter. With real data to look at, you'll uncover the true cost of wasted minutes. A perfect example: having key personnel searching for lost or hoarded devices. This is a common practice that robs DC managers of thousands of hours each year.

Slow shift starts are another culprit. When arriving employees have to walk to a central location and wait in line for their device, each one is losing five to 10 minutes a day. When Ingram Micro's Mira Loma DC introduced self-serve enterprise device management, they saved every associate 25 minutes a week. With roughly 400 employees across three shifts, that meant they saved more than **8,600 hours** a year.



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TIP NUMBER THREE



By having associates starting their work quickly, we can be more productive and maintain that competitive edge with our customers.



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TIP NUMBER FOUR

40%

reduction in
device repairs

— Casey's General Store DC

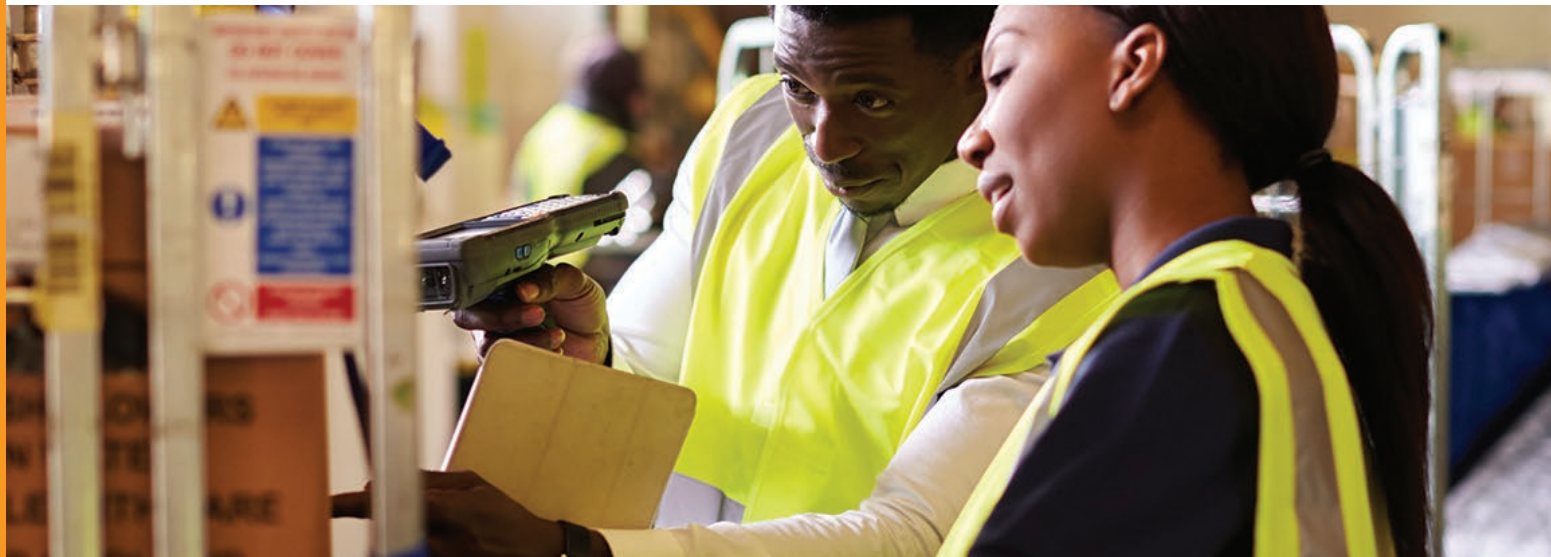
WATCH OUT FOR RUNAWAY COSTS

You're probably spending six figures a year to keep enough scanners or terminals to go around. But what about the hidden costs? High repair and replacement rates can drain your budget and require you to keep a high number of spares on hand.

Modern DCs use enterprise device management solutions to lower or **eliminate those hidden device costs**, while enabling you to **reallocate the labor** previously spent managing those devices.

Generate new savings

- » Fewer assets required
- » Lower repair and replacement costs
- » Labor savings
- » Refresh devices based on quantities you need, not historical buys
- » Relocate extra devices to other areas instead of buying new



YOUR EMPLOYEES WILL THANK YOU

Change can feel risky. But enterprise device management is a proven best practice used by many of the world's leading distribution centers. It often helps **improve employee retention** as well.

After all, self-serve technology gets employees on the floor faster, so they can increase their pick rates (and hit their bonus.) They're happier not wasting time standing in line or looking for a manager to find a working device.

Best practices for an easy transition:

- » Provide training so associates understand the process
- » Once they see how it makes their job easier, employees accept it quickly
- » Look for fast, easy implementation
- » Make sure the solution can easily integrate with WMS and other systems

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TIP NUMBER FIVE

“After checking out a device for the first time, **employees realize how easy the process is** and how much more quickly it can get them onto the floor.”

Brittany Brock | Asset Control Technician | Meritor | Florence, KY





GETTING RESULTS IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK

Talk to Apex to find out how our Enterprise Device Solutions can help you get the productivity, accountability and savings you need. Learn more at **ApexSupplyChain.com/DCWarehouse**.



Technology That **Counts™**

ApexSupplyChain.com/DCWarehouse

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