



SOLVERMINDS
SOLUTIONS AND TECHNOLOGIES

INTEGRATED SYSTEM

1. Introduction



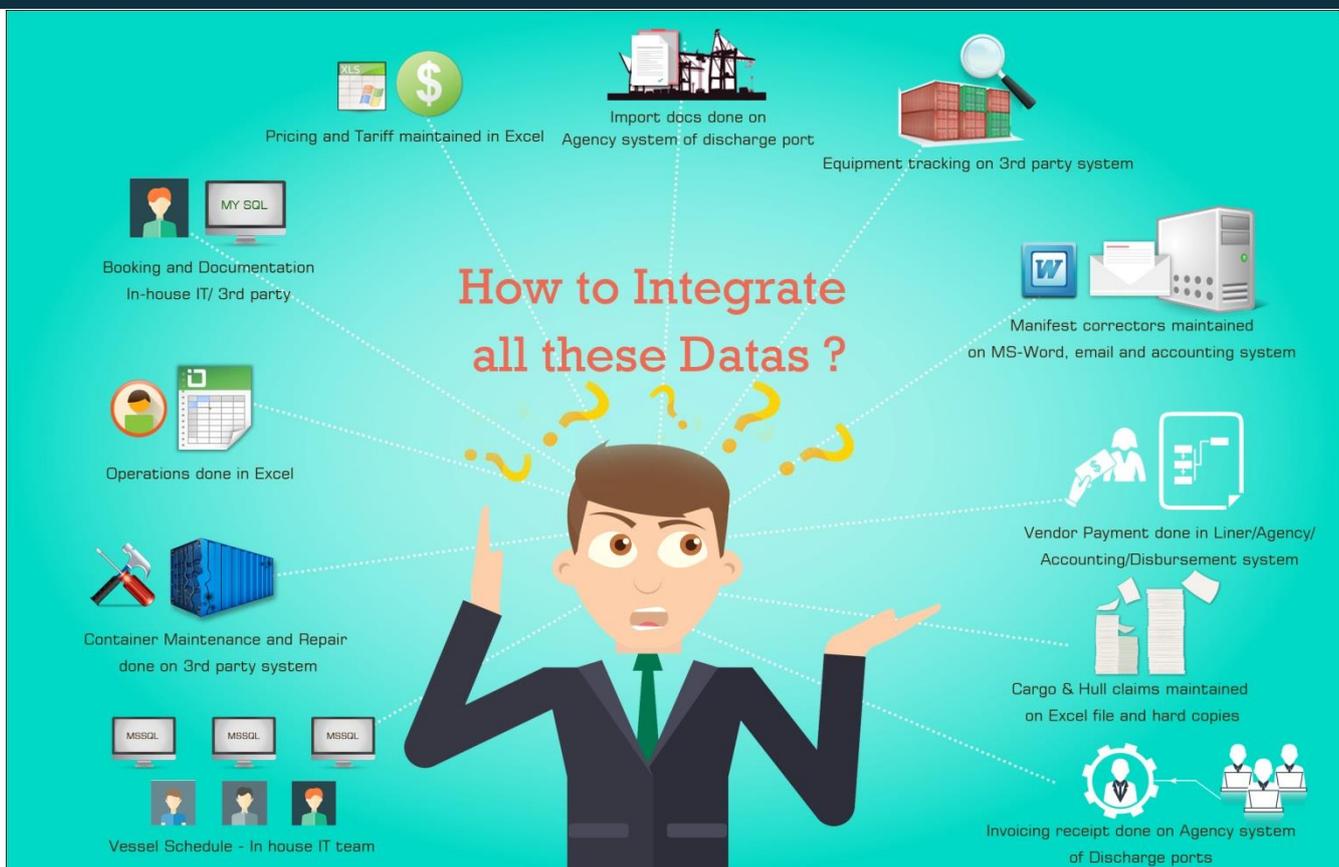
Introduction



Organizations both large and small dedicate significant resources daily in an effort to improve data quality / integration as this impacts ability for their key executives to make better-informed decisions. In the current economic environment, organizations cannot afford to waste resources invest money on systems that are not delivering process improvements and values to business performance. It is critical that for organizations to be successful in the future they need to identify their shortcomings with regards to system integration and take action to remedy the situation. The key to achieving this is to identify a fully comprehensive integrated system that can support the business processes across the broadest scope possible.

Integrated information systems enhance the flow of information across the organization, improving decision-making capabilities and improving the performance of the organization, as a whole the benefits for your organization by adopting a full scope integrated solution are immediate!

2. Current Liner Industry Issues



A Disparate Liner Solution - Involving Multiple Database/System/Vendors/Patch up of Integration using EDI/XML/Excel Files/Manual Updates

3. What is an Integrated System?



Integrated Software Information System are sophisticated software solutions (programs) that replace stand-alone applications of which each handles a different aspect of the business or process.

An integrated system blends and interfaces various “logical systems” seamlessly. The decision to invest in an integrated solution can and will benefit the enterprise. An example of this is to consolidate Liner operations into single system with an associated booking process, allowing efficient and real-time information distribution across the organization end-to-end.



An integrated Liner Shipping system enables you to relay real-time information throughout the organization, allowing users to simultaneously track their bookings and latest container inventory levels thus facilitating efficient effective management decisions that are backed up by real-time data in the integrated system.

“Access real-time data - Supporting Decisions”

4. Benefits of Integrated System

An integrated system promotes efficiency and reduces costs, but without integration, managing multiple systems and ensuring data consistency is a laborious task, which may involve investment in additional systems and expensive manpower. When individual systems are not integrated, staff members have to learn how to operate each element separately. These separate elements have to be manually adjusted at different times, and do not promote efficiency.

The following are 6 benefits, system integration can introduce to your organization easily;

1. Improve Response Time
2. Performance management- Lower Labour Costs and Improve Operations
3. Unified Data Collection
4. Software and Device Compatibility
5. No Double Entry

Most of the benefits of having an integrated solution are relatively obvious if you understand the differences between simply interfacing systems versus actually integrated systems.



5. Integration Vs Interface



Software Interface

Almost all business software applications on the market today should be able to create and accept some type of import or export files. This allows you to transfer data to and from numerous independent solutions.

Let's say, for example completing the export documentation in export system and then sending the data to Import documentation and then a Manifest or Freight corrector being incorporated in the import system, this would cause a double time data entry in both Export and Import systems which causes extra work and doubles the chances of error.

An interface would provide the opportunity to take data from your export system and download it to your import system each time a transaction is created. Now here's the catch: A file must be created or run from the export system and then downloaded to the import system either through a custom interface or through some type of import utility. This might not take more than five minutes, but it's still an extra step you would have to apply to keep your solution up to date and in sync each time you need to work with that system.

An aspect that is important to realise is that your data is then only as current as your last download. Therefore, if you are not frequently interfacing the data, you might find that the data in your application is out of date. For example Freight corrector and impact of the same in Invoicing modules and the possibility of not taking into account a FCN, due to disparate systems.

Interfaces require extra work and are typically not real time, but they are an important means of tying two systems together, eliminating repetitive double entry, and reducing manual entry errors. While an interface may not be the perfect solution, it does sometimes offer the easiest method of eliminating time-consuming double entry and the associated errors that come with that approach.



“Interfaces are only as accurate as the last update”



Software Integration

Full comprehensive integration is always the best solution. An integrated Liner Shipping Solution requires no work and changes actually happen in real time; the systems share the same database, so you only have to add or update data once. If the two systems, from our earlier example were integrated, a change made to a export record on the export document system would show up automatically in your import documentation and vice versa.



“With system integration changes happen in real time”



6. Integrated Systems Unlocks the True Potential



Advance Analytics

Being able to manage BIG DATA is affording high-impact opportunities for organizations across all industries, with new technologies available that help organizations extract insight from the explosion of available information today. With the proper analysis in place, Big Data can help organizations better manage financial performance, improve customer relationships and boost revenues.

Many organisations still operate in disparate silos, focusing on one function or process at a time. Regrettably, this leads to trapping valuable data assets inside the silo, as well as the creation of additional costs, duplication of efforts and a lack of synergy and alignment across departments. The larger the company is, the more harmful silos can be, creating an environment where sharing and collaboration of data is virtually impossible.

“The need for an Integrated Solution is evident”

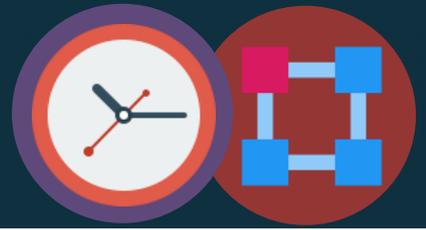
Having the ability to apply analytics to Big Data is increasingly becoming not only a competitive differentiator, but also a key ingredient to identifying hidden insights that can help companies move into new markets. The key to these opportunities is to integrate all data points across departments, providing a holistic view of the organization. But, how can a holistic view across disparate big-data assets are achieved?

7. Implication of Integration



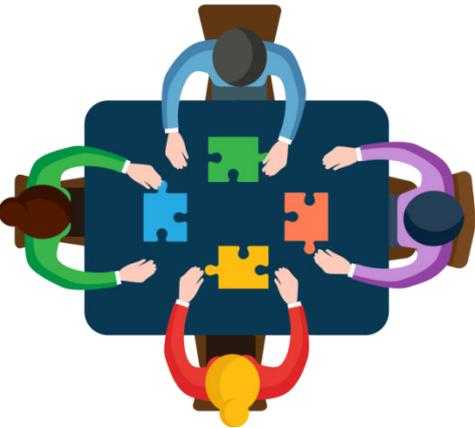
Traditional computing systems, can no longer handle the scale, performance, and elastic provisioning requirements of today’s large information (data) workloads. Old-fashioned systems usually add complexity when trying to integrate with each other and more often than not merely manage to create some level of interfacing but not proper deep integration.

The depth and breadth of the installation and utilization affects the entire operating system and culture. The results are more complex than the improved data and reports that it generates. In short, secured centralized data storage is only the beginning - the implications of integrated work processes will significantly exacerbate the impact on your business.



“Full integration is the only way to survive and compete with cost and performance efficiencies”

8. Conclusion



Overall, integrated systems unite analytics, transactions and middleware technology capabilities, helping companies realize the true potential of the data in their systems and improve their speed agility and competitiveness. Fully integrated system is the only way to survive. Currently, no organization can survive the future by merely interfacing disparate solutions and hope to compete with cost and performance efficiencies achievable with sophisticated integrated solutions being run by their competitors.

SVM LRP/ARP - Liner & Agency Resources Planning system is fully integrated system designed to help container shipping lines and agencies collaborate and manage shipment core competencies on a single integrated platform, ensure consistent data flow real-time, allowing key executives gain unprecedented visibility into their global operations, and make better-informed decisions. The integrated modules provide instantaneous information flow from agency to line allowing immediate analytics and reporting of business performances. The real-time information flow allows all executives from line head office and related shipment agencies to plan, track and monitor their businesses, and take proactive decisions to optimize asset utilizations and reducing cost.

Solverminds LRP/ARP system has powered many container liner-shipping companies and helped them in achieving operational efficiencies, maintain invoice accuracy, improves revenue and cost control processes.