

Quality Check

A Newsletter from Qualitek Solutions

Process Improvement Network takes Corrugating to the Next Level

Qualitek recently installed their Process Improvement Network (PIN) and Q-Trace software at Independence Corrugated in Milwaukee, WI.

Independence is a sheet feeder and subsidiary of the Schwarz Group. Their main business is short run, specialty orders which can be as small as 300 lineal feet but average around 1700 lineal feet. During a typical shift, Independence will make paper changes every 14,000 lineal feet and flute changes 4 to 7 times. Hence, process settings must be accurate and changed in a timely manner in order to produce quality board.

Qualitek's Process Improvement Network (PIN) is a data collection and analysis system (see Fig 1) which captures key process data as fast as 1 reading per second from any corrugator control system or real-time measurement device. It also interfaces to SQL databases containing quality measurement data or raw material inventory specifications. The integration of this information via Ethernet enables management, using a PC client on the network, to quickly identify and analyze process events and changes in variable values that impact product quality. Time stamped process values are correlated to product quality measurements using trend displays and event reports to optimize the way the corrugator is run.

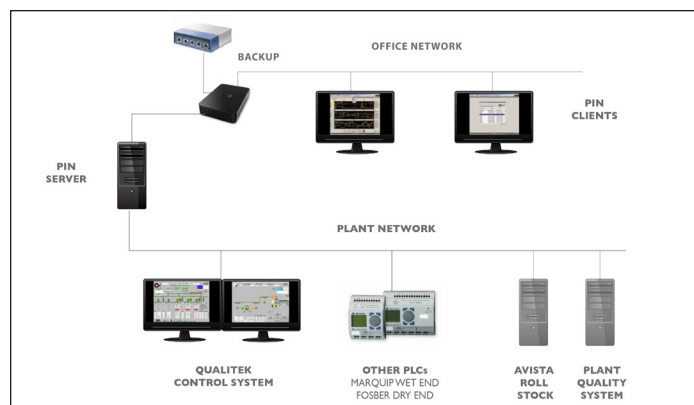
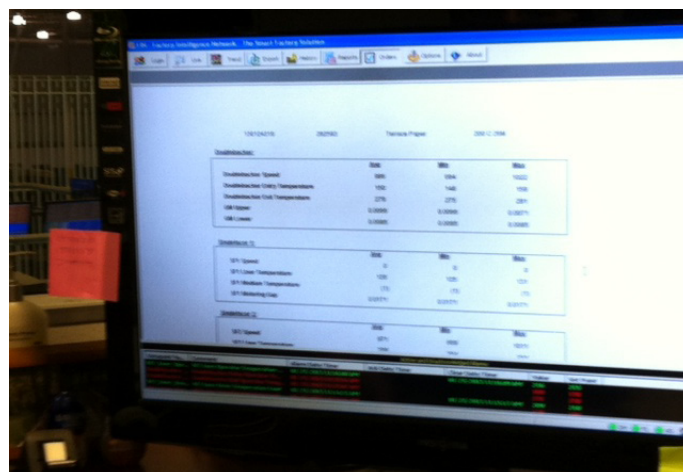


Figure 1

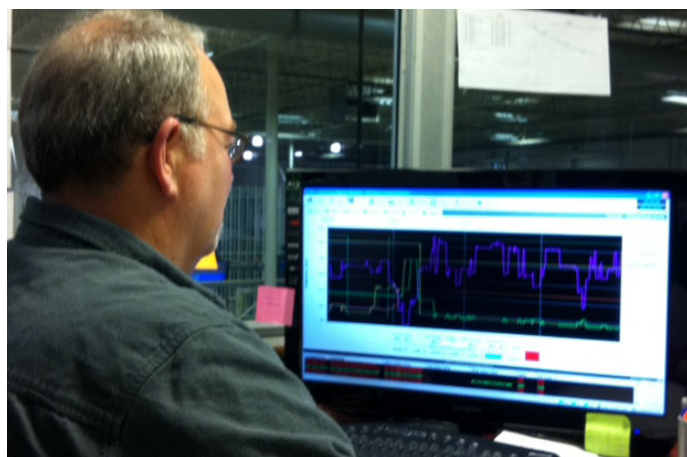
Q-Trace™ is a software application that runs on PIN which provides traceability of process variables and quality metrics for individual customer orders. It shows how each order was run on the corrugator, the roll stock

that was used and any quality measurements that were taken. This documented record of how an order was processed can be used to resolve customer complaints and/or to determine “best run” settings for a particular board grade.



Order Traceability Report

John Lingle, President of Independence and the Schwarz Sheet Feeder Division, says “PIN has been a very worthwhile investment for us at Independence. In order to be the best at what we do we need to have these capabilities to take us to the next level.”



PIN Trend Report

Based on the success at Independence, another Schwarz plant (Freedom Corrugated in Hazelton, PA) recently installed PIN and Q-Trace™.

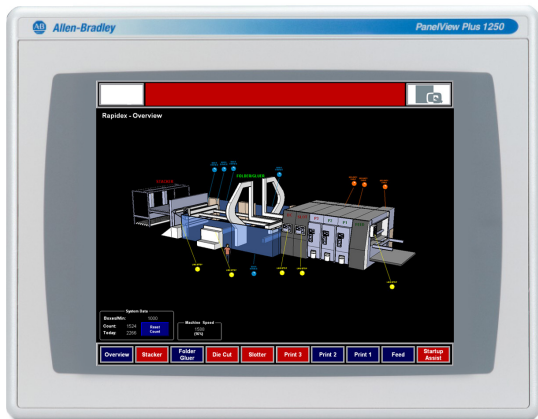
REVIVE™ Converting Machine Controls

Qualitek recently entered into a marketing partnership with CorrQuest, a leading provider of custom engineered mechanical and electrical upgrades for converting and corrugating machines. With this partnership, Qualitek offers REVIVE™, a high-quality, turn-key solution for upgrading existing machine controls.

Upgrading failing and obsolete OEM machine controls can include replacing a set-up computer or a more extensive replacement of the entire machine controls including the drives and motors. To simplify ongoing maintenance and the cost of parts inventories, REVIVE™ utilizes a modern controls architecture which includes standard, off-the-shelf hardware and open source and fully editable software. Comprehensive engineering design, installation and ongoing technical support are provided which eliminates the requirement for multiple vendor management.



Auto Set-up Display



Machine Overview Display

REVIVE™ solutions include an intuitive, rich graphical user interface with built in system diagnostics, recipe set-up displays, start-up assist screens and online tutorials. Past successful projects have included some of the following machines and manufacturers:

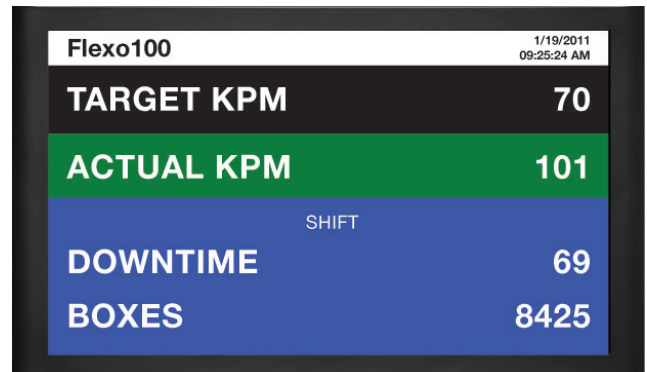
Machines

- Flexo, Folder, Gluers
- Rotary Die Cutters
- Flatbed Die Cutters
- Stackers
- Bundle Breakers
- Conveyor Systems

Manufacturers

- Langston
- Ward/United
- Marquip
- Martin
- ACS
- C&M

Every REVIVE™ upgrade includes an interface module which makes it possible to display production metrics from the machine on Qualitek's Converter Scorekeeper™, a Visual Performance Management solution for the plant floor or mobile devices.



Qualitek Converter Scorekeeper Display

New Employee



We are pleased to welcome Reshun Gethers to the Qualitek team. Reshun is a senior control systems engineer responsible for development, installation and technical support of Qualitek's systems for production and quality control.

Reshun is a licensed Professional Engineer in Georgia with specialization in Control Systems. He holds dual degrees from Albany State University and Georgia Tech in Mathematics and Electrical Engineering. His career has included experience in manufacturing, environmental and traffic control. We are happy to have Reshun on our team!



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4661-A Hammermill Road, Tucker, GA 30084
 Phone: 770.543.0180 • Fax: 770.543.0181
 Email: sales@qsolu.com • Online: www.qsolu.com