Peoples Supply Company is a Hyattsville, Maryland-based lumber, hardware and building supply company that has been supplying contractors in the greater Washington, D.C. metro area since 1932.

Challenge

When Bill Wommack, general manager of Peoples Supply Company, joined the team, the mostly B2B building supply company was already steps ahead of its competitors in terms of the technology they used to serve their customers.

Over time, new technologies and industry-specific software emerged and evolved; many other regional building suppliers were replaced by big box chains. However, Peoples Supply successfully retained their contractor customers while stretching their tried-and-true software. “We ran that thing to death. For 24 years, in fact,” says Wommack. “The last ten years, we didn’t even have support, but we knew that system so well, we could make it do things that no one believed it could do.”

Eventually, Peoples Supply realized it was time to migrate to a new system. They selected and implemented Spruce, an ERP specifically for lumber and building materials, in March 2017. “We’re still in the infancy with this software, but we do know that nobody would go back at this point, because we realize the efficiencies. But it’s been massive change, a culture change for both us and our customers.”

Implementation

A two-and-a-half-decade technology leap is no easy feat. Rather than a traditional on-premise ERP setup, they opted for the hosted version of Spruce. However, Peoples Supply had to upgrade all of their wiring to support the new cloud model, but this would prevent historic maintenance exposures. “At one point in the past, we got into a situation where we were several versions behind on our software,”

“...we're probably up nine or ten percent this year, compared to last year. And, of course, there are myriad reasons for that, but I have to give credit for at least part of it to our new efficiencies and the support we've gotten in implementing them.”

Bill Wommack, General Manager, Peoples Supply Company
About Us

Scantron Technology Solutions provides managed print and IT services you can count on. Our nationwide team of experts provide full-service packages and à la carte options to be your IT team or to support your current staff. STS solutions meet you where you are and help you get to where you want to be.

Measuring Success and Ongoing Impact

After such a large change, the learning curve has not always been easy. Wommack notes how resistance to change is giving way to some obvious advantages. “Sometimes, someone will say, ‘That’s not the way we used to do it,’ but it used to be when a customer needed a copy of a charge from last month, it could take all morning to find it and get it to them. Now, you can get it done in under three minutes. That has a big impact on our employees’ incentives and commissions.”

Wommack firmly believes that the new systems are also having a positive impact on the company’s bottom line. “We’re probably up nine or ten percent this year, compared to last year,” he says. “And, of course, there are myriad reasons for that, but I have to give credit for at least part of it to our new efficiencies and the support we’ve gotten in implementing them.”

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Bill Wommack, General Manager, Peoples Supply Company

says Wommack. “We pay more for the hosting, but at least we know that the updates are happening when they need to be happening.”

Scantron set up and maintains the firewall for Peoples Supply and oversees network security and administration. “Anything with the network, we call Scantron,” Wommack says. “Even if we’re talking about a service option that we may eventually choose not to go with, it’s always good to talk to Scantron first because I know they know what they’re doing.”

When the company upgraded to Windows 10, they purchased all their equipment from Scantron. In fact, Scantron recommended, furnished, configured, and installed the upgraded equipment on site. Wommack says he appreciated the way everything was pre-loaded for them. “Everything came to us, ready to plug and play.”

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