Utilizing Instrument and LIMS Software Effectively

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Introduction

- Paul Dunlap – Sr Support Engineer

- LABWORKS:

  - LIMS Leader since 1985

  - 400+ Successful Implementations

  - Specialties Include:

    - Water/Wastewater

    - Agriculture

    - Environmental

    - Chemical Manufacturing

    - Oil and Gas

    - Food and Beverage

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Benefits of LIMS

- Very fast report access & queries

- Reduction in paperwork

- Improved data quality (reduction in errors)

- Improved operational efficiency

- Increased productivity

  - Reduction of routine tasks

  - Instrument interfacing and auto-reporting

- Reduces transcription errors

- Enables compliance

- Promotes accountability

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Key Considerations When Selecting a LIMS

- Only consider commercial off the shelf (COTS) solutions

  – Do not consider building your own!

- Consider LIMS vendors that have experience

  – Many small unstable LIMS vendors exist. Don't be lured by "The least expensive"

- Consider LIMS that are built for your industry

  – Most LIMS have created solutions that are customized to your industry

- Ease of use for end users/data entry is key!

  – It must be easy and intuitive for users to reduce costs and increase efficiency

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Key Considerations When Selecting a LIMS

- Ease of integration with lab instruments

  - You should integrate your instruments as it is inexpensive and reduces a lot of manual effort

- The solution must have the ability to automate the sample life-cycle from beginning to end

  - While you may not automate all at first you will want increased automation over time

- Vendor should give you options to host the solution "On-premise" of hosted by the vendor "Off-Premise"

  - This greatly depends on your IT resources

- Look for a good partner not just a low cost solution

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Key Considerations When Selecting a LIMS

- Cost is important so understand:

  - Initial software costs

  - Implementation costs

    - Often times as much or more than software costs

  - Long-term support and maintenance costs

    - 15%-25% of initial software costs

- Understand licensing model:

  - Concurrent User vs. Named User

  - Perpetual vs. Subscription

- Be aware of the "Death by a thousand 'Change orders' " approach some less reputable vendors take

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Keys to a Successful Implementation

- Begin with the end in mind

  – Gather your requirements and know what you need and why before you ever look at a LIMS solution

- Make sure to have good sponsorship from management and a champion to help lead the effort

- Select the right LIMS PARTNER!

  – Several LIMS solutions will meet your needs

  – It is important to find the right LIMS partner for your short-term and long-term needs as you will be with them for many years

- If you prefer to host "On-premise" make sure to get IT's support and have them involved

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Keys to a Successful Implementation

- Leverage the best practices built into the LIMS

  - Consider changing your process to fit the LIMS before you "Customize" the LIMS

  - Configuration vs. Customization – Understand the difference and avoid Customization

- Don't try to do everything for everyone all at once

  - Incremental improvement is always better than postponed perfection

  - Implement portions of functionality for key groups to get early wins. This will provide momentum for subsequent phases

- Tweak as you go!

  - You won't get it 100% right at first so do your best and make improvements as you go – This is why it is key to have the right partner

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Thank you
&
Good Luck!

For questions, comments, or additional information, please contact:

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