Scheduling and production control for the corrugated industry
Proven, browser-based corrugated plant scheduling!

PC-Topp scheduling software for corrugators and conversion machines is backed by over 40 years of development and over 300 plant implementations.

PC-Topp integrates smoothly to any ERP or order entry system a customer may be using, bridging the gap between commercial order processing, planning, and production with a cost-effective and proven solution. The integration can be so tight that an order appears in Planning just seconds after it has been received by Sales, and production progress is visible in the host system in near-real-time.

Designed for networked PCs running on Windows, PC-Topp is easy to implement in any environment. And, with Internet Explorer as its primary user interface, it is as easy to learn as it is to use in everyday work.

With PC-Topp, planners quickly adopt the modern Pull Planning approach to scheduling. Rather than creating corrugator schedules first and then lining up the orders on the conversion machines, Pull Planning lets the planner create a longer term plan for each machine in the first place. Knowing which orders are needed when in conversion, PC-Topp then makes sure the right orders are put on the corrugator, reducing WIP (work-in-progress), while guaranteeing the smoothest possible flow of production on the corrugator – the largest and most expensive of all machines. While offering automatic functions where they make sense, PC-Topp lets the planner maintain control, and the resulting schedules benefit from the system’s experience and logic.

“Our problem was the extremely limited intermediate storage area. Often, we had to stop the corrugator although the machines urgently needed the sheets. With PC-Topp, this just doesn’t happen anymore. The increase in productivity allowed us to eliminate 2-3 hours of costly corrugator overtime every day!”
PC-Topp helps you...

**Reduce trim & increase corrugator productivity**

Far better than any planner, PC-Topp’s Corrugator Scheduling finds solutions that reduce trim, increase the average roll width, and streamline production workflows with fewer changes on fewer paper sizes. PC-Topp knows all the tricks of the trade, but if your planner prefers an alternate approach, PC-Topp allows for manual overrides.

**Use modern pull planning to reduce WIP & eliminate downtime**

Pull Planning lets you see into the future and allows you to anticipate bottlenecks before they occur. That way, you should never again have to stop a machine for lack of work, or be surprised that some orders cannot be finished on time. And WIP (work-in-progress) will decrease dramatically because PC-Topp suggests exactly which orders must be run on the corrugator, and at what time.

**React flexibly to last minute changes or production incidents**

Customers today tend to place orders later and later, and then change them at the last moment. In order to stay competitive, you must comply. PC-Topp helps make those last minute changes with ease, and lets you recognise and eliminate any long-term consequences of such a change. And, when unforeseen production issues present themselves, PC-Topp helps you react quickly and minimise the damage.

**Keep everybody informed about order progress and plant load**

PC-Topp becomes the central information point of the plant, allowing quick, easy access to accurate information not just to planners, but to everybody involved. Salespeople can check machine capacity, plant loading, and order progress. Production knows schedules and material requirements in advance. Management can monitor live production or analyse fresh production statistics.

**Connect planning on-line to corrugator and conversion machines**

PC-Topp links on-line to all modern corrugators for schedule downloads at the press of a button and instant feedback from production. PC-Topp Machine Terminals show schedules, order details and CAD drawings right at the machine and provide comprehensive shop floor data collection for detailed production analysis and permanent up-to-date information on production progress.

**Tight production control through instant feedback from production**

Rather than being surprised by incidents in production after the end of a shift, PC-Topp alerts you in real time, allowing you to take action immediately.

PC-Topp allows you to stay informed and in control. By visualising the long term effects of a breakdown, you can intervene and minimise damage before it’s too late.

**Access CAD drawings and order documents anywhere in the plant and in the office**

PC-Topp provides access to CAD drawings, order spec sheets with graphics, or print and die-cut schemas with a simple mouse click. The PC-Topp Machine Terminal puts the drawing of the box right in front of the eyes of the machine operators. And PC-Topp can give access to graphics to everybody in all departments, even over the Internet.
“Whenever we call, we always have someone competent on the line who knows what he is doing and helps us to get things to work quickly and painlessly. I rate PC-Topp’s service as number one among all of our IT suppliers.”

Key Features

- Browser-based (runs on a server and can be accessed anywhere there is an internet connection)
- Automated, optimised scheduling for corrugators and conversion machines
- On-line link to the corrugator and conveyor and warehousing systems
- Shop Floor Data Collection – PC-Topp Machine Terminals and Corrugator On-line Link collect setup, run, end, downtime, breaks
- Live key information at a glance including machine status, production speed, downtime causes
- View current orders and up-to-the-minute order progress
- Detailed production reports and performance analysis summarised by day, week, month, year or other period
- Create customised production reports and statistics with database access via any application supporting SQL
- Access drawings, printing and cutting dies, spec sheets from any computer
- Fully customised pallet labels for internal or external use, even customer-specific labels
- PC-Topp integrates to any commercial system: SAP, RTS, Volume Software, or customer’s own.
- Order data transfer, paper stock, materials availability
- Schedule data, order status, production details
- Export production statistics data to spreadsheet
- User Interface is as easy to learn as it is to use in everyday work (Internet Explorer)
- Multi-language: English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Czech*, Danish*, Lithuanian*, Norwegian*, Swedish*

* Partial language support only. Most parts of the system are in English - only the main shop floor functionalities are translated.
“After using PC-Topp for six months, we had reduced the finished goods store by more than 75%. This gave us the much-needed space to put in a new machine, not to speak of the savings in capital and the inevitable waste that occurs when products are in store for too long.”

PC-Topp’s Impact on the Office

**Corrugator scheduling**

By considering all conversion requirements, PC-Topp suggests plans for orders that need to be corrugated. Cost factor-based optimisation finds excellent results automatically, while Interactive Planning puts the planner in control. The result is a perfectly sequenced schedule for best productivity and trim, and every order is available in conversion just in time, when it is needed.

**Conversion machine scheduling**

PC-Topp automatically pre-schedules every order for production and gives the planner a highly efficient interactive tool to establish the optimum production sequence. PC-Topp makes sure that all orders are on time, similar jobs are together etc. The continuously updated schedules make it easy to react to incidents, or last minute changes.

**Sales information system**

The PC-Topp Sales Terminal lets sales agents check order status and production progress on-line, eliminating the need to call Planning to obtain the information. Detailed up-to-date information on plant loading is available in graphical form, helping Sales to set realistic delivery dates.

**Drawings on every desktop**

With one click, PC-Topp shows the spec sheet of an order, a print sample, or a die-cut form. CAD graphics, drawings, or any other available document can be made accessible through PC-Topp throughout the plant, in the office, directly at the machine, or even via the Internet.

**PC-Topp data available in an SQL server database**

With this optional feature, all live PC-Topp data as well as production history, is accessible in an SQL Server database and can be used for customised production reports integrated in web applications. Data can be accessed with Crystal Reports, MS Excel, or any other environment capable of using SQL Server databases.

**Event messaging system**

PC-Topp’s Event Messaging System informs management and supervisors of production incidents or system events by email, SMS text message, iPhone push message, etc. It can be configured to automatically send text messages to supervisors on duty in case of production problems. On the shop floor, Event Messaging can be configured to trigger signals such as sirens, messages on overhead displays, LED lights, etc. when specified actions are required. Event Messaging keeps people informed with updates and alerts wherever they happen to be.
PC-Topp on the Shop Floor

On-line link to the corrugator

Available for all modern corrugators, the on-line link transmits all schedule details directly to the corrugators and keeps the schedule up-to-date with permanent feedback from production. Alternatively, the Corrugator Terminal gives semi-automatic on-line feedback of production progress.

Shop floor data collection

The PC-Topp Machine Terminal displays up-to-date schedules and order details at each machine and puts CAD drawings right in front of the crew. Linked to the machine’s counter, it watches production and detects and records all events including breakdowns, setups, or shift changes. Any delays or sequence changes are instantly reflected in the schedule and thus visible throughout the system.

Plant summary

The Plant Summary supplies information on the current job and key data on the last three shifts for all machines including the corrugators at-a-glance. And, it gives you direct access to the production statistics data for any particular shift on any of the machines.

Production reporting and statistics

Downtimes, setups, production counts – all production events are recorded and archived, forming the basis for comprehensive production reports, available instantly and for any period in time, for the plant or even the whole group. Graphical performance diagrams make it easy to analyse a shift in detail. All production data can also be shared with the host system to replace costly manual data entry.

Windows pallet labeling system

Shipping labels, as well as internal tags with fully personalised designs, can be printed in a variety of ways, including customer-specific designs, complex barcodes (SSCC), and logos. A graphical design module allows the creation of layouts by in-house personnel.

Warehouse management

Based on the exact pallet data provided by the PC-Topp.NET Machine Terminal, the Warehouse functionality allows easy registering of incoming and outgoing pallets and retrieving pallets from stock with barcode scanners. Information on stock content, including exact quantities, tonnage, monetary value, and each pallet’s storage location is always up to date. Truck loading lists are assembled by simply scheduling the pallets to ship and offer a reliable basis for precise invoicing.
“Today we are working without any printed order sheets in Planning. Thanks to PC-Topp, there is no more downtime because of lack of work, we were able to reduce work-in-progress considerably and improve the precision with which we keep our delivery dates, and we react much more flexibly to last minute changes.”

EFI fuels success.

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